You Can Run But You Can’t Hide: A Meta-Analysis Examining Variability in Prevalence Rates, and Predictors of Traditional Versus Cyber Aggression in Adolescents

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This thesis is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), Murdoch University, 2012.
I declare that this thesis is my own account of my research and contains as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any tertiary educational institution.

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Jeanette Minchin
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Abstract

**Purpose.** Adolescent aggression is a serious social problem worldwide, with research showing that aggressive behaviour may have adverse psychosocial consequences for both victim and aggressor (Raskauskas, 2010). This paper presents a systematic review of 26 studies that examined adolescent involvement in traditional and cyber aggression within the same study, totalling 37,244 participants.

**Methods.** Weighted regression analysis was used to calculate mean effect sizes for each of four key types of aggression – traditional perpetration, traditional victimisation, cyber perpetration, and cyber victimisation.

**Results.** Results showed that for traditional perpetration, the mean prevalence rate effect size was two percent higher than cyber perpetration, and one percent higher for traditional victimisation than cyber victimisation. Although these effect sizes are considered small, they are still significant (Cohen, 1977). Findings also showed that inclusion of a definition, terminology used, and instrument used all related to the variability in prevalence across studies. However, different factors were associated with prevalence rates across the four types of aggression. Additionally, there were a number of factors that differentially predicted traditional versus cyber perpetration, and traditional versus cyber victimisation.

**Conclusion.** Instrument, definition, and terminology should be specific to the type of aggression that is being measured, particularly in the case of victimisation.

*Keywords: traditional bullying, cyber bullying, adolescent aggression, prevalence*
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