What makes a bully? Examining the role of aggressive physical behaviors between SES and being a bully

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Introduction

- Bullying is a prevalent issue among school aged children in America
- "A subcategory of interpersonal aggression characterized by intentionality, repetition, and an imbalance of power"
- The main difference between bullying and other forms of aggression is the bully’s abuse of power
- One in every four students reports being bullied. Although this does not seem like a very large number, 64% of bullying incidents are unreported, showing that bullying is a pervasive behavioral problem
- 81% of students report performing some act of bullying in the past 30 days, and 7.7% report frequent acts of bullying

Socioeconomic Status

Refers to the sociological and economic level an individual is a part of
- Socioeconomic factors are connected with a child’s risk for becoming involved in bullying more so than individual differences
- Students raised in disadvantaged neighborhoods are more likely to be involved in violent acts than students raised in privileged neighborhoods

Physically Aggressive Behaviors

Hostile or destructive behaviors or attitudes
- There has been no prior research on aggressive behaviors as a mediator between SES and bullying

Hypothesis

Hypothesis: Physically aggressive behaviors will mediate between SES and self-reported bullying.

Correlations between SES, SEX, bullying, and aggressive behaviors

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<th>Bullying</th>
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Method

Our data comes from the New Hampshire Youth Study (NHYS), a longitudinal study focusing on determining reasons for adolescents’ rule-violating behavior. At time 1 (T1), participants were given the survey. They took the survey again one year later (T2) and then again another three years later (T3). After each measurement, participants were compensated $10 each.

8 middle schools and 5 high schools
- The data used was collected at three time points:
  - Fall of 2007 (T1)
  - Fall of 2008 (T2)
  - Fall of 2011 (T3)

Participants

N = 438 57.8% female, 79.4% Caucasian Average age 13.73 (SD = 1.60) SES Mean = 7.16 (SD = 2.51)

Measures

- Physically Aggressive Behaviors
- Variety frequency based measure
  - In the past 6 months how many times have you hit or seriously threatened to hit someone?
  - Mean = 0.20 (SD = .22) , α = 0.76
- Bullying
  - Asked to rate from 0-6 how many times they performed a specific act
  - During the past 30 days, how many times did you call a kid from your school a bad name?
  - Mean = 0.12 (SD = 0.23) α = 0.70

Results

Physically Aggressive Behaviors will mediate between SES and being a bully

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