

## Abstract

**Background.** Child maltreatment and school bullying victimization are influential psychosocial factors on the development of physical and mental health problems in adolescents. There has been increasing evidence on the association between child maltreatment and school bullying victimization, while self-efficacy was theorized to be contributing to the relationship between them. This study examined the association between child maltreatment and bullying victimization, including real-world bullying and cyberbullying, and the possible mediating role of self-efficacy.

**Methods.** A random sample of 326 secondary school students aged 12-17 in Hong Kong completed self-report questionnaires. Descriptive statistics, Pearson correlations and linear regression analyses were then conducted.

**Results.** Significant positive correlations were found between child maltreatment and bullying of a comparable magnitude. Further regression analysis revealed that childhood maltreatment predicted bullying victimization. However, no significant associations were found between general self-efficacy and child maltreatment, or general self-efficacy and bullying victimization. The mediating role of self-efficacy in the relationship among them was not established.

**Conclusions.** This study demonstrated significant positive associations between child maltreatment, school bullying victimization, and cyberbullying victimization among secondary school students aged 12-17 in Hong Kong. Adolescents with any kinds of child maltreatment were prone to being revictimized at school and on the Internet. Further investigation on the potential mediators and moderators among the relationship between child maltreatment to bullying victimization was recommended.

**Keywords.** Maltreatment; child abuse; bullying victimization; general self-efficacy; revictimization