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Social and Emotional Life of Students

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Poster Presentation 12

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LIFE OF STUDENTS

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In an extension of previous research by Hawkley, et al. (1999), development of a new measure of loneliness designed to assess multiple types of loneliness was examined. Hawkley, et al. (1999) examined the factor structure of the UCLA-R Loneliness Scale (1980) and found evidence suggesting three types of loneliness: isolation (feeling separate from others), connectedness (feeling in tune with others), and belongingness (feeling a part of a group). A series of items designed to compliment the UCLA-R Loneliness Scale and believed to tap the three different dimensions of loneliness was developed. These items were incorporated into a new 45-item scale called the Loneliness Dimension Scale. This scale was given to 396 male and female undergraduates in the general psychology research pools at Illinois Wesleyan University and Ohio State University. Initial factor analyses of the Loneliness Dimension Scale show that the items tap three dimensions of loneliness, which we have labeled similarity/separation, social support/companionship, and group activities.