

# Child Abuse And Neglect: Multidisciplinary Approaches

© Currents: New Scholarship in the Human Services, 2010

A Gender-Based Comparison of Levels and Determinants of Adolescent Well-Being: Results from a Canadian National Survey<sup>1</sup>

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Abstract

Using data from Canada's National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, the authors compared the levels of well-being between female and male adolescents and examined the specific determinants of well-being for each gender. The authors determined that a higher proportion of female youth reported doing well in school whereas the male youth reported higher levels of self-esteem and physical aggression. For both genders, the number of children living in the home and level of parental education were associated with their school performance. The self-esteem of female youth was apparently influenced by various parental factors such as home ownership status, level of education, and depression, whereas family dysfunction was associated with the self-esteem of male youth. Living in poverty, family dysfunction and parental age were all associated with the physical aggression levels of male youth, while for females, physical aggression was seemingly influenced by the level of parental education.

**Keywords:** adolescents, well-being, gender, ecological systems

Introduction

Adolescence is a transitional period between childhood and adulthood characterized by the acquisition of skills deemed necessary to survive and to live independently from one's parents or other caregivers. While the

<sup>1</sup> Cycle 4 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth is a product of Statistics Canada and was obtained for use by the authors through a Statistics Canada Research Data Centre (RDC) located at the University of Western Ontario. The views expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and are not those of Statistics Canada. The authors would like to thank Mr. Brad Corbett, Analyst at the RDC located at the University of Western Ontario, for his assistance with this project.

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