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HEALTH SCIENCES

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BULLYING BEHAVIORS AND PERCEIVED
SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (225 pp.)

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The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between bullying behaviors and perceived school connectedness among middle school students. In specific, the relationships between victimization, bullying others, perceived school connectedness, and demographics were investigated.

This was a population study designed to examine bullying behaviors and perceived school connectedness among all 5th through 8th grade students enrolled in a northeastern Ohio school district. Among the total population of potential subjects ($N = 1,197$), 597 subjects participated in this study. These subjects completed a 56-item instrument about their involvement in bullying as a perpetrator and a victim. In addition, subjects provided responses about their sense of school connectedness.

The instrument data were analyzed using several statistical procedures, including univariate analysis, multiple linear regression, and correlation analysis. Univariate analyses confirmed statistically significant differences between self-reported bullying behaviors and grade level. In addition, results indicated statistically significant differences between math scores and bullying others and victimization. Statistically significant mean differences also were confirmed between self-reported victimization and language arts scores.

Regression analyses revealed that perceived school connectedness was a predictor of bullying others and victimization. Further, math scores was a moderate predictor of victimization. Correlation analysis confirmed a statistically significant relationship between bullying others and victimization.

In summary, the findings support an emphasis on school connectedness-building among adolescents to reduce involvement in bullying. In addition, the results support continued investigation into the link between academic achievement and involvement in bullying as math scores were identified as a predictor of victimization and bullying others.