Intersectionality of Class and Gender: A Longitudinal Analysis of Depression among Junior High School Students in Nanjing China

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Introduction

• Gender differences in Depression
  • One of the most well-documented mental health disparities
  • Consistent across nationalities and cultures

• Socioeconomic Status & Depression
  • Less clear association between SES & depression but more evidence for ↓SES & ↑depression.

• Emergence of Gender Difference
  • Female preponderance is solidified in adolescence
  • But the disparity is less clear between boys and girls in late childhood and preadolescence.
  • A even less clear picture on Chinese children and adolescents

• Hypotheses:
  1. Emerging Gender Differences
     = A female preponderance will develop over junior high
  2. Socioeconomic Inequality
     = ↓SES ↑Depression

Method

• Participants: 594 junior high school students from Nanjing China
  • 312 girls & 282 boys
  • Recruited from three schools of varying SES
  • Followed longitudinally for three years

• Measures: Child Depression Inventory-Short Form (CDI:S)
  • 10 items
  • Reliability across 3 years: .785; .798; .797

Result

• RMANOVA: Main effects are significant for
  • Gender, F=3.252 p=.042 (Huynh-Feldt)
  • Grade Level, F=6.77, p=.009

• RMANOVA: Significant Interaction
  • Grade*SES, F=2.75, p=.030 (Huynh-Feldt)

• Post-hoc Independent & RM T-tests
  • Significant Gender Differences:
     Overall at 8th and 9th Grade
     Low SES School at 8th and 9th Grade
     High SES School at 9th Grade

• Significant Grade-level Changes:
   Overall girl from 8th to 9th Grade
   Low SES School from 7th to 8th Grade
   Girls from 7th to 8th and 7th to 9th
   High SES School from 8th to 9th Grade
   Girls from 7th to 9th and 8th and 9th

Discussion

• Both gender and socioeconomic inequalities are confirmed in the current sample
  • More nuances in the upward trends among girls in different grades and SES

• Future Directions
  • Applying theoretical models to explore potential factors influencing these inequalities