

**INTRODUCTION:** Bullying victimization among children remains a pervasive problem associated with increased risk of anxiety, depression, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school. We hypothesized that children with mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems (MEDB) are at increased risk of bullying victimization. Thus, we aimed to evaluate the prevalence and odds of bullying victimization among US children MEDB.

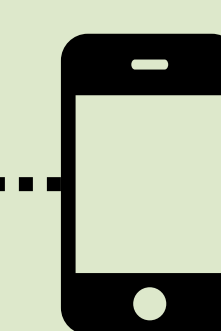
**METHODS**

1. Data analyzed: a retrospective analysis of the National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) 2018-2019 representative of the US pediatric population.
2. MEDB and bullying victimization within the past 12 months were identified using survey questions.
3. Statistical analysis: Rao-Scott Chi-Square Test for univariate analysis, multivariable logistic regression analysis to adjust for age, sex, race, socioeconomic status, and overall health status.

**RESULT**

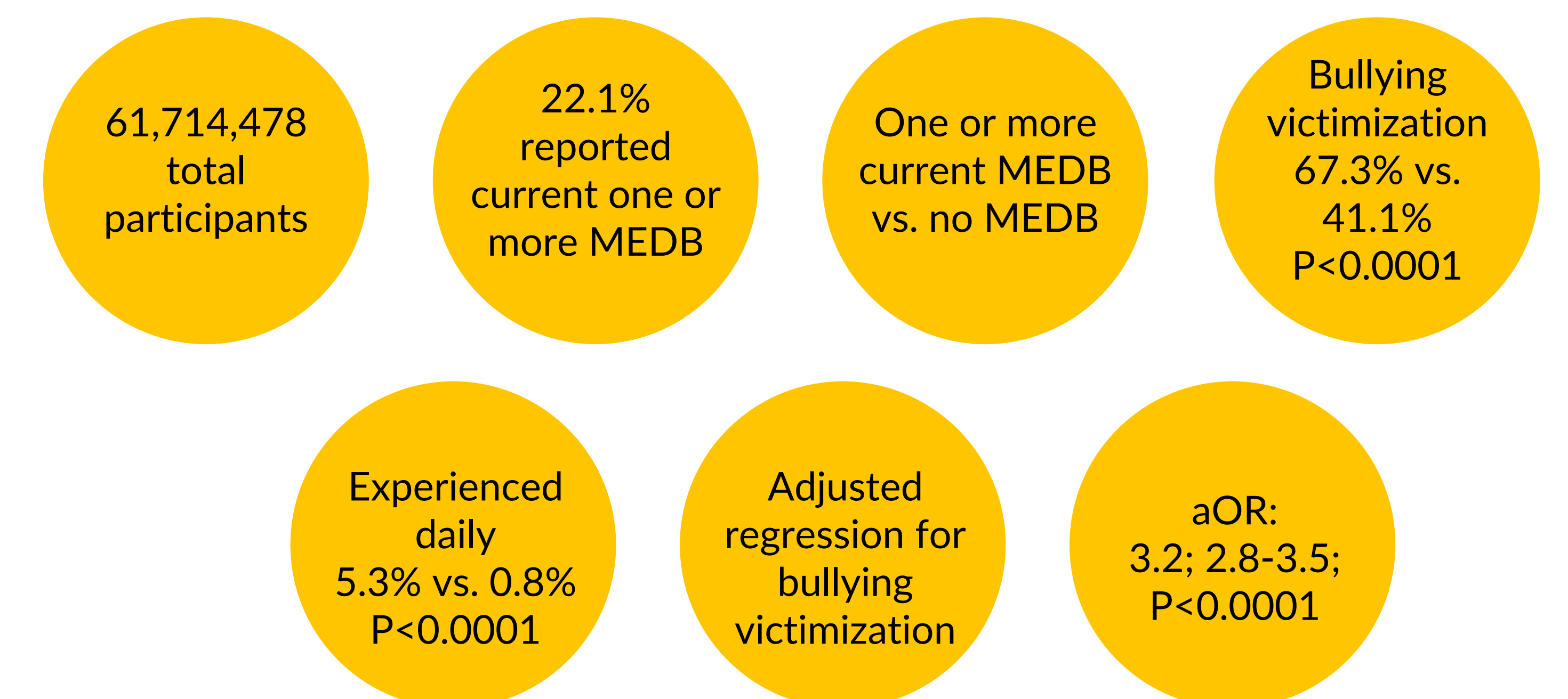
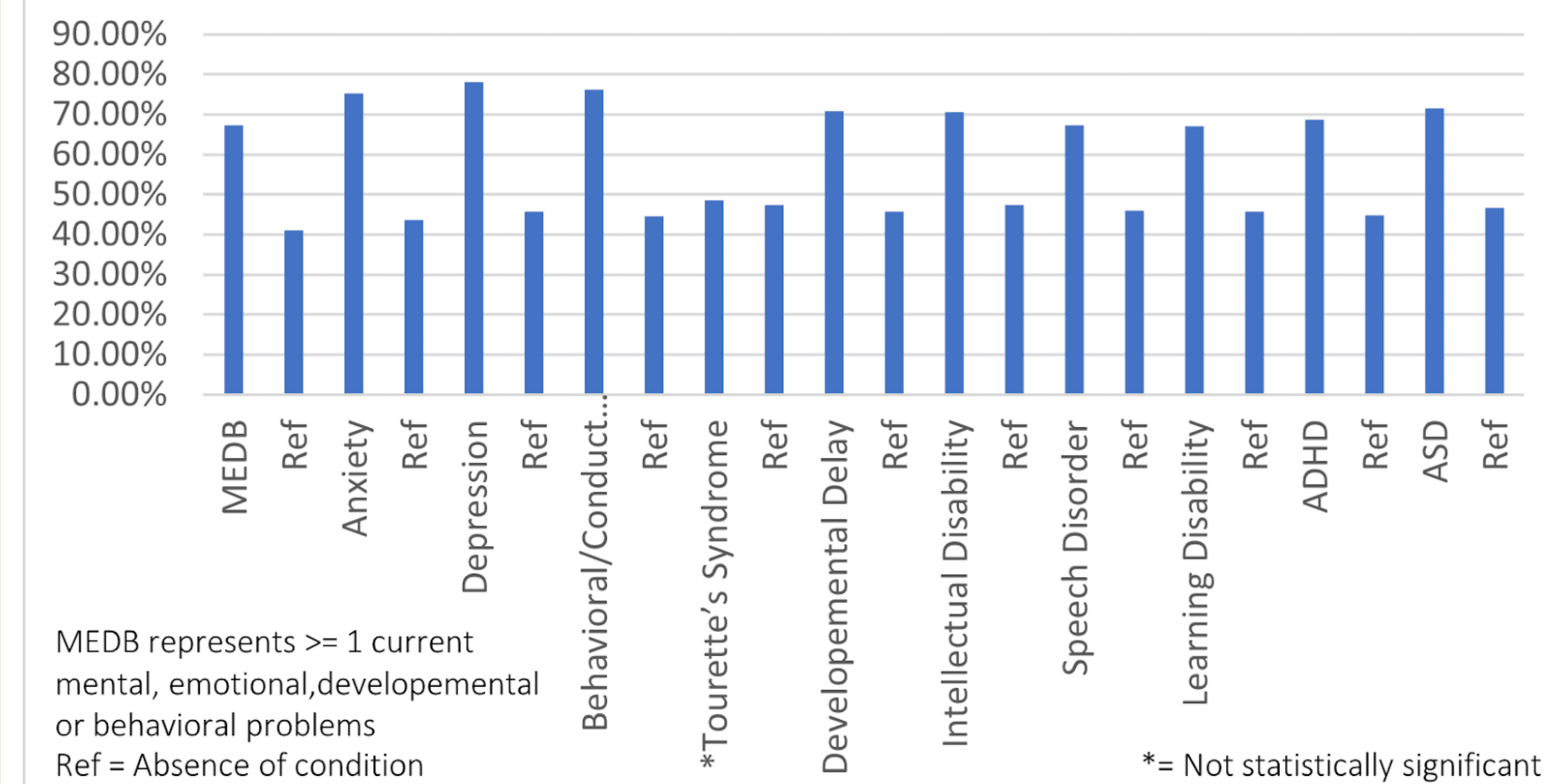
- A total of 61,714,478 participants were included.
- 22.1% reported 1 or more current MEDB.
- Compared to participants with no MEDB, the prevalence of being bullied 1 or more times was significantly higher in those with 1 or more current MEDB (67.3% vs. 41.1%; p<0.0001) (Table 1).
- a higher percentage of children with 1 or more MEDB were bullied almost every day (5.3% vs. 0.8%;p<0.0001).
- In regression analysis, children with 1 or more MEDB were at higher odds of bullying victimization (aOR: 3.2; 95%CI: 2.8-3.5; p<0.0001) than those without any MEDB.

Children with **1 or more MEDB** are at higher odds of **bullying victimization** than children without any MEDB.



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Table 1. Prevalence of Bullying Victimization



**CONCLUSIONS**

We found a higher prevalence and odds of bullying victimization among children with MEDB using nationally representative US pediatric population data. Risk identification and early interventions may improve outcomes in these vulnerable pediatric populations. Systematic screening for bullying is recommended in this patient population.

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