

# Cross-national comparison of victimisation and wellbeing correlates among children from low affluent areas

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## BACKGROUND

- While a large breadth of research has focused on general populations of primary school children with regard prevalence of victimisation and associated correlates, specific focus on children from areas of lower affluency has been negligible.
- Previous research has reported higher levels of exposure to violence among children from less affluent areas (Menacker, Weldon, & Hurwitz, 1990) it might be argued that such general exposure might be exacerbated by school victimisation.
- Tippett and Wolke (2014) reported that children from lower socio-economic status (SES) regions are at greater risk for childhood victimisation. Similarly, Jansen, Veenstra, Ormel, Verhulst, and Reijneveld (2011) reported that children of lower socioeconomic status had greater likelihood of involvement in victimisation problems as the aggressor, the victim, or both, compared to children of higher SES.
- Hyland, Hyland, and Comiskey (2017) has highlighted the experiences of primary schoolchildren from lower affluent areas in Ireland with regard to victimisation, depression and health-related quality of life.
- To date, cross-national comparisons have focused primarily on general primary school children, with negligible specific focus on children from lower affluent areas. This research examined baseline data from less affluent regions of Ireland to similar regions in England.



## METHODS

In the Republic of Ireland, 217 10-12-year-old schoolchildren participated in the Healthy Schools 2013 iteration of the survey (see Hyland et al. (2017) for more details on the recruitment process). Within England, 197 11-12-year olds participated in the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC: Brooks et al., 2015) survey 2014.

- Experiences of victimisation
- Health related quality of life – KIDSCREEN (27-item in ROI with five subscales[Physical well-being, Psychological well-being, Autonomy and Parent relations, Social Support and Peer Relations and School environment]; 10-item in England with one total score)

## RESULTS

### School Victimisation – direct question

**Ireland:** 'Have you been bullied at or near school in the last year?'

- Yes (victim) = 31.6% (N = 59)
- No (non-victim) = 68.4% (N = 128)

**England:** How often have you been bullied at school in the past couple of months?'

- Yes (victim) = 37% (N = 67)
  - Sometimes basis 30.1% (N= 55) [once or twice 23.2% (N=42), two or three times a month = 7.2% (N = 13)]
  - Frequent basis 6.6% (N = 12) [once a week = 3.3% (N = 6), several times a week = 3.3% (N = 6)]
- No (non-victim) = 63% (N = 114)

### School Victimisation – associate behaviours

**Ireland:** Have any of the following happened to you in this school year?

	Never	Sometimes	Always
Been teased/made fun of	61.5% (N = 123)	32.5% (N=65)	6% (N = 12)
Called nasty names	57.9% (N = 117)	34.7% (N = 70)	7.4% (N = 15)
Bullied through mobile phone	93.5% (N = 118)	6% (N = 12)	.5% (N = 1)
Bullied through email/internet	92.5% (N = 186)	6.5% (N = 13)	1% (N = 2)
Pushed/hit for no reason	69.3% (N = 140)	25.7% (N = 52)	5% (N = 10)
Had belongings taken/broken	82.7% (N = 167)	15.8% (N = 32)	1.5% (N = 3)
Been threatened for no reason	77.4% (N = 154)	18.1% (N = 36)	4.5% (N = 9)
Been asked for money	88.6% (N = 179)	9.4% (N = 19)	2% (N = 4)
Been ganged up on	80.7% (N = 163)	15.3% (N = 31)	4% (N = 8)



