Bullying victimization: time trends and the overlap between traditional and cyberbullying across countries in Europe and North America

# Details

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## Sample

School-Aged (>12 years) Children (N = 764,518) from 37 countries.

## Implications For Policy Makers About

Creating a safe environment for children online

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Researchers

# Abstract

Abstract
Objectives This study explores recent cross-national trends over time (2002–2014) in the occurrence of victimization by bullying; then it documents the overlap between cybervictimization and traditional bullying in 2014 among adolescents in 37 countries. Methods Data from four cycles (2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014) of the cross-national Health Behavior in School-Aged Children study were included (N = 764,518). Trends in traditional victimization were evaluated using logistic regression
models in 37 countries. Prevalence of cybervictimization and the overlap between cybervictimization and traditional victimization were estimated.
Results Linear decreases in bullying victimization were observed in 21 countries among boys, and in 12 countries among girls. The prevalence of cybervictimization was systematically lower than traditional victimization. Overall across all
countries, 45.8% of those who reported cybervictimization also reported traditional victimization (46.5% for boys and 45.3% for girls), but wide country variations were observed. Conclusions These indicate the need for a more holistic perspective to intervention and prevention that considers all expressions of bullying, traditional or online. Public health programs and policies could focus on addressing bullying more
broadly, rather than focusing on behaviors that happen in a particular context.

# Outcome

Our analysis was unique in that we examined the degree of overlap between cybervictimization and bullying victimization across 37 countries and regions in 2014. The
degree of overlap was generally lower than those reported in other studies (Olweus and Limber 2018), with considerable variation by age-group, gender, and country. Overall, these
results show a significant number of young people (around 50% of those experiencing cybervictimization) have been exposed to traditional bullying victimization as well.