

Students who repeat a grade experience more bullying, study finds

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One against all, all against one. Credit: Alexas_Fotos, Pixabay, CC0 (creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/)

Students who have repeated a grade have higher risks of being victims of bullying in countries around the world, according to a new study of nearly half a million students publishing November 11 in *PLOS Medicine* by Xiayun Zuo of Fudan University, China, and colleagues. The study is a part of the *PLOS Medicine* Special Issue on Global Child Health.

Addressing and preventing school violence, including bullying, is a specific target of the United National Sustainable Development Goals. Few studies involving large samples have examined the association between grade repetition and bullying victimization. In the new study, researchers used data from the Program for International Student Assessment (PIA) 2018, which included information on 465,146 students aged 15 and 16 from 74 countries/economies.

Overall, 12.25% of included students had repeated a grade and 30.32% of students reported having experienced bullying at least a few times a month during the previous year. Students who had repeated a grade were more likely to have been the victim of bullying compared to their peers (OR 95% CI 1.32-1.52, p

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