

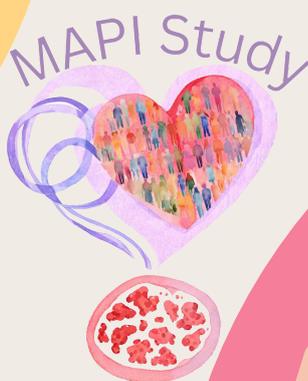


# MAPI STUDY

Linking Neighborhood Violence to Mexican Adolescent Psychological and Immune Health

Hello! We are **Drs. Andrea Medrano** and **Gabriella Alvarez**, professors at the University of Pittsburgh and the co-principal investigators of the MAPI Study.

We are excited to share some preliminary results from the surveys we conducted at your school. While our final reports and publications will include data from students at both schools in Uruapan, Michoacán, the preliminary findings shared in this newsletter are specific to the students from your school. We are still analyzing the results from the blood samples, but we will share those as soon as they are ready.



## About the Students School, Morning Shift

Let's meet the students who participated in the survey.

13.2  
average age

8.5  
average GPA

25 (28.7%)  
identify as  
Indigenous

18 (20.7%)  
students work

14 (16.1%)  
work part-time

4 (4.6%)  
work full-time

87 students  
completed the  
survey

46 (53%)  
girls

40 (46%)  
boys

The Uruapan Community has experienced many violent events, some of which may happen in school settings or even in your schools. Some of these may be:

**Bullying:** Repeated aggressive behavior intended to harm or intimidate others.

**Community Violence:** Violent acts occurring in public spaces or neighborhoods.

**Dating Violence:** Physical, emotional, or psychological harm within a romantic relationship.

# Bullying, Community Violence, Dating Violence



Bullying, community violence, and dating violence are associated with worse mental health symptoms. Stronger feelings of school belonging can protect against these events, as well as having strong social support, whether from friends, family, or counselors. When students feel supported and part of a caring community, they are more resilient and better equipped to manage violent events, leading to improved well-being overall.

**5 (6%)**

had a partner that used their password to access their social media profile

**37 (43%)**

have seen someone get hit or slapped with the intention to harm

**33 (38%)**

have been bullied by classmates who excluded them from group activities

## School Belonging, Social Support, Educational Aspirations, Family Cohesion

**44 (52%)**

feel happy to be at school

**75 (77%)**

expect to continue education past middle school

**41 (48%)**

feel safe in their school

**62 (71%)**

of families were supportive during difficult times



## What Does this Mean?

Overall, the students at your school are showing remarkable rates of school belonging, resilience and social support. There is work to be done to make sure more students feel this way, however, even though violent events may occur, the strong sense of community that you have all fostered has allowed you to feel supported and connected in a very unique way.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all the students who participated, and a special thank you to the faculty, staff, and administration for welcoming our research team and supporting this process.



Research teams from CREAR and Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo

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