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## The Gap Between Bullying Education and Student Behavior

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# The Gap between Bullying Education and Student Behaviors

Micah Florey, Jessica Luth, and Kim Betustak

Dr. Matthew Ringenberg

Social Work Department

*Abstract*

*Methods*

*Conclusion*

*Background  
Information*

*Results*

*References*

*Thank You!*

## ***Abstract***

- In 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed a definition of bullying that helps to understand more clearly what issue is being addressed. "Bullying is any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated." (Gladden et al. 2013).
- This study examined if there are statistically significant differences in students confidence levels is higher when they have more experience with bullying. This study explores the self-reported likelihood of reporting bullying issues in a school setting.

***Research  
Question***

***Hypothesis***



## *Research Question*

Are students more comfortable speaking up about bullying if they have experienced bullying in some form and/or if they have had some formal education through school?

## *Hypothesis*

Early Childhood Bullying prevention programs in schools will improve attitudes towards bullying and help children feel comfortable reporting later in life.

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## ***Background Information***

- "Bullying is any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated." (Gladden et al. 2013).
- School-aged students are the target population for bullying behaviors.
- The rates of students and youths involved with bullying range from 10 percent to 50 percent (Cook et al. 2010)
- The rates of students involved in cyberbullying range up to 30 percent. (Mishna 2005)
- Bullying can impede learning, social growth, and safety to the youth being bullied as well as the ones doing the bullying. (stopbullying.gov 2018)
- It has been labeled an epidemic in extreme cases

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# ***Methodology***

- The method for collecting data in this research was a survey given online through Qualtrics to middle school students. As we were not able to physically do the survey in schools, we had student volunteers take the test and they were asked to share the survey with other students in this demographic.
- The data was collected, and a multiple linear regression was used to measure relationships between the attitudes and knowledge on the subject. The survey asked many questions on personal attitudes and first hand experience with bullying in their own lives. A t-test was done to sort the male and female participant as well.

***Sampling  
Frame***

***Target  
Sample***

***Permission***

***Challenges***



## *Sampling Frame*

- Middle School Students

## *Target Sample*

- Middle School Students in Northwest Indiana who have and have not experienced bullying.

## *Permissions*

- We asked for permission from Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Kruger Middle School
- We created consent forms to send to the parents of the middle school students at each school
- We created an assent form for each of the students to sign before taking the survey

## *Challenges*

- Receiving responses from diverse population
  - Students who received bullying training
  - Students who did not received bullying training
- COVID-19 made it hard for us to get a lot of responses due to school closures

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# Results

- **Hypothesis:** Did find a significant difference based students confidence level reporting a bullying indecent and discussion of bullying by teachers
- **Comparison:** Reporting and comfort levels
- A strong positive correlation between reporting to teachers and reporting to Principals with a correlation of 0.701. This means that a student who feels comfortable reporting to a Teacher is very likely to also feel comfortable reporting to their Principal.
- **Comparison:** Hesitation of reporting due to fear of being bullied
- First, a strong positive correlation is between a Principal and a Teacher with a correlation of 0.721. This means that a student who is hesitant to talk to a Teacher is very likely to also hesitate talking to a Principal.
- The second strong positive correlation is between a Social Worker and a Counselor with a correlation of 0.729. This shows that a student who is hesitant to talk to a Social Worker is very likely to also hesitate talking to a Counselor.
- **Definition of Bullying (out of 54 results)**
  - being mean on purpose, 17
  - calls names, 7
  - hits you, 17
  - picks on you/someone, 35
  - harassing you/someone, 19
  - makes you feel bad for , 10
  - the way you dress, 13
  - you look, 15
  - you talk, 16
  - your life, 28

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## ***Conclusion***

- We did find support for our hypothesis
  - We found significance between students confidence level reporting and discussion of bullying by teachers.
  - We also found that students hesitated reporting to teachers about bullying also hesitated telling principals in fear of being bullied themselves. The same is true for social workers and counselors.

***Implication***

## *Implications*

- Professionals can continue to research students confidence level and understanding of bullying
- Bullying is typically defined by students commonly used the following words:
  - being mean on purpose
  - calls names
  - hits you
  - picks on you/someone
  - harassing you/someone
  - makes you feel bad for
    - the way you dress
    - you look
    - you talk
    - your life

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