Cyberbullying and Online Aggression Survey

Author(s) of Instrument:
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Sameer Hinduja

Key References: Publications related to this instrument


**Primary Use/Purpose:** This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.

The instrument can be used to measure the prevalence and general frequency of online aggression/cyberbullying victimization and offending. It is important to carefully define cyberbullying for respondents as noted in the instrument. The main victimization and offending measures are comprised of 8 individual indicators each along with the corresponding global question about cyberbullying. (see pp 4-5 of attached).

**Background and Development:** How and why this instrument was developed.

We originally developed the following survey instrument items in 2002 and have been refining them ever since. These questions have been asked on surveys administered via paper and pencil instrument in classrooms at school and via online instruments (both at school and via digital recruitment).

**Psychometrics (if applicable):** Any testing of this instrument.

See attached document.
**Link to Instrument:** Link to the instrument if available.

See attached.

**Submitted by:** Justin W. Patchin submitted this instrument to the CVR Instruments Collection and certified permission to publicly share this instrument.
We originally developed the following survey instrument items in 2002 and have been refining them ever since. These questions have been asked on surveys administered via paper and pencil instrument in classrooms at school and via online instruments (both at school and via digital recruitment). All of the questions are included on our standard survey instrument, though different combinations of items can be combined to represent certain construct(s) in which the researcher is interested. Additional notes for administration are included in brackets below. For more information about how we have utilized these measure in the past, see the list of publications below.

**Cyberbullying Victimization Questions**

[On our survey we first formally define cyberbullying for respondents. We use the following questions as individual indicators when assessing whether respondents have seen or experienced cyberbullying at some point in their lifetime or in the previous 30 days.]

Cyberbullying is when someone **repeatedly** harasses, mistreats, or makes fun of another person (on purpose to hurt them) online or while using cell phones or other electronic devices.

**I have seen other people being cyberbullied.**
Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times

**In my lifetime, I have been cyberbullied.**
Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times

**In my lifetime, I have been cyberbullied in a way that really affected my ability to learn and feel safe at school.** (added in 2016 version)
Never; Once; A few times; Many times

**In the last 30 days, I have been cyberbullied.**
Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times

[We combine the following set of questions to create a scale representing recent cyberbullying victimization. Details of scale construction are discussed below.]

**In the last 30 days, I have been cyberbullied in these ways...**
Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times

- Someone posted mean or hurtful comments about me online
- Someone posted a mean or hurtful picture online of me
- Someone posted a mean or hurtful video online of me
- Someone created a mean or hurtful web page about me
- Someone spread rumors about me online
- Someone threatened to hurt me through a cell phone text message
- Someone threatened to hurt me online
- Someone pretended to be me online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful to me
- Someone posted mean names or comments online about my race or color*
- Someone posted mean names, comments, or gestures about me with a sexual meaning*
- Someone posted mean names or comments about my religion*
Additional items occasionally included

*We ask the following series of questions to better understand where cyberbullying is happening (or through which platforms and technologies).*

**In the last 30 days, I have been cyberbullied in these online environments...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In a chat room</td>
<td>Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through computer instant messages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through cell phone text messages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through cell phone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PictureMail or VideoMail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On MySpace (removed in 2013 version)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Facebook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On a different social networking web site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Twitter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On Snapchat (added in 2015 version)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On YouTube</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On Instagram (added in 2013 version)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In virtual worlds such as Second Life, Gaia, or Habbo Hotel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While playing a massive multiplayer online game such as World of Warcraft, Everquest, Guild Wars, or Runescape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While playing online with Xbox, Playstation, Wii, PSP or similar device</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cyberbullying Offending Questions**

*We use the following questions as individual indicators when assessing whether respondents have cyberbullied others at some point in their lifetime or in the previous 30 days. Again, we begin by formally defining what we mean by cyberbullying.*

**Cyberbullying is when someone repeatedly harasses, mistreats, or makes fun of another person (on purpose to hurt them) online or while using cell phones or other electronic devices.**

**In my lifetime, I have cyberbullied others.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In the last 30 days, I have cyberbullied others.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We combine the following set of questions to create a scale representing recent cyberbullying offending. Details of scale construction are discussed below.*

**In the last 30 days, I have cyberbullied others in these ways...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I posted mean or hurtful comments about someone online</td>
<td>Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I posted a mean or hurtful picture online of someone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I posted a mean or hurtful video online of someone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I spread rumors about someone online
I threatened to hurt someone online
I threatened to hurt someone through a cell phone text message
I created a mean or hurtful web page about someone
I pretended to be someone else online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful to them
I posted mean names or comments online about someone's race or color*
I posted mean names, comments, or gestures about someone with a sexual meaning*
I posted mean names or comments online about someone's religion*
*Additional items occasionally included

[We ask the following series of questions to better understand where cyberbullying is happening (or through which platforms and technologies).]

