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HEALTH SCIENCES

AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BULLYING OTHERS, PERCEIVED SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND SELECTED DEMOGRAPHICS AMONG FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES (263 pp.)

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The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between bullying others, perceived school connectedness, academic achievement, and selected demographics among female high school athletes. A purposive sample of all in-season (Fall 2012) female athletes enrolled in three schools located in an urban school district in Northeast Ohio was recruited to participate in this study. Subjects completed a 54-item instrument designed to assess their self-reported involvement in bullying others. Further, subjects were asked to provide responses about the construct of school connectedness. Data were obtained using a one-time anonymous paper/pencil instrument. Data were analyzed using the one-way and two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) techniques and Correlation analysis.

Findings revealed a statistically significant relationship between bullying others and race, and bullying others and current achievement. Also, the data revealed a statistically significant correlation between bullying others and perceived school connectedness. The results from this study support the current body of literature dedicated to this relationship between bullying others and perceived school connectedness. Interestingly, much less is known about the relationship between the independent and dependent variables used in this study as it occurs among female high

school athletes. More research with athletes is recommended to better elucidate the effects of sports participation on these variables.