



Jacobs Center of Productive Youth Development - Social Genomics

Altered stress response and gene expression among peer victimized youth

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Peer victimization



Peer victimization (PV)

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2023-09-15

What are the psychological, physiological, and biological effects of peer victimization on individuals?

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- Psychological conditions: anxiety, sensitivity, attentional bias
- Physiological response: reactivity
- ► Biological processes: stress hormones, differential gene expression (inflammation, immune suppression), cytokines



Fig 1. Stress process and disease.



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 Baseline, victimization, and stress-hormones (hair) from *z-proso* (n=1675)

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- ► Experiments and surveys from ZGIG (n=200)

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Fig 2. z-proso and ZGIG.

ZGIG Treatment (victim) variable 1/2



Fig 3. Prevalence of subordinate experiences and dominant behavior.

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ZGIG Treatment (victim) variable 2/2





Fig 4. Victims of social peer adversity.

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ZGIG Confounders





Fig 4. ZGIG Confounders.

A. Baseline confounders (from literature), used for inverse probability weighting (IPW) throughout the analysis. **B.** Time-varying confounders [1–13].

ZGIG Measures



Fig 5. ZGIG Measures. tissue, physiological, survey.

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Outcome



Outcome



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Outcome

ZGIG Results: mRNA





Fig 7. Diff. gene expression peer victims. A. Fold difference of CTRA gene signature (survey-weighted GLM, adj. for multiple measures). **B.** Volcano plot of genome-wide differential gene expression analysis using *geex* procedure [14, 15] for correct IPW-standard errors. **C.** Manhattan plot of functional enriched genes (Reactome up-regulated: Interferon Signaling, Interferon alpha/beta Signaling, Interferon gamma Signaling).



Fig 8. Stress process and gene expression findings.



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Thank you!

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