In the last 30 days, I have cyberbullied others in these online environments...
Never; Once; A few times; Several times (removed in 2016 version); Many times

In a chat room
Through email
Through computer instant messages
Through cell phone text messages
Through cell phone
PictureMail or VideoMail
On MySpace (removed in 2013 version)
On Facebook
On a different social networking web site
On Twitter
On Snapchat (added in 2015 version)
On YouTube
On Instagram (added in 2013 version)
In virtual worlds such as Second Life, Gaia, or Habbo Hotel
While playing a massive multiplayer online game such as World of Warcraft, Everquest, Guild Wars, or Runescape
While playing online with Xbox, Playstation, Wii, PSP or similar device]
**Scale Construction**

We've used several different indicators for cyberbullying victimization and offending over the years. Depending on the research question and methodology used, different variables are appropriate for different contexts. For example, a researcher might want to use the single item “lifetime experience with cyberbullying” to assess whether someone has ever been cyberbullied (and how frequently). Most often, we use a version of the following scales below to assess general experience with cyberbullying.

### Cyberbullying Victimization Scale

In the last 30 days, I have been cyberbullied in these ways...
Never (0); Once (1); A few times (2); Many times (3)

1. I have been cyberbullied
2. Someone posted mean or hurtful comments about me online
3. Someone posted a mean or hurtful picture online of me online
4. Someone posted a mean or hurtful video online of me online
5. Someone created a mean or hurtful web page about me
6. Someone spread rumors about me online
7. Someone threatened to hurt me through a cell phone text message
8. Someone threatened to hurt me online
9. Someone pretended to be me online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful

**Variety scale:** Recode each variable to a dichotomy (never and once=0; a few times and many times=1); range=0-9. [This measure gives the researcher a continuous variable that assesses the variety of cyberbullying types experienced. Higher scores represent more experiences with different types of cyberbullying.]

**Summary scale:** never=0; once=1; a few times=2; many times=3. Sum responses for each variable with higher values representing more involvement in cyberbullying; range=0-27. Note: a summary scale based on the pre-2016 modification would range from 0-36 with addition of “several times” as a response item. [This measure gives the researcher a continuous variable that assesses overall experience with victimization. It includes both variation in types of cyberbullying as well as the frequency of experience.]

**Dichotomy:** Recode summary scale so that 0 and 1=0 and 2 or above=1. [This measure gives the researcher a binary measure (dummy variable) which indicates if a respondent has been the victim of cyberbullying or not. This works well when using logistic regression or other statistical techniques which require a binary dependent variable.]
**Cyberbullying Offending Scale**

In the last 30 days, I have cyberbullied others in these ways...
Never (0); Once (1); A few times (2); Many times (3)

1. I cyberbullied others
2. I posted mean or hurtful comments about someone online
3. I posted a mean or hurtful picture online of someone
4. I posted a mean or hurtful video online of someone
5. I spread rumors about someone online
6. I threatened to hurt someone online
7. I threatened to hurt someone through a cell phone text message
8. I created a mean or hurtful web page about someone
9. I pretended to be someone else online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful to them

*Variety scale:* Recode each variable to a dichotomy (never and once=0; a few times and many times=1); range=0-9. [This measure gives the researcher a continuous variable that assesses the variety of cyberbullying types perpetrated against others. Higher scores represent more experiences with different types of cyberbullying.]

*Summary scale:* never=0; once=1; a few times=2; many times=3. Sum responses for each variable with higher values representing more participation in cyberbullying; range=0-27. Note: a summary scale based on the pre-2016 modification would range from 0-36 with addition of “several times” as a response item. [This measure gives the researcher a continuous variable that assesses overall participation in cyberbullying. It includes both diversity of types of cyberbullying as well as the frequency of participation.]

* Dichotomy: Recode summary scale so that 0 and 1=0 and 2 or above=1. [This measure gives the researcher a binary measure (dummy variable) which indicates if a respondent has participated in cyberbullying or not. This works well when using logistic regression or other statistical techniques which require a binary dependent variable.]
Psychometric Properties
Utilized in 10 different studies (2009-2019)
(also pilot-tested and refined in 3 studies from 2003-2007)
Approximately 26,000 11-18-year-old students; over 90 individual schools; national
Coefficients represent range across the most recent 10 studies
Dates: 4/19; 10/16; 2/15; 1/14; 10/13; 12/11; 2/10; 2/10; 6/09; 6/09

Internal Reliability

Cyberbullying Victimization Scale – previous 30 days
(Cronbach’s Alpha range 0.867-0.935)
1. I have been cyberbullied
2. Someone posted mean or hurtful comments about me online
3. Someone posted a mean or hurtful picture online of me online
4. Someone posted a mean or hurtful video online of me online
5. Someone created a mean or hurtful web page about me
6. Someone spread rumors about me online
7. Someone threatened to hurt me through a cell phone text message
8. Someone threatened to hurt me online
9. Someone pretended to be me online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful

