

## IMPACT OF HEARING LOSS ON BULLYING IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation Grant
- Dallas Cochlear Implant Program
- Colorado Neurological Institute Cochlear Kids Camp
- Rocky Mountain Ear Center
  - Allison Blever
  - David Kelsall
- Data collection
  - Sophie Assmann
  - Eilka Cokely
  - Trissan Jones
  - Roshini Kumar
  - Kathryn Wiseman
- Consulting
  - Nadine Connell
  - Emily Tobey
  - Lee Warner
- Professionals who helped with recruit
- Adolescent participants

## BULLYING/ PEER VICTIMIZATION?

- Unwanted aggressive behavior(s)
- Power imbalance
- Repeated multiple times

**28%** of students (grades 6-10) have been bullied at least once.

Teasing, spreading rumors, physical harm

Gladden, Vivolo-Kantor, Hamburger, & Lumpkin, 2014; Robers, Kemp, & Truman, 2013.

## RISK FACTORS FOR PEER VICTIMIZATION

- Fewer friends
- Low self-esteem
- Depression or anxiety
- Perceived as weak or different

Carter & Spencer, 2006; Dawkins, 1996; Gladden et al., 2014; Robers et al., 2013.

## PEER VICTIMIZATION IN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- Increased risk for peer victimization
  - 40-68% report being bullied at least once
- Most common types of peer victimization
  - Teasing
  - Social exclusion

Carter & Spencer, 2006; Nabuzoka & Smith, 1993; Olweus, 1978; Sullivan, 2006; van Cleave & Davis, 2006.

## PEER VICTIMIZATION IN CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

- Increased risk for peer victimization
  - Physical difference
  - Communication difficulties
  - Awkward social skills
  - Perceived weakness



Bauman & Pero, 2010; Dalton, 2011; Kouwenburg, Rieffe, Theunissen, & de Rooij, 2012; Nicholas & Geers, 2003; Sullivan, 2006.

## PEER VICTIMIZATION IN CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

- No difference in victimization in children with hearing loss vs. hearing peers
- Difference in type of victimization
  - Teasing and social exclusion

Proxy vs. self-report  
Ad hoc vs. established instrument or national data  
Child use of technology

Bauman & Pero, 2010; Kouwenburg et al., 2012; Percy-Smith, Caye-Thomasen, Gudman, Jensen, & Thomsen, 2008.

## OUR STUDY

- Do children with hearing loss experience peer victimization differently than hearing peers?
  - Prevalence and type of peer victimization
- What is the perceived reason for peer victimization?

## PARTICIPANTS: ADOLESCENTS WITH HEARING LOSS (N = 88)

Demographic characteristic	n	%
Gender (% Female)	51	59
Race		
Caucasian	63	72
African American	4	5
Asian	4	5
Other	17	18
Ethnicity (% Hispanic or Latino)	11	13

Recruited from cochlear implant summer camps, local professionals, and online listservs.

## PARTICIPANTS: ADOLESCENTS WITH HEARING LOSS (N = 88)

Variable	n	Mean (SD)	95% CI
Chronologic age (years)	88	12.59 (2.64)	12.04 - 13.14
Age at Intervention (years)	75	3.35 (2.43)	2.80 - 3.90
Duration of device use (years)	75	9.13 (3.09)	8.43 - 9.83

Recruited from cochlear implant summer camps, local professionals, and online listservs.

