IMPACT OF HEARING LOSS ON BULLYING IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

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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


PEER VICTIMIZATION IN CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

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

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, Gutman, 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?

METHODS

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

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

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

Delre & Bauer, 2011.

RESULTS: PREVALENCE OF BULLYING

- Adolescents in general population: 28%
- Adolescents with hearing loss (n = 88): 47%

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

PARTICIPANTS: ADOLESCENTS WITH HEARING LOSS (N = 88)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic characteristic</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender (% Female)</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>African American</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
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<td>Asian</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity (% Hispanic or Latino)</td>
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<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronologic age (years)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>12.59 (2.64)</td>
<td>12.04 - 13.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at intervention (years)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3.35 (2.43)</td>
<td>2.80 - 3.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of device use (years)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>9.13 (3.09)</td>
<td>8.43 – 9.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS: TYPE OF BULLYING

- Made fun, called names, insulted you
- Spread rumors about you
- Threatened you with harm
- Physically hurt you
- Coerced you
- Excluded you from activities
- Destroyed your property on purpose

Percentage reporting peer victimization

Adolescents with hearing loss (n = 88) Adolescents in general population

RESULTS: REASON FOR GETTING BULLIED (GROUP WITH HEARING LOSS)

- Do you think you were bullied because of your hearing loss?
- Why do you think you were picked on?

DISCUSSION: PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

- Problem, definition, and surveillance
- Reason, risk and protective factors
- Development of prevention strategies
- Adoption of programs

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

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

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
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

THANK YOU.

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

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