School Climate as a Protective Factor for Student Aggression
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Main Points

High school student aggression is...
1. more than bullying.
2. pervasive in high schools.
3. influenced by school climate.

School Climate Survey Development


References


References


2018 High School Results

322 high schools
85,750 students
16,525 staff
Median completion 14.5 minutes,
92% < 30 minutes

Student Reports of Being Bullied

- Students reporting at least one form of bullying in the past 12 months: 44%
- I have been physically bullied or threatened with physical bullying at school this year: 11%
- I have been verbally bullied at school this year: 38%
- I have been socially bullied at school this year: 27%
- I have been cyberbullied at school this year: 10%

Happened at least once

Student Reports of Sexual Harassment

- Students reporting at least one form of sexual harassment in the past 12 months: 51%
- During the past 12 months, how often did another student make unwanted sexual comments, jokes, or gestures that make you feel uncomfortable? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)
- During the past 12 months, how often did another student sexualize you in some way? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)
- During the past 12 months, how often did another student threaten you? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)
- During the past 12 months, how often did another student sexualize you in some way? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)

Happened at least once

Overlap of Bullying and Sexual Harassment

- SH but not Bul: 25%
- Bul but not SH: 14%
- Both: 16%
- Neither: 45%

Student Reports of Dating Aggression

- Students reporting at least one form of dating aggression in the past 12 months: 21%
- During the past 12 months, how often did someone you went out with or dated physically hurt you? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)
- During the past 12 months, how often did someone you went out with or dated threaten to hurt you? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)
- During the past 12 months, how often did someone you went out with or dated try to make you do something with or about something you didn’t want to do? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)
- During the past 12 months, how often did someone you went out with or dated try to make you do something you didn’t want to do? (0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%)

Happened at least once
What is Authoritative School Climate?

Developmental research has found that the most effective parents are authoritative, not authoritarian or permissive. They have high expectations and are demanding, but they are also warm and supportive.

Four types of schools

- **Authoritarian**: Low Structure, High Support
- **Authoritative**: Low Structure, High Support
- **Disengaged**: High Structure, Low Support
- **Permissive**: High Structure, Low Support

Student Ratings of Disciplinary Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The school rules are fair</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The punishment for breaking school rules is the same for all students</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students at this school are only punished when they deserve it</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students are suspended without a good reason (reverse scored)</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students are treated fairly regardless of their race or ethnicity</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults at this school are too strict (reverse scored)</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Structure</td>
<td>2.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean Rating (1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree)

Student Ratings of Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most teachers and other adults at this school care about students</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most teachers and other adults at this school want students to do well</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most teachers listen to what students have to say</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most teachers treat students with respect</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are adults at this school I could talk with if I had a problem</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I tell a teacher about a problem I am having, the teacher will do something to help</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am comfortable asking my teachers for help with my schoolwork</td>
<td>2.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is at least one teacher or other adult at this school who really wants me to do well</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Support

Mean Rating (1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree)
Multi-level Regression Model Results

Bullying

Sexual Harassment

Dating Aggression

Authoritative School Climate

Concluding Points

1. Bullying, sexual harassment, and dating aggression are prevalent in high school
2. An authoritative school climate has lower levels of student aggression at both student and school levels
3. Hypothesis: Efforts to improve school climate could provide conditions that reduce peer aggression.