Olympic Success: Built, Born, or Bought?

Jacob Ney
College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, JNEY001@CSBSJU.EDU

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/ur_cscday
Part of the Environmental Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/ur_cscday/10

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity Day by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@csbsju.edu.
Olympic Success: Built, Born, or Bought?
By: Jacob Ney

Is a ranked medal count a fair representation of Olympic Success? To balance how this success is measured, factors such as a country’s participation, population, and GDP should be considered. Using data from the all time summer Olympics, these maps attempt to normalize the playing field.

2: How many people, as a proportion of the larger population, do countries choose to send? If each country had a population of 100,000 people, this is how many participants each has sent to the Olympics.

Results indicate that countries with large populations typically send less participants proportionally—only their very best athletes. Countries with high GDPs spend more on athletics to earn more medals, while others perform with more variance comparatively. Looking at Olympic success rate is a fairer measure of performance, but GDP and population should also be considered when measuring how a country fares.

Data from: Arc GIS Online Map Service, worldbank.org, sports-reference.com