

Cyberbullying victimization and perpetration are associated with eating disorder symptoms in early adolescents.



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Cyberbullying and Eating Disorder Symptoms in U.S. Early Adolescents

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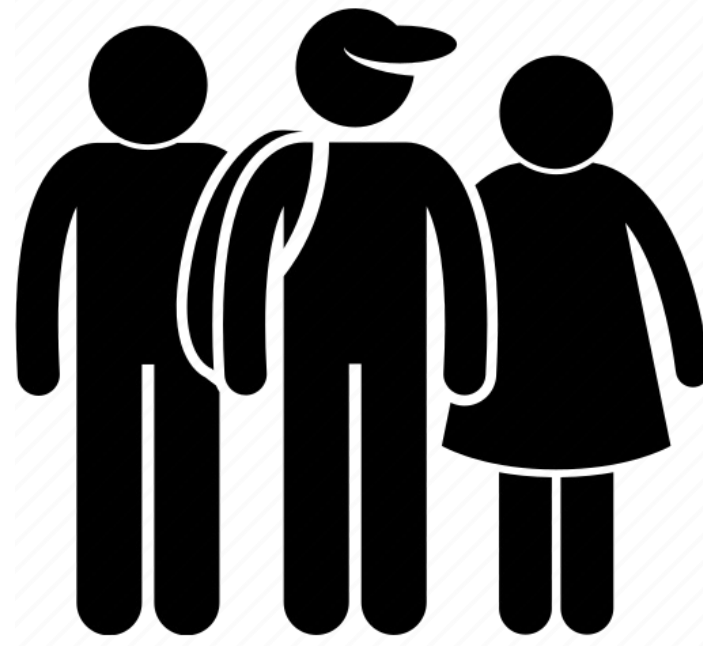
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I. Background

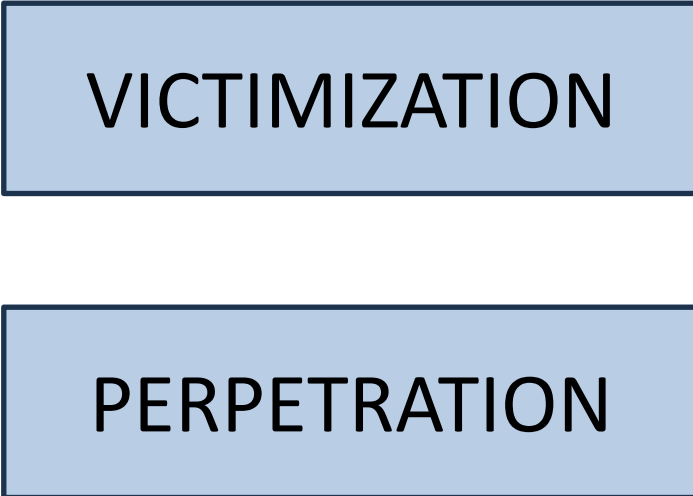
- Cyberbullying is increasing in prevalence among adolescents
- There is a large increase in eating disorder symptoms in early adolescence
- Prior studies focus on young adults and older adolescents

II. Methods

N=10,258
US children ages 10-14 years old



Exposure:
Cyberbullying



Modified Poisson regression analyses

Outcome:
Eating Disorder Symptoms



III. Results

Table 1. Cross-sectional associations between cyberbullying victimization or perpetration and eating disorder symptoms in the ABCD Study

Eating disorder symptom	Cyberbullying victimization ^a		Cyberbullying perpetration ^a	
	Prevalence ratio (95% CI)	p	Prevalence ratio (95% CI)	p
Worry about weight gain	2.41 (1.48–3.91)	<.001	3.52 (1.19–10.37)	.023
Self-worth tied to weight	2.08 (1.33–3.26)	.001	5.59 (2.56–12.20)	<.001
Inappropriate compensatory behavior to prevent weight gain	1.95 (1.57–2.42)	<.001	1.56 (0.82–2.97)	.177
Binge eating	1.95 (1.59–2.39)	<.001	2.36 (1.44–3.87)	.001
Distress with binge eating	2.64 (1.94–3.59)	<.001	2.84 (1.47–5.49)	.002

IV. Conclusions

- Cyberbullying victimization and perpetration in early adolescence are associated with eating disorder symptoms
- Clinicians may consider screening for cyberbullying and eating disorder symptoms among early adolescents and provide anticipatory guidance as needed



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