Effects of experience of stressful life events and stress on peer aggressive behavior on the Internet and in school in Japan

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Abstract: This study examined the effects of experience of stressful life events and stress from these events on aggressive behavior toward student peers on the Internet and in school. A questionnaire was administered twice, approximately six months apart, to 2079 junior high school students (1118 male, 961 female) and 928 high school students (528 male, 400 female). The questionnaire items assessed the extent to which the students had experienced stressful life events and stress from these events in the past six months and whether they had experienced 10 aggressive behaviors toward peers on the Internet and 12 in school in the month preceding the survey. Results of the Poisson analysis estimated separately for junior high and high school students and for male and female students indicated that the experience of stressful life events and the stress from these events had partly increased peer aggression on the Internet and in school.