

**Background:**

With COVID-19 disrupting school life, there is a need to examine whether COVID-related changes in our schools may be creating or exacerbating inequalities among students. The aim of this poster is to examine potential differences associated to socioeconomic status (SES) both in different facets of school stress, and in the overall impact of COVID and specific school COVID-related measures.

**Methods:**

Sample consisted of 2,523 secondary school students (52.3% girls, M age = 13.78) from Spain who had participated in Project EASE from November 2020 to mid-January 2021, i.e. shortly after schools reopened for the new academic year. Using ANOVA and Chi-square analyses, differences associated to SES were examined in: (1) school stress, for which we used 3 subscales of the ASQ-S (school performance, future uncertainty, and school-leisure conflict), and (2) the perceived impact of COVID and specific school COVID-related measures (e.g. hygiene measures, social distancing, increased ICTs use) on stress levels.

**Results:**

We found no significant differences associated to SES in stress of school performance or stress of school-leisure conflict, but low SES was associated with higher stress due to future uncertainty. Regardless of SES, the majority of students reported that their levels of school stress had increased due to COVID-19. As for specific measures, the percentage of students that reported an increase in their level of stress due to the more frequent use of ICTs was higher among low-SES students, who also reported lower levels of stress associated to reduced contact with classmates due to COVID.

**Conclusions:**

Although most students reported an increase in school stress due to COVID-19, low-SES students experienced significantly higher stress due to future uncertainty. Potential differences in the role of specific school COVID-related measures would also deserve further examination.

**Key messages:**

- Low-SES students experienced higher levels of stress due to future uncertainty.
- The majority of students, regardless of SES, reported increases in their stress levels due to COVID-19.

## Back to school during the COVID-19 pandemic: Does students' stress differ by socioeconomic status?

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