Cyberbullying Offending Scale – previous 30 days
(Cronbach’s Alpha range 0.793-0.969)
1. I cyberbullied others
2. I posted mean or hurtful comments about someone online
3. I posted a mean or hurtful picture online of someone
4. I posted a mean or hurtful video online of someone
5. I spread rumors about someone online
6. I threatened to hurt someone online
7. I threatened to hurt someone through a cell phone text message
8. I created a mean or hurtful web page about someone
9. I pretended to be someone else online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful to them
### Factor Analysis

#### Cyberbullying Victimization Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Loadings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I have been cyberbullied</td>
<td>.671-.755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Someone posted mean or hurtful comments about me online</td>
<td>.743-.813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Someone posted a mean or hurtful picture online of me online</td>
<td>.773-.861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Someone posted a mean or hurtful video online of me online</td>
<td>.707-.900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Someone created a mean or hurtful web page about me</td>
<td>.688-.910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Someone spread rumors about me online</td>
<td>.717-.802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Someone threatened to hurt me through a cell phone text message</td>
<td>.756-.855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Someone threatened to hurt me online</td>
<td>.547-.870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Someone pretended to be me online and acted in a way that was</td>
<td>.624-.866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean or hurtful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All loaded onto 1 component; Eigenvalue range 4.64-6.40 (51.52-71.52% of variance)

#### Cyberbullying Offending Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Loadings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I cyberbullied others</td>
<td>.537-.804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I posted mean or hurtful comments about someone online</td>
<td>.740-.857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I posted a mean or hurtful picture online of someone</td>
<td>.876-.949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I posted a mean or hurtful video online of someone</td>
<td>.889-.968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I spread rumors about someone online</td>
<td>.742-.916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I threatened to hurt someone online</td>
<td>.853-.923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I threatened to hurt someone through a cell phone text message</td>
<td>.867-.930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I created a mean or hurtful web page about someone</td>
<td>.855-.942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I pretended to be someone else online and acted in a way that</td>
<td>.843-.938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>was mean or hurtful to them</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All loaded onto 1 component; Eigenvalue range 5.13-7.34 (57.08-81.57% of variance)
### Inter-Item Correlations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cyberbullying Victimization Scale</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I have been cyberbullied</td>
<td>.43</td>
<td>.66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Someone posted mean or hurtful comments about me online</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>.61</td>
<td>.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Someone posted a mean or hurtful picture online of me online</td>
<td>.30</td>
<td>.58</td>
<td>.47</td>
<td>.67</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td>.89</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Someone posted a mean or hurtful video online of me online</td>
<td>.37</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>.87</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Someone created a mean or hurtful web page about me online</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>.73</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Someone spread rumors about me online</td>
<td>.37</td>
<td>.58</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>.68</td>
<td>.47</td>
<td>.69</td>
<td>.48</td>
<td>.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Someone threatened to hurt me through a cell phone text message</td>
<td>.42</td>
<td>.60</td>
<td>.53</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td>.58</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.54</td>
<td>.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Someone threatened to hurt me online</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>.64</td>
<td>.41</td>
<td>.77</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Someone pretended to be me online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>.64</td>
<td>.41</td>
<td>.77</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cyberbullying Offending Scale</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I cyberbullied others</td>
<td>.52</td>
<td>.68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I posted mean or hurtful comments about someone online</td>
<td>.45</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>.83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I posted a mean or hurtful picture online of someone</td>
<td>.53</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td>.56</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>.85</td>
<td>.94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I posted a mean or hurtful video online of someone</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>.56</td>
<td>.78</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>.83</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I spread rumors about someone online</td>
<td>.51</td>
<td>.69</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>.78</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>.83</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I threatened to hurt someone online</td>
<td>.48</td>
<td>.69</td>
<td>.56</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>.75</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I threatened to hurt someone through a cell phone text message</td>
<td>.51</td>
<td>.66</td>
<td>.54</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>.92</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I created a mean or hurtful web page about someone</td>
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<td>.68</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.86</td>
<td>.73</td>
<td>.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I pretended to be someone else online and acted in a way that was mean or hurtful to them</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>.68</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.86</td>
<td>.73</td>
<td>.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of Citations

Variations of these measures have been utilized or referenced in the following publications. Consult them for additional information on how scales were constructed for particular methodological purposes.


Replication

Replication using these measures for non-profit educational and research purposes is encouraged. All we ask is for proper attribution. Please cite accordingly:


Also, we would very much appreciate researchers who utilize our scales to send us the psychometric scores for their samples so we can continue to evaluate and refine the measures. Don’t hesitate to contact us with questions.

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