The Association of Cyber-Bullying and Adolescents in Religious and Secular Schools in Israel

# Keywords

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## Sample

There were 182 schools that were sampled, out of which 225 classrooms (47 6th grade, 41 8th grade, and 49 10th grade) were sampled

## Implications For Policy Makers About

Stepping up awareness and empowerment

# Abstract

Internet usage during leisure time is a growing area of research, especially among
adolescents. Our aim was to evaluate the association between Internet usage patterns
of religious and secular adolescents, exposure to cyber-bullying, and psychosomatic
symptoms in Israel. A cross-sectional study was carried out using questionnaires
administered to 7166 students aged 11–17 (4223 secular; 2943 religious).
Cyber-bullying was more common among secular students (11.4%) than religious
students (8.4%). Multiple logistic regression predicting cyber-bullying showed significant
results for boys, primary school age, Internet usage, bad moods, sleeping disorders, and dizziness. A comparison across school levels and between the education sectors did not show major differences in the probability to experience bullying. However, different characteristics played the role in explaining propensity to that experience. These findings can help to plan school-level oriented intervention programs
to educate adolescents on prudent use of the Internet to combat the spread of cyber-bullying

# Outcome

It was found that increased use of Internet and mobile technologies is strongly associated with elevated risk of exposure to cyber-bullying (Tesler, Nissanholtz‑Gannot, Zigdon Harel‑Fisch, 2019). The study posited differences in cyber-bullying between religious and secular adolescent students. Our results are compatible with the literature, showing less exposure in the religious sector. Our study found that students at religious schools exhibited less psychosomatic symptoms than their secular counterparts. age group was significantly associated with cyber-bullying exposure patterns. The older the students were, there was a lower the percentage who reported cyber-bullying. Our findings show an inverse relationship in which boys are exposed to more intense cyber-bullying than girls, with 12.2% of boys reporting exposure to cyberbullying
versus 8.3% of girls.