

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BULLYING AND COVID-19

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Background: Bullying is defined as a negative verbal and physical action that has hostile intentions, upsets the victim, and is repeated over time. For children who have experienced bullying, exposure to Covid-19 in addition had a very negative impact on their lives and relationships with their peers.

Methods and Objectives: The aim of this work is to examine the connection between bullying and exposure to Covid -19 in school children grades 5 and 7 of elementary school as well as in the first year of high school in Serbia in the 2021/2022 school year.

The research was conducted as a secondary analysis of data obtained in the cross-sectional study (Health and Behaviour School Children, HBSC) from 2021/2022 school year. The statistical significance of the difference in frequency exposure to violence and the variable of exposure to Covid-19 has been calculated using the X^2 test.

Results: School children that have more frequently been bullied and exposed to Covid-19 had a very negative effect on their lives as a whole (29%). Every third pupil that has been exposed to bullying, Covid -19 had a very negative effect on mental health, and a pretty much negative effect on health in general. Also, exposure to Covid-19 has resulted in bad relationships between peers, bad grades in school and a negative relationship with their family (33,9%).

Conclusions: Exposure to Covid-19 in school children that have suffered from bullying resulted in harmful intentions concerning mental health life in general. According to the results appropriate health educational recommendations can be created.

Keywords: bullying, Covid-19, school children, mental health, recommendations