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## Adolescent Male Bullies, Victims, and Bully-Victims: A Comparison of Psychosocial and Behavioral Characteristics

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## ▶ Abstract

**Objective** To determine among male adolescents whether bully-victims would report the poorest psychosocial health, the worst attitudes toward school, more problem behavior (delinquency, weapons possession, and substance use), and more physical injury compared with bullies, victims, and neutral students. We also assessed ethnic differences in bullying category membership. **Methods** Employing multisample latent variable models, we contrasted 1,312 males in grades 7–12 classified as bullies ( $n = 299$ ), victims ( $n = 180$ ), bully-victims ( $n = 195$ ), and neutral ( $n = 638$ ) on school attitudes, psychosocial health, problem behaviors, and physical injury. **Results** Hypotheses were generally confirmed, especially

contrasts between bully-victims and neutrals. However, bullies did not have better school attitudes than bully-victims, and victims only marginally reported better psychological health than bully-victims. The boys of mixed ethnicity were more likely to be victims. **Conclusions** Greater awareness of the problems associated with boys who both bully and are victimized is necessary for improved intervention.

**Key words:** bullies; bully-victims; mixed ethnicity; victims; weapon possession.

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