## METHODS

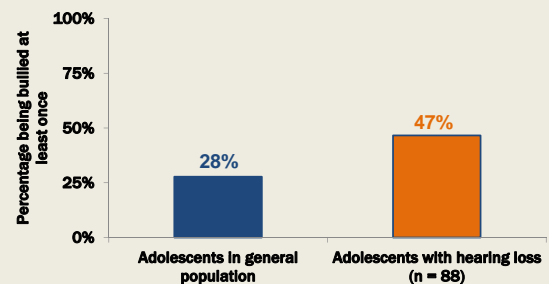
- School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

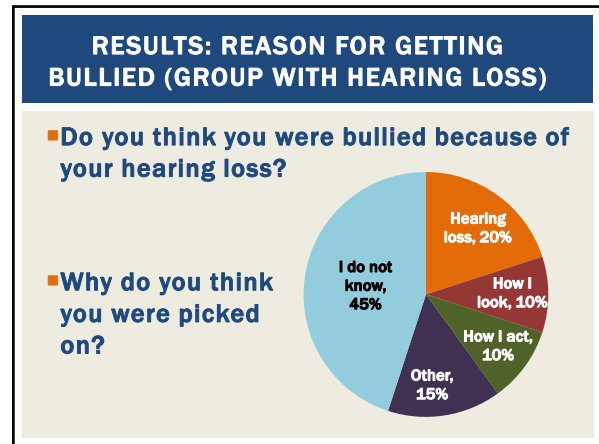
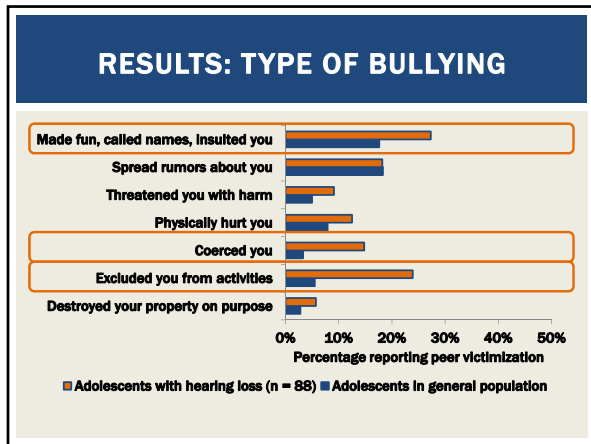
Made fun, called names, or insulted	Physical harm
Spread rumors	Coercion
Threatened with harm	Excluded on purpose
	Destroyed property

- NCVS 2008-2009 national sample (n = 4,326)

DeVoe & Bauer, 2011.

## RESULTS: PREVALENCE OF BULLYING





- ### DISCUSSION: PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH
- Problem, definition, and surveillance
  - Reason, risk and protective factors
  - Development of prevention strategies
  - Adoption of programs
- Institute of Medicine, 1988.

- ### DISCUSSION: PROBLEM AND SURVEILLANCE
- Higher prevalence of peer victimization in children with hearing loss
    - Similar to children with other disabilities
  - Children with hearing loss more often endure teasing, coercion, and exclusion.
    - Similar to other children with hearing loss
    - Different bullying types vs. general population
- Carter & Spencer, 2006; Kouwenburg et al., 2012; Sullivan, 2006.

- ### DISCUSSION: REASON, RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS
- 20-30% perceive hearing loss as the reason for peer victimization
  - Risk and protective factors
    - Communication competence
    - Social competence
    - Temperament
- Carter & Spencer, 2006; Dawkins, 1996; Gladden et al., 2014.

- ### DISCUSSION: PREVENTION STRATEGIES (PARENT)
- Encourage sharing of experiences
  - Talk with teacher/principal immediately
  - Put concerns in writing
  - Ask school district for a team meeting
    - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
    - Section 504
- [www.handandvoices.org](http://www.handandvoices.org)  
[www.pacer.org/bullying](http://www.pacer.org/bullying)

## DISCUSSION: DEVELOPMENT OF PREVENTION STRATEGIES (SCHOOL)

- Increased supervision
- School rules for behavior management
- Implement an anti-bullying policy
- Cooperation among staff and parents
- Create a safe environment
- Train staff on vulnerable populations

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers>  
[www.pacer.org/bullying](http://www.pacer.org/bullying)

## THANK YOU.

For more information about peer victimization in children with hearing loss:



[stopbullying.gov](http://stopbullying.gov)



PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center.  
The End of Bullying Begins with You.

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