



Prevalence and Associated Factor of Bullying Victimization among School-going Adolescents in Malaysia: Findings from National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2022

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Introduction

Bullying is a form of aggressive behaviour in which someone intentionally and repeatedly causes another person injury or discomfort. Bullying can take the form of physical contact, words, or more subtle actions. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of bullying victimisation and its risk factors among school-going adolescents in Malaysia.

Results

The prevalence of bullying victimisation among school-going adolescents in Malaysia was 8.6% (95% CI: 7.99, 9.16). Multiple logistic regression showed that adolescents aged 13 years old (aOR = 2.09, 95% CI = 1.75, 2.50), loneliness (aOR = 1.80, 95% CI = 1.60, 2.01), having a close friend (aOR = 1.93, 95% CI = 1.48, 2.27), being an alcohol drinker (aOR = 1.77, 95% CI = 1.49, 2.10), involve in drug use (aOR = 2.76, 95% CI = 2.26, 3.38), truancy (aOR = 1.37, 95% CI = 1.20, 1.56), and being physically attack (aOR = 4.71, 95% CI = 4.07, 5.44) were significantly associated with bullying victimisation among school-going adolescents.

Methods

Data were obtained from the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2022, a cross-sectional study with a two-stage stratified cluster random sampling design. It was conducted among school-going adolescents (N=33109) aged 13 to 17 years old with a response rate of 98.8% using the self-administered questionnaire. A complex sample design analysis and multivariable logistic regression were applied.

Table 1: Factor Associated with Bullying Victimization Among School-going Adolescents in Malaysia

Socio-demographic characteristic	Exp(B)	Crude OR			Adjusted OR			
		Lower	Upper	p-value	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper	p-value
Gender								
Male	1.16	1.04	1.29	0.011*	1.04	0.92	1.16	0.568
Female	1.00				1.00			
Age								
13	2.12	1.81	2.50	<0.001*	2.09	1.75	2.50	<0.001*
14	1.84	1.56	2.17	<0.001*	1.79	1.50	2.13	<0.001*
15	1.27	1.03	1.56	0.023*	1.24	1.01	1.53	0.042*
16	1.00	0.83	1.22	0.976	0.99	0.81	1.22	0.947
17	1.00				1.00			
Ethnicity								
Malay	1.00				1.00			
Chinese	0.74	0.58	0.94	0.016*	0.73	0.56	0.96	0.026*
Indian	1.23	1.02	1.48	0.028*	1.18	0.98	1.43	0.088
Others	1.14	0.98	1.32	0.096	1.03	0.87	1.23	0.740
Loneliness								
Yes	2.43	2.18	2.70	<0.001*	1.80	1.60	2.01	<0.001*
No	1.00				1.00			
Has close friend								
Yes	1.00				1.00			
No	2.69	2.22	3.27	<0.001*	1.83	1.48	2.27	<0.001*
Peer Support								
Yes	1.00				1.00			
No	1.76	1.58	1.97	<0.001*	1.51	1.34	1.69	<0.001*
Smoker								
Yes	2.35	1.95	2.83	<0.001*	1.36	1.09	1.69	0.007*
No	1.00				1.00			
Alcohol drinker								
Yes	2.08	1.78	2.42	<0.001*	1.77	1.49	2.10	<0.001*
No	1.00				1.00			
Drug use								
Yes	4.16	3.46	4.99	<0.001*	2.76	2.26	3.38	<0.001*
No	1.00				1.00			
Truancy								
Yes	1.78	1.59	1.98	<0.001*	1.37	1.20	1.56	<0.001*
No	1.00				1.00			
Physical attack								
Yes	6.29	5.55	7.12	<0.001*	4.71	4.07	5.44	<0.001*
No	1.00				1.00			



Keywords

bullying, bullying victimization, school-going adolescents, National Health and Morbidity Survey, Malaysia

Conclusion

Approximately, one in ten school-going adolescents in Malaysia experienced bullying victimisation. Strengthening the anti-bullying intervention programme in school among the targeted group is vital to reduce the prevalence of bullying victimisation among school-going adolescents.

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