

Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences (CYSE 201S)

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Article Review #1 - Prevalence and Trends of Depression among Cyberbullied Adolescents - Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2011 – 2019

Link: <https://vc.bridgew.edu/ijcic/vol6/iss1/4/>

Introduction:

The understanding of depression between cyberbullied and non-cyberbullied adolescents is vastly unknown. This article argues a deep contrast between these two groups by contributing to the literature on youth behavior through the relationship between depression and cyberbullying. It asks the questions, "To what extent does depression prevalence differ by being cyberbullied, cyberbullied biological sex, and cyberbullied race/ethnicity?... Among cyberbullied individuals, to what extent did depression trends vary by biological sex (male/ female) and race/ethnicity (non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic white, or Hispanic)?" (Nicholson, Marcum, & Higgins, 2023)

Methods & Data:

The research method and data came from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). By implementing this type of research, the article gathered information between 2011 and 2019 from various high schools across the United States with questions that asked for the student's race, ethnicity, sex, and grade. The result of the data is weighted so an equal representation throughout the U.S. is used for accurate analysis.

Data Analysis & Marginalized Groups:

The data analysis of the literature is broken down into several steps by the CDC. (Nicholson, Marcum, & Higgins, 2023) The results of the analysis show a significant contrast between marginalized groups. Looking at the results in Figure 1, page 52 of the article, we see that between the three races and two sexes, Hispanics and females are the most affected by cyberbullying, which leads to depression. (Nicholson, Marcum, & Higgins, 2023) This data is helpful because resources can be spent to focus more on these groups to help aid them.

Social Science Principles:

Three principles connect to this article. Relativism in the literature shows a connection between law enforcement, healthcare, and the education system in preventing the use of cyberbullying to reduce the effect it has on youths and their depression. (Nicholson, Marcum, & Higgins, 2023) Determinism describes the cause and effect of cyberbullying on depression. In addition, victimization leads to stress, in which more significant levels of depression can occur. (Nicholson, Marcum, & Higgins, 2023) This reason can also tie into parsimony due to the simplification of problems caused by this type of bullying, which leads to depression and leads to engagement in risky behaviors such as alcohol, drug use, and smoking. "With depression affecting adolescents in multiple ways, multiple studies have indicated this specific group of young people also engage in smoking, alcohol use, anxiety, illicit drug use, and risky sexual behaviors" (Nicholson, Marcum, & Higgins, 2023)

Conclusion/Contributions:

In conclusion, cyberbullying has a great effect on depression in youths and a significant increase in Hispanic women. The research done in this article contributes to society by implementing policies to help prevent cyberbullying and heal its effects on adolescents. "Forms of therapy had a small to medium effect size in reducing instances of depression. These types of interventions would assist individuals experiencing depression from cyberbullying to pro-socially cope rather than coping through substance use and abuse". (Nicholson, Marcum, & Higgins, 2023) This policy helps them by giving them the correct information and teaches them how to respond so that it does not affect their overall mental health.

References

Nicholson, J., Marcum, C., & Higgins, G. E. (2023). Prevalence and trends of depression among cyberbullied adolescents-- Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2011 – 2019. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence and Cybercrime*, 6(1), 45-58. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.52306/ZNRR2381>