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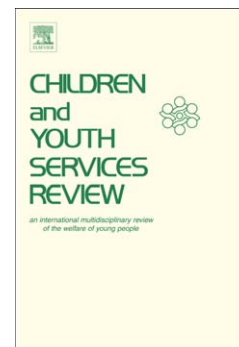
Understanding Weaknesses in Bullying Research: How School Personnel can Help Strengthen Bullying Research and Practice

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Understanding Weaknesses in Bullying Research: How School Personnel can Help Strengthen
Bullying Research and Practice

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Abstract

School personnel (teachers, administrators, counselors, staff, and social workers) would greatly benefit from a stronger understanding of bullying dynamics. In order to heighten their understanding, we must strengthen bullying research. Despite more than 40 years of bullying research, a number of methodological weaknesses continue to plague the field of bullying. First, there is a lack of a common definition of bullying, making it difficult to compare results across studies. Second, some researchers use one-item measures of bullying, a practice that lacks content validity and fails to assess the entire scope of the bullying dynamic. Third, many measures fail to assess all forms of bullying. Fourth, researchers often fail to provide a definition of bullying or to even include the word "bullying" in their measures, thus conflating the

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