

Peer Victimization

Peer victimisation was measured using four branched questions, which asked about four presentations of peer victimisation:

1. Teasing
2. Rumours
3. Deliberate exclusion / Social Isolation
4. Physical threats or violence

For each of these questions an answer of Yes led to two subsequent questions, one about frequency (most days, about once a week, less than once a week) and the other about emotional impact (not at all, a bit, I was quite upset).

Three summary measures of victimisation were defined in the following manner:

- 1) **Bullied** - A subject was *Bullied* if they answered yes to one or more of the types of victimisation.
- 2) **Frequently** - An answer of "Most days" for any of the branches lead to a classification of being victimised *Frequently*.
- 3) **Upset** - Subjects were classified as *Upset* if they answered "I was quite upset" to any of the branches.

A simple scale of Peer Victimization was devised which scored from 0 to 3. This scale was devised with the objective of rating the severity of peer victimisation that an individual was subjected to. Being either bullied frequently or, being upset by bullying were considered to have equal value, and if both were present this was considered to be worse than either one on its own. The four categories were defined as follows:

- 0 Not bullied
- 1 Bullied, but *not* frequently, and *not* upset
- 2 Bullied, *either* frequently *or* upset, *but not both*
- 3 Bullied frequently *and* upset