

**StopWatch, MBTA Truancy Watch
Student Survey Analysis
November 2007 – May 2008**

Over the course of seven months (November- May), members of the MBTA's Truancy Watch—*StopWatch*—documented 612 students at Downtown Crossing and Forest Hills who were not in school during school hours. These interactions provide information about which students are truant, why they are truant, and will provide the foundation for a process that will help alleviate the challenges caused by truancy. *StopWatch* members include the MBTA Transit Police, Boston Public School Police, Boston Police Department, members of the Ten Point Coalition, and other community volunteers.

The following describes some demographics of the students:

Grade

Middle school	6.4%	(38)
9 th grade	26.1%	(156)
10 th grade	22.4%	(134)
11 th grade	23.2%	(139)
12 th grade	21.1%	(126)
Not attending	.8%	(5)

Gender

Male	59.8%	(343)
Female	40.2%	(231)

Students were asked when they had decided not to go to school that day:

This morning	22.6%	(115)
Yesterday	7.5%	(38)
Last week	.8%	(4)
Last month	0%	(0)
I'm on my way	12.2%	(62)
I went and left	32.7%	(166)

Students were asked when they were last in school:

This morning	33%	(182)
Yesterday	51.4%	(283)
Earlier this week	4.9%	(27)
Last week	3.3%	(18)
2-3 weeks ago	1.1%	(6)
A month ago	.2%	(1)
Over a month ago	.5%	(3)

Students were asked why they decided not to go to school that day):

Left school early	24.3%	(139)
One the way to school	15.1%	(86)
Woke up late	11.6%	(66)
Not feeling well	8.1%	(46)
Appointment	11.8%	(65)
Suspended	9.1%	(52)
Didn't feel like it	6.3%	(36)
Shopping	2.1%	(12)
Family issues	1.9%	(11)
Hang out with friends	1.6%	(9)
Dropped out	1.6%	(9)
Needed a break from school	.9%	(5)
Conflict with peers	.9%	(5)
Expelled	.5%	(3)
Conflict with teachers/staff	.4%	(2)
Don't like school	.4%	(2)
Too far behind in school	.4%	(2)
Felt unsafe	.2%	(1)

Interviewers were asked to assess the students' attitudes during their interactions:

Friendly/ outgoing	58.9%	(335)
Polite	48.3%	(275)
Shy/reserved	14.4%	(82)
Confrontational	5.8%	(33)
Agitated	5.1%	(29)
Nervous	3%	(17)
Sick	1.4%	(8)
Tired	1.1%	(6)
Hungry	.4%	(2)
Under the influence	.2%	(1)

Students were asked to rate their commitment to education on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest. Student reported an average commitment level of 8.32.

Note: Volunteers may check more than one answer. Therefore, individual students may be described in several ways.