

ABSTRACT

The absence of students in school is a serious issue that affects not only the students themselves but also the entire school. In the Czech education system, the focus has been mainly on addressing cases of frequent unexcused absences, also known as truancy. In foreign educational systems, there is an increasing emphasis on monitoring, preventing, or mitigating the effects of increased overall student absenteeism, regardless of its cause. This thesis examines the attendance of lower secondary school students and its impact on the academic achievement. Descriptive statistics are presented within the topic, which quantitatively describe the long-term development of the total absence of lower secondary-level students of a large elementary school in an urban environment. The main finding of the work is the confirmation of the high rate of absence in a large Czech school, which I estimated at 11.1% for the last three school years before the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic. This is the value that is considered the critical limit of risk absence in foreign systems. Absenteeism increased further in the first post-Covid year. At the same time, the work compares the level of absence between groups of students who repeat the grade and the rest of the student population. The thesis did not find a significant relationship between absenteeism and school performance of students and discusses the possible causes of this finding. In the end, I try to provide some recommendations for schools and teachers in the area of attendance recording and data use.

KEYWORDS

attendance, absence, administrative data, case study, lower secondary school