What is Cyberbullying?
- An emerging phenomenon prevalent among adolescents
- Harassment and bullying conducted via electronic media
- Computers
- Tablets
- Smartphones
- Widespread problem which is not easily resolved

Cyberbullying Issues
- Modern technology allows constant social interaction
- Victims cannot easily escape harassment
- Anonymous and public nature of online interaction enhances the inflammatory and embarrassing nature of harassment
- Predicting and recognizing behavior is difficult
- Lack of awareness about the seriousness of cyberbullying
- Victims do not know where to seek help

Purpose of this Study
Recognize patterns from existing research
- Commonly used definitions
- Characteristics of victims and/or bullies
- Prevalence rates

Better inform future research
- Importance of studying and reporting prevalence rates
- Emphasize importance of the use of consistent time periods and definitions
- Importance of using random sampling techniques

Social Media
- https://www.youtube.com
- https://www.facebook.com
- https://twitter.com
- https://www.tumblr.com
- https://www.vine.co
- https://www.snapchat.com

Constantly evolving social media increases the difficulty of effectively researching cyberbullying and educating the public

Definition Excerpts
- “bullied through e-mail, instant messaging, in a chat room, on a website, or through a text message sent to a cellphone” (Kowalski & Limber, 2013)
- “Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices” (Hinduja and Patchin, 2009)
- “Flaming, Harassment, Denigration, Impersonation, Outing and Trickery, Exclusion, and Cyberstalking” (Willard, 2009)

Methods
- Searched journal databases using the following terms: “cyberbullying” “cyber bullying” “cyber bully” “online bullying”
- Performed snowball sampling of works cited and focused on peer-reviewed sources – 75 journal articles reviewed and included in our study

Findings
- Increase in depressive mood and behaviors (e.g. isolation and suicidal ideation) is common across articles
- Lack of awareness by authorities (e.g. teachers) about the existence of cyberbullying and its potential harm is rampant

Current cyberbullying research is impaired due to:
- Use of non-random sampling techniques
- Underreporting of prevalence rates
- Lack of use of uniform time periods
- Inconsistent cyberbullying definitions

Importance of using random sample techniques
Using random sample techniques, researchers would ensure that they are gathering a representative sample of the target population.

Use of uniform time periods would permit a sound comparison of prevalence rates among studies.

Reaching a consensus on the definition of cyberbullying would guarantee the ability to compare research and would allow for greater dissemination of useful information for people who are seeking help.

Discussion
Cyberbullying is a young and evolving field of study. As a result, contemporary research is difficult to evaluate. Therefore, it is necessary that researchers use consistent methods in their research in order to properly understand and inform the public about the issue.
- By using random sample techniques, researchers would ensure that they are gathering a representative sample of the target population.
- Reporting prevalence rates would allow for an examination of the pervasiveness of cyberbullying.
- Using uniform time periods would permit a sound comparison of prevalence rates among studies.
- Reaching a consensus on the definition of cyberbullying would guarantee the ability to compare research and would allow for duplication of studies.

Developing consistent research methods will be crucial in advancing the study of cyberbullying, educating the public about the its prevalence, and disseminating useful information for people who are seeking help.

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