Adolescents with Hearing Loss and Bullying: A Call to Action

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Disclosures

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• Lauren Burkhalter
  – None to disclose
Objectives

• Discuss bullying experience of adolescents with hearing loss
• Discuss results of feasibility study
• Identify needs of future research
Bullying defined

• The term bullying refers to an individual displaying aggressive behavior that is intentional and perceived negatively by the target, repeated over time, and involves a power imbalance between the bully and the victim (Breivik & Olweus, 2015; Olweus, 1994a; Rettew, & Pawlowski, 2016).
Impact of bullying:

• Emotional regulation
• Self-esteem
• Depression
• Anxiety
• Loneliness
• Poor educational performance
• Psychosomatic symptoms
Bullying Rates

• Experience of Bullying & Victimization
  - 40 Countries
  - 23.4% (Craig et. al, 1998)

• Vulnerable populations = increased prevalence
  - National study, 34.1% (middle school); 26.6% (high school) (Blake, et. al, 2012)
  - Visible technology contributed (Kouwenberg, Rieffe, Theunissen, & de Rooij, 2012)
Current Study

**Purpose:** Investigate feasibility of exploring perceptions and experiences of adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing

**Method:**
- Mixed-method, electronic survey (Qualtrics)
  - Based on modified Owleus Bullying Victim Questionnaire (OBVQ)
- $10 gift card for participant incentive
- Recruitment:
  - Partnered with Arkansas Children’s Hospital & Arkansas School for the Deaf
  - Snowball sampling
  - Social media
  - Summer camp
Demographic Information

- Age Range: 10 – 18 years
- Race/Ethnicity:
  - African American (N=14)
  - Asian (N=5)
  - Hispanic or Latino (N=5)
  - White (N=40)
  - Other (N=5)
  - Not Reported (N=6)
Demographic Information

Communication Modality

- American Sign Language: 8%
- Spoken Language: 48%
- Sign Language and Spoken Language: 25%
- Not reported: 19%

N= 73
Demographic Information

Hearing Technology

- NOT REPORTED: 6
- NO TECHNOLOGY: 7
- BONE ANCHORED HEARING AID (OR IMPLANT): 0
- CROS HEARING AID: 1
- 1 HEARING AID AND 1 COCHLEAR IMPLANT: 4
- 2 HEARING AIDS: 24
- 1 HEARING AID: 7
- 2 COCHLEAR IMPLANTS: 20
- 1 COCHLEAR IMPLANT: 4

N= 73
Technology

Technology & Bullying Experience

- No hearing technology: 5
- Cross hearing aid: 1
- Two hearing aids: 16
- Two cochlear implants: 3
- One hearing aid and one cochlear implant: 3
- One hearing aid: 5
- One cochlear implant: 3

N = 67
Communication Modality

Victim of Bullying

- American Sign Language: 39%
- Sign Language and Spoken Language: 28%
- Spoken Language: 33%

N= 67
Yes = 36
Victimization Defined

• Victimization is defined as the experience of being a target of the aggressive behavior imposed by other children/adolescents who are not siblings and not necessarily age-mates (Hawker & Boulton, 2000).
Perpetrators of bullying & Communication Modality

Yes, Experience as a bully

- American Sign Language: 20%
- Sign Language and Spoken Language: 33%
- Spoken Language: 47%

N= 66, Yes =15
Perpetrators of bullying

Experience as a bully...Does technology matter?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cochlear Implant</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hearing Aid</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hearing Aid and 1 Cochlear Implant</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cochlear Implants</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Hearing Aids</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>CROS Hearing Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Hearing Technology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

N = 66
51 responded “No”
*Data above represents “Yes”
Strategies to Reduce Victimization

1. Explore Identity
2. Improve language and social communication
3. Facilitate self-determined learning support
   – Set a goal
   – Take Action
   – Adjust

(Spangler & DeConde Johnson, 2017)
Future Research

• Determine additional potential risk factors for victimization

• Design interventions specific to adolescents and children with hearing loss
Current Research

• Manuscript under review
References


References


References


References


