

Teacher Turnover's Impact on Aggression and Student Perception of School Safety

Jillian Whitener, Hannah Drury, Maddie Rader, Sawyer Grizzard, Kiara Wilkerson and Emily Dumont

Background

- **Teacher turnover:** High teacher turnover negatively affects student performance (Huang et. al., 2020)
- **Aggression:** Higher school structure results in fewer externalized aggressive behaviors (Berg & Cornell, 2016)
- **Student perception of school safety:** Positive perception of school safety correlates with lower levels of external aggressive behaviors (Huang et. al., 2020) and higher teacher investment (Collie et. al., 2011)
- **School structure:** High school structure is associated with decreased student aggression and teacher victimization (Gregory et. al., 2012)

Sample

- $N = 3,635$
- Ages 10 through 16 ($M = 12.68$, $SD = 1.03$)
- Grades 6th—8th, 38.0%=6th grade, 29.7%=7th grade, 32.3%=8th grade
- Female (51.3%), male (48.7%)

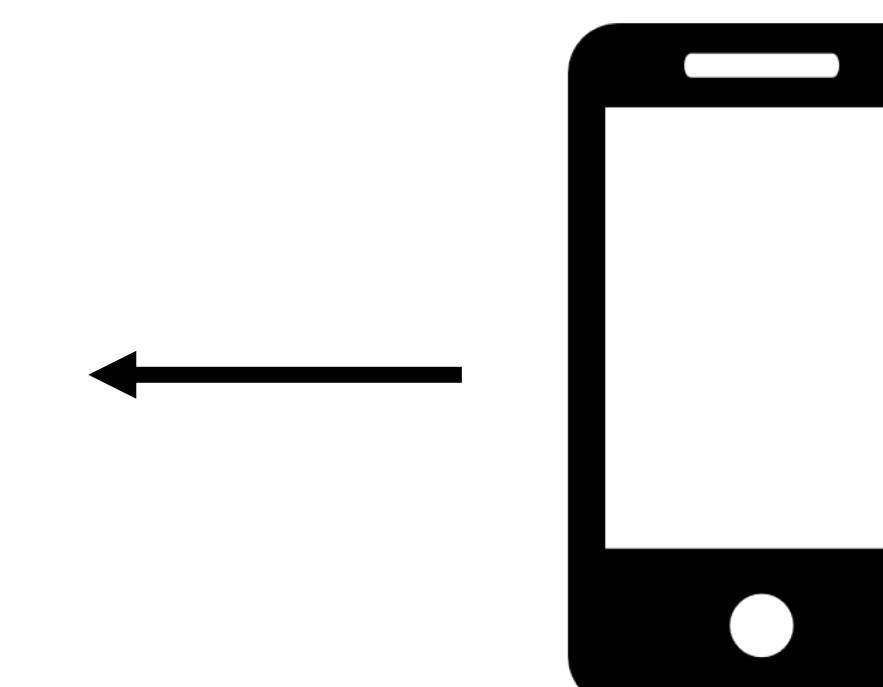
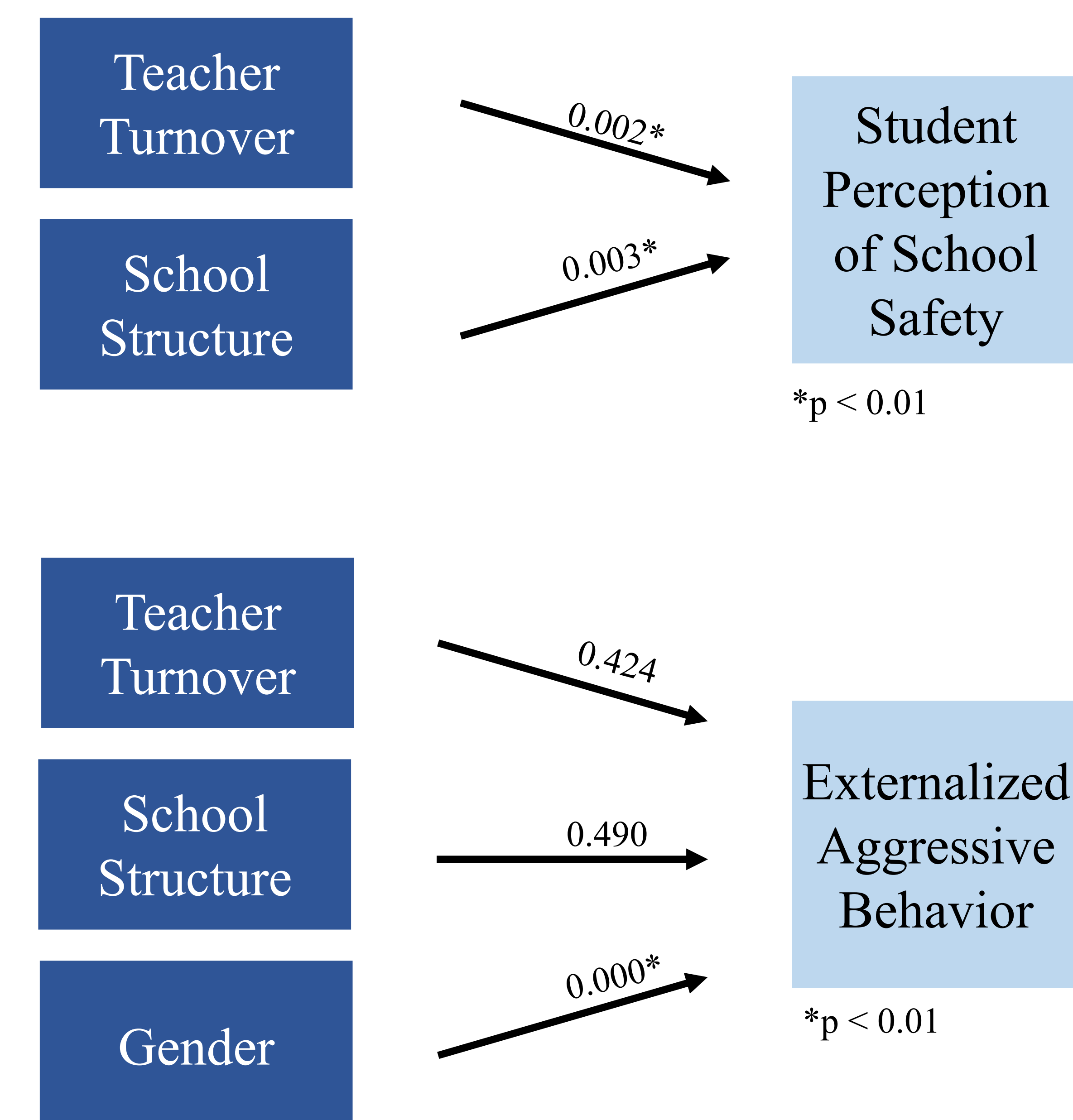
Measures

- Teacher turnover
 - Teachers asked how many years they had worked at the school
- Self-report Aggression Scale (Orpinas & Frankowski, 2001)
 - Students asked about aggressive behaviors in the last 7 days
 - **Examples of questions:**
 - “I pushed or shoved other students”
 - “I slapped or kicked someone”
- Student Perception of School Safety
 - Students asked to what extent are the following physical and observational problems at your school
 - **Examples of problems:**
 - “Students wrecking school property”
 - “Teachers ignore it when students tease other students”
- School Structure
 - Students were asked: “How often do the following things happen at your school?: Teachers make a point of sticking to the rules in classes.”

Discussion

- Lower teacher turnover **significantly** improves student perception of school safety
 - Policies to decrease teacher turnover will improve students' sense of safety
- Lower teacher turnover **does not significantly** improve reported aggressive behaviors
 - Students aggressive behaviors impact teacher turnover

Results



Scan to view full paper