

Professor Rob MacCoun wins Vernon Prize for the best article published in the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (the journal of the Association for Policy Analysis and Management). The article is:

Cook, P., MacCoun, R. J., Muschkin, C., & Vigdor, J. (2008). The negative impacts of starting middle school in sixth grade. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 27, 104-121.

<http://ist-socrates.berkeley.edu/~maccoun/CookMacCounMuschkinVigdor2008.pdf>

We show that students who attend 6th grade in a middle school experience significant increases in delinquency and drug use, and significant declines in standardized test scores, relative to a matched sample of those who attend 6th grade in an elementary school. The effects persist for several years.

There is a companion paper:

MacCoun, R. J., Cook, P., Muschkin, C., & Vigdor, J. (in press).

Distinguishing spurious and real norm effects: Evidence from artificial societies, small-group experiments, and real schoolyards. *Review of Law & Economics*.

<http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=1118436>