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| **Characteristics of children’s behavioural reactions to the extreme competitiveness of Japanese society: An investigation based on data related to bullying, long-term absenteeism, schoolyard violence, and suicide** |
| **Background/Objectives**During the period of high economic growth in Japan, which started around 1960, changes have been observed in the bodies and minds of children, the likes of which had never been witnessed before. Although the children’s status cannot be considered an illness, it cannot be called a healthy state either, and this “abnormalities” became increasingly serious. To address these kinds of health issues, we convened the ‘National Children’s Physical and Mental Health Research Symposium’ annually. In addition, we continued the discussion concerning the bodies and minds of children with yogo teacher and grade school teachers, doctors, parents, and children, based on the *Annual Report of Physical and Mental Health among the Children*. This publication addresses health problems related to children’s physical and mental conditions. The report is supported by evidence from various sources, domestic and foreign trends, published government statistics, and other materials, as well as liaison conferences and network members’ own research results. It can be confirmed that the particular health problems observed in Japanese children (e.g., bullying, suicide, etc.) are becoming increasingly serious. Meanwhile, one key perspective argues that these symptoms are behavioural features stemming from the extremely competitive nature of Japanese society. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the characteristics of child behaviour in the extremely competitive Japanese society based on evidence published in the latest *Annual Report of Physical and Mental Health among the Children 2018.***Methods**We observed the characteristics of the physical symptoms of Japanese children based on the evidence published in the *Annual Report of Physical and Mental Health among the Children 2018*. This report presented data concerning bullying, long-term absenteeism, schoolyard violence, and suicides.**Results**Trends in bullying, long-term absenteeism, schoolyard violence, and suicides by Japanese children showed alarming changes.**Discussion**Upon analysing the results described above, we came to the following conclusions: bullying is a phenomenon used to transfer pressure to others, long-term absenteeism occurs as children attempt to escape from this pressure, schoolyard violence reflects attempts to push back against those creating pressure, and suicide occurs when those who feel pressure try to escape themselves.**Keywords**Bullying, long-term absenteeism, schoolyard violence, suicide |