



Apr 12th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

An Economic Analysis of the Effect of Steroids on Season Best Performances in Track and Field

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Fisher, Allison and Seeborg, Faculty Advisor, Michael, "An Economic Analysis of the Effect of Steroids on Season Best Performances in Track and Field" (2008). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 8.

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Poster Presentation P15

**AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF STEROIDS ON SEASON
BEST PERFORMANCES IN TRACK AND FIELD**

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This paper investigates the relationship between steroids and season best performance statistics in track and field over the period from 1949 to 2007. Certain event groups have seen a faster drop in season bests than others. Medical research on the effect of steroids on slow and fast twitch muscle fiber indicates that certain event groups (e.g., sprinters, distance, throwers, jumpers) would benefit more than other event groups (e.g., distance runners) from steroids. The theoretical framework underlying my research is production theory from the economics literature where inputs such as coaching, facilities and steroids produce season best performances. Based on this theory and scientific research on muscle fiber, I hypothesize that steroids allow sprinters to improve their season bests more than other event groups. As expected, the regression analysis shows that the effect of steroids on performance varies across track and field events.