

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

Introduction:

Previous research by 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:

The cross-sectional study compared 173 10-12 year old schoolchildren from less affluent schools in the Republic of Ireland, with 197 11-12 year olds from similar regions in England regarding victimisation levels and health-related quality of life.

Result:

Almost a third (27.7%, N = 48) of Irish children confirmed that they had experienced victimisation at school on some level in the past year, whereas a slightly higher rate of 35.9% (N = 106) was reported by children in England for a period over the past few months. When examining the differences for health-related quality of life, for both Irish and English schoolchildren, differences were found for both victims and non-victims, with victims reported greater impairment.

Discussion:

The findings portray similar experiences for children from low affluent areas across England and the Republic of Ireland. This highlights the consistent negative effect of victimisation for these already vulnerable children, despite different geographical regions. Considering this, researchers, policymakers, and educators alike should consider the needs of these children when designing prevention and intervention strategies to buffer the impact of victimisation.