

Paper title: Bullying behaviours among schoolchildren in Greece

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Recent reports have highlighted the frequency of bullying in schools and the adverse consequences of bullying behaviour on several developmental aspects. Moreover, bullying has been found as a precursor for several health and psychological problems in childhood. The aim of the present study was to investigate self-reported bullying behaviours in schoolchildren recruited from primary schools in Athens. Forty-eight boys and fifty-two girls, aged 10-12 completed the Olweus Bully/Victim Questionnaire in class. According to the results, bullying behaviours of several forms seem to be widespread in the sample studied. Almost a quarter of students bullied other students, 12.7% were bullied, 21.5% were both bullied and bullied others and 42.4% were neither bullied nor bullied others. The most common form of bullying reported was verbal harassment (e.g teasing and name calling). Taunting, threatening, hitting and stealing were also frequently reported. Girls were involved more commonly in psychological bullying (e.g. spreading rumors and enforcing social isolation), whereas physical bullying was more common among boys. To conclude, the results indicate that bullying is a reality widely affecting Greek students. The consequences of bullying on the psychosocial health of both bullies and victims are discussed and prevention strategies are proposed.