Introduction: With the increased exposure to social media and the widespread use of technological tools, adolescents are at higher risk of engaging in cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a specific form of bullying, characterized by persistent aggressive behavior, an imbalance of power, and an intent to cause harm. It occurs through electronic communication, including social media platforms, messaging apps, and other online spaces. In Tunisia, limited data exists on the extent and characteristics of cyberbullying, particularly in the of Sousse.

Objectives: Our study aims to assess the prevalence of cyberbullying among middle school students in the Sousse region and identify the factors associated with this phenomenon.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional, descriptive, and analytical study based on a survey conducted among adolescents attending two middle schools in the governorate of Sousse during the 2020/2021 school year. The participants completed a demographic information sheet, the "Cyberbullying Screening Test," and the "Resilience Factors Inventory (IFR-40) "

Results: Our population consisted of 238 adolescents, with 63.6% girls and 36.4% boys, giving a sex ratio of 0.57. The average age of participants was between 13 and 15 years old. Our results showed that 38.2% of adolescents used their phones or computers for more than three hours per day, and 32.4% used social media for over three hours daily. The prevalence of cyber victimization was 51.3% within our population. Familial protective factors were present in 80.6% of the sample, individual protective factors in 76.5%, and social protective factors in 68.7%. Our analysis revealed that repeating a grade was statistically associated with cyberbullying (p-value = 0.002). Furthermore, familial protective factors and individual protective factors were significantly correlated with cyberbullying, with p-values of 0.007 and 0.019, respectively. However, no significant association was found with social protective factors (p-value = 0.3).

Conclusions: Our study confirms the concerning extent of cyberbullying among Tunisian adolescents and highlights the need to develop appropriate prevention and intervention strategies to improve youth well-being. Enhancing family and individual resilience appears to be a promising approach for preventing cyberbullying and supporting affected adolescents.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP093

Adolescent Bullying: Bridging the Past and Present

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Introduction: Bullying is a persistent aggressive behavior characterized by a power imbalance and driven by the intent to cause harm. Examining the connection between past experiences of victimization and current bullying behaviors is essential for a comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon..

Objectives: This study aims to assess the prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying among Tunisian adolescents and to explore the relationship between current bullying behaviors and a history of childhood victimization.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted via a survey among adolescents attending middle and high schools during the 2023-2024 school year. Participants provided written consent and completed a demographic information sheet, the Adolescents and Peer Relations Instrument (APRI), and the Adverse Childhood Experience-International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ).

Results: The study population consisted of 1,005 adolescents, with a sex ratio of 0.73 and a mean age of 14.62 years. We find that 92.1% of adolescents experienced traditional bullying within the year, with 54.9% exposed to school bullying more than once a month. The most prevalent form was verbal bullying (88%), followed by relational bullying (77.3%) and physical bullying (73.9%). Among the participants, 38.5% had no history of past bullying but were currently victimized, 53.7% had experienced bullying in the past and continued to be victimized, 1.3% had been victimized in the past but no longer experienced bullying, and 6.5% had never been bullied, either in the past or present.

We identified a significant association between peer violence and bullying victimization, with a p-value <0.001 and an odds ratio (OR) of 4.11 (95% CI: 2.5-6.66). There was also a significant correlation between peer violence and the APRI scale (p < 0.001). Further analysis showed a strong correlation between peer violence and verbal bullying victimization (p < 0.001, OR = 3.75 [2.53-5.56]), relational bullying victimization (p < 0.001, OR = 2.8 [2.1-3.8]), and physical bullying victimization (p < 0.001, OR = 2.64 [1.97-3.53]). The risk of being victimized by all three forms of bullying was tripled (p < 0.001, OR = 2.75 [2.1-3.6]).

Conclusions: This study highlights the alarmingly high prevalence of bullying among Tunisian adolescents and emphasizes the significant link between past victimization and current bullying experiences. These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions that address the underlying trauma from past experiences to promote positive youth development.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP096

Psychopathological Profiles of Adolescent Suicide Attempters: A Comprehensive Analysis

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Introduction: Despite the identification of several risk factors, an understanding of the role of specific psychopathological profiles in predicting adolescent suicidal behaviours remains a key challenge in public health research.

Objectives: The current study aimed to identify psychopathological profiles in suicidal adolescents and to analyse their association with suicide-related outcomes.

