Housing in the Northern Territories and Associations with Youth Physical Aggression
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To provide a descriptive summary of community and individual-level housing characteristics for a sample of communities in the three northern territories. To determine the association between community-level housing characteristics and rates of physical aggression among adolescent populations. To test potential confounders of the relationship between housing and physical aggression.

Methods

Background

Provision of affordable, quality housing in the Canadian North has been a focus over past years; quality housing, viewed by the health assets model, is a community resource that contributes to better health.

Physical aggression is a pertinent issue among youth, particularly those living in the northern territories.

Physical aggression has been associated with housing; reductions in physical aggression are expected in communities with quality housing.

Results

Objective 1

Figure 1: Profile of community-level housing characteristics for a subset of communities (n=80) in the northern territories.

Figure 2: Profile of individual-level housing occupancy characteristics for a subset of northern adolescents (n=3942).

Results (cont’d)

Objective 3

Table 2: Odds of engaging in physical aggression by housing occupancy characteristics.

Conclusion:

No association was found between community-level dwelling characteristics (such as dwelling type, ownership, condition, etc.) and adolescent engagement in physical aggression.

Levels of physical aggression varied by individual-level housing characteristics such as number of siblings, adults, and total people in the home, as well as by bedroom allocation.

Many factors influence this relationship, including sex, grade, substance use (alcohol, cannabis, illicit drug), and status as a bully victim.

Future research should examine how family life interact with these other determinants to consequently influence adolescent physical aggression within a northern context.

Acknowledgements: In Canada, HBSC is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada. The international coordinator is Dr. Candace Currie, University of St. Andrews, Scotland. The Canadian principal investigators are Drs. John Freeman and William Pickett, Queen’s University, and its national coordinator is Matthew King at the Social Program Evaluation Group. We thank Dr. Ian Janssen and Dr. Andre Rosu for collection of area-level information integral to this analysis. We thank Nathan King for his work in data linkage.

Table 1: Odds ratios for physical aggression, unadjusted and adjusted individually by potential confounding factors.

Figure 3: Prevalence of physical aggression among northern adolescents by housing occupancy characteristics.