Cyberbullying among middle schoolers: Focusing in on the causes and consequences

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Why Research School Climate & Its Relation to Cyberbullying?

Although there has been ample research on traditional forms of bullying, little research has been done addressing cyberbullying. This study attempts to discover what school climate factors may lead to cyberbullying behaviors. If certain school characteristics can be discovered that make a juvenile more prone to cyberbullying behaviors, school policies can be put into place to reduce the amount of cyberbullying going on in and out of the school setting.

Hypothesis

Those School Climate Factors that Influence Traditional Bullying and Victimization will be the same factors that contribute to Cyberbullying and Cyberbullying Victimization.

Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the willful and repeated harm inflicted through the medium of electronic text. It is when somebody repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through email or text message or when someone posts something online about another person that they don’t like.

Correlation Between Traditional Bullying and Cyberbullying

There has been an abundant amount of research relating a lower perceived school climate to a higher level of traditional bullying. Our individual level findings suggest a similar relationship between school climate and cyberbullying.

Found some counterintuitive findings from the school level.

Methodology & Research

Surveyed approximately 2,000 middle school students from a large school district in the South

Descriptive Statistics (N=1963)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Dev.</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Male</td>
<td>70.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent White</td>
<td>40.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>10-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Climate</td>
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<td>Cyberbullying Victim</td>
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<td>0.31</td>
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<td>Cyberbullying Offender</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Traditional Bullying Offender</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0-1</td>
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</table>

Independent Variables

Individual Level → Perception of School Climate
- I enjoy going to school
- I feel safe at school
- Feel that teachers at my school care about me
- Feel that teachers at my school really try to help me succeed

School Level
- Absentee Rate
- Number of Students
- Percent of Students who receive free or reduced lunches
- Percent of Students who have been suspended throughout the school year

Dependent Variables

Traditional Bullying and Bullying Victimization
- I have participated in bullying other students at school in the last 30 days
- I have been bullied at school in the last 30 days

Cyberbullying And Cyberbullying Victimization
- I have participated in cyberbullying others in the last 30 days
- I have been cyberbullied in the last 30 days

Limitations

- Small school sample (n= 30)
- Basic School climate Measure (only four variables)
- Simple Method ( need to rerun in HLM )

Acknowledgements

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