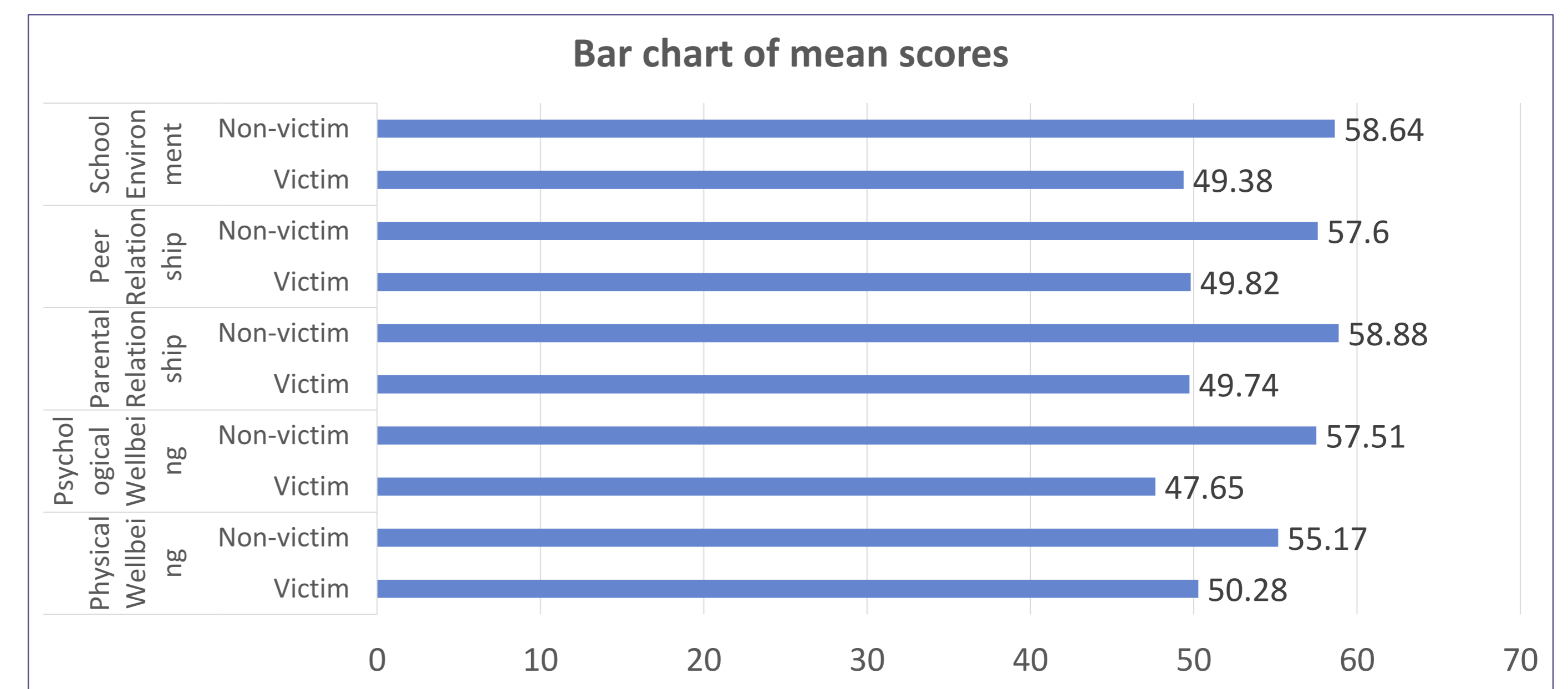
## RESULTS (CONTINUED)

**England: How often have you been bullied at school in the following ways?**

	Never	Sometimes	Always
Messages/online	94.8% (N = 165)	4.6% (N=8)	.6% (N = 1)
Images	97.1% (N = 169)	2.3% (N = 4)	.6% (N = 1)
Teased/mean names	65.7% (N = 115)	31.4% (N = 55)	2.9% (N = 5)
Left out/ignored	74.1% (N = 129)	23% (N = 40)	2.8% (N = 5)
Hit/kicked/pushed	84.5% (N = 147)	12.7% (N = 22)	2.9% (N = 5)
Lies/rumours	76.0% (N = 133)	20.5% (N = 36)	3.4% (N = 6)
Weight	85.6% (N = 149)	12% (N = 21)	2.2% (N = 4)
Spread embarrassing information	86.9% (N = 152)	9.1% (N = 16)	4% (N = 7)
Illness/disability	93.7% (N = 163)	4% (N = 7)	2.2% (N = 4)
Ethnicity	87.5% (N = 154)	10.8% (N = 19)	1.7% (N = 3)

### Victimisation and health related quality life

- Victim and non-victim groups compared within each country for trends
- ROI:**
  - One way MANOVA - statistically significant difference on the combined five dimensions of the KIDSCREEN between victims and non-victims ( $F(5, 181) = 8.40, p < .001, \text{effect size} = .19$ ).
  - Following a Bonferroni adjustment to .01, there were significant differences across each of the individual dimension, with victims reporting greater impairment on all dimensions in comparisons to their non-victim peers. These differences displayed in the graph below



### England:

- Independent samples t-test - significant differences on the total KIDSCREEN between victims and non-victims ( $t(169) = 5.52, p < .001, \text{CI [95\%]} 4.58, 9.69$ ), with victims ( $M = 45.58, SD = 8.25$ ) reporting greater impairment in health related quality of life in comparison to their non-victim peers ( $M = 52.72, SD = 8.14$ ).

## CONCLUSION

- Highlights similar rate of victimisation across both countries.
- Victims experience significantly great impairment to health related quality of life in comparison to non-victims
- Similar experiences for children of low-affluent areas across England and Ireland, despite different geographical areas
- Recommendations to researchers, policymakers, and educators alike should consider the needs of these already potentially at-risk children when designing anti-bullying policies and intervention and prevention programmes in order to buffer the psychological impact of victimisation



## KEY REFERENCES

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