Methods: A total of 285 adolescents aged 12 to 17 years [mean age (SD)=14.98 (1.51); females: 249 (87.40%)] were recruited from different hospitals in Spain. Latent profile analysis was performed to classify subgroups with similar patterns based on self-report Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire. Logistic regression and generalised linear modelling were applied to examine the relationship between profile membership and suicidal behaviours.

Results: Three psychopathological profiles were identified: internalizing symptom profile (52.63%), externalizing symptom profile (24.21%), and low symptom profile (25.58%). The predominantly female internalizing symptom profile members were more likely to report higher levels of psychopathological symptoms, including number of psychiatric diagnoses, depressive symptoms, and trauma (except sexual abuse). Additionally, they had more non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) and suicidal thoughts and behaviours. Likewise, greater ideation intensity was associated with the internalizing symptom profile compared to other groups, while greater number of previous suicide attempts correlated with an increase in suicidal behaviours. Finally, higher levels of motor impulsivity were associated with a lower probability of suicidal behaviours.

Conclusions: Identifying symptom profiles among adolescents who have attempted suicide allows us to establish reliable predictors for suicide prevention as well as personalised interventions, indicating the domains where these interventions are needed.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP098

The moderating role of hippocampus-dorsolateral prefrontal cortex resting-state functional connectivity in the relationship between emotional abuse and depression in adolescents

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Introduction: Early life adversity (ELA) such as physical and emotional abuse has been recognized as an important risk factor for depression in adults. Past research has shown that ELA was associated with alteration in the hippocampus, a key region involved in stress sensitivity, emotional learning and memory.

However, relatively little is known about the role of the hippocampus in the relationship between ELA and depression in adolescents.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate whether the hippocampal volume and hippocampus resting-state functional connectivity (RSFC) moderated the relationship between ELA and depressive symptom severity in adolescents with major depressive disorder (MDD).

Methods: This study included 73 adolescents with MDD (age M (SD) = 15.0 (1.5) years, 51 girls). The participants completed the Early Trauma Inventory and Children's Depression Rating Scale to assess ELA and depressive symptom severity, respectively. Resting–state functional and structural T1 images were collected using a Siemens 3T MR scanner and preprocessed using AFNI and FreeSurfer routines. The average BOLD time-series was extracted from our regions-of-interest (ROIs), the bilateral hippocampus and dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC). An ROI-to-ROI RSFC analysis was conducted to calculate Pearson correlation coefficients between the hippocampus and DLPFC ROIs. The correlation coefficients were transformed to Fisher's z. We performed correlation and moderation analyses to test our moderation model (Figure 1) after controlling for age and sex.

Results: Emotional abuse, one form of ELA, was significantly correlated with depressive symptoms in adolescents with MDD ($r = 0.25$, $p < .05$). Bilateral hippocampus – left DLPFC RSFCs moderated the association between emotional abuse and depressive symptoms in adolescents with MDD ($ps < .01$). The association between emotional abuse and depressive symptoms was stronger when bilateral hippocampus – left DLPFC RSFCs were lower (left hippocampus – left DLPFC RSFC, -1D: $b = 3.72$, $SE = 1.06$, $p < .001$; right hippocampus – left DLPFC RSFC, -1D: $b = 4.15$, $SE = 1.04$, $p < .001$) than when they were greater (left hippocampus – left DLPFC RSFC, +1D: $b = -0.09$, $SE = 1.05$, $p = .93$; right hippocampus – left DLPFC RSFC, +1D: $b = -0.10$, $SE = 0.98$, $p = .69$) (Figure 2). Hippocampal volumes also moderated the relationship between emotional abuse and depressive symptoms, but the results did not remain significant after correcting for multiple comparisons.

Image 1:
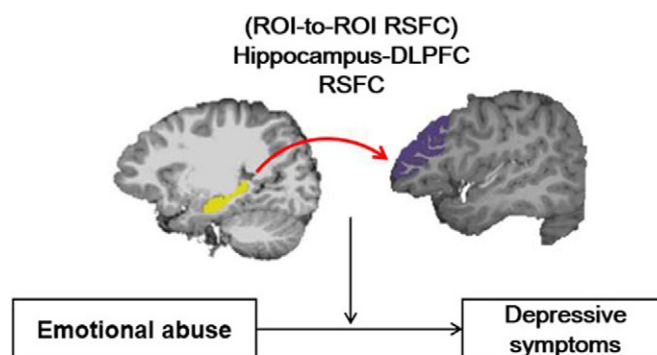
Figure 1. A proposed moderation model, ROI, region of interest; DLPFC, dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; RSFC, resting-state functional connectivity