



# Children's Exposure of Bullying and Peer Victimization in Schools: Parental perspectives

Magnus Loftsson, Ann-Christin Cederborg & Kari Trost

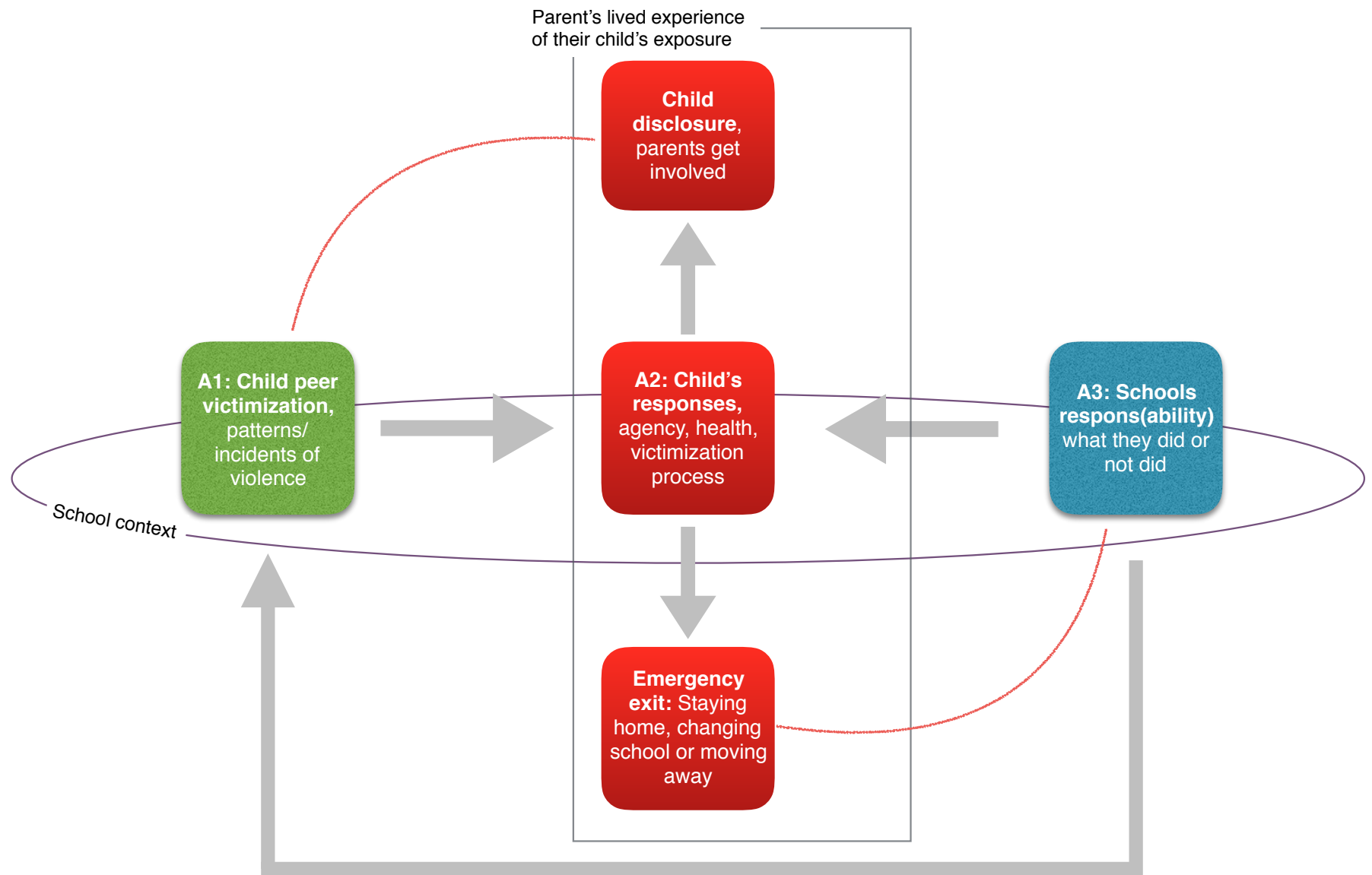
**Magnus Loftsson**, Licensed Psychologist and Doctoral Student

Department of Child and Youth Studies, Stockholm University, Sweden

[magnus.loftsson@bu.v.su.se](mailto:magnus.loftsson@bu.v.su.se)



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Parent's lived experience  
of their child's exposure

**Child  
disclosure,  
parents get  
involved**

# Children's Disclosure of School Violence: Paths to Parental Awareness

- **Objective:** The overall aim of this study is to explore how parents become aware of their child's school violence victimization, more specifically how do they report their children's disclosure in complaints to the Child and School Student Representatives.
- **Methods:** Our project draws on naturally occurring data and is based on parents' own written accounts from 104 cases of complaints. This study is explorative in nature, combining an inductive approach within an interpretative phenomenological framework.



# RESULTS: Superordinate and themes cross-tabulated with parallel-themes

Themes	Childrens' responses		Reluctance to disclose		Total
	Emotional	Bodily	Resistance	Barriers	
<b>1 Children's Spontaneous Disclosure</b>	29	8	0	3	64
Disclosure using mobile phone					
Face-to-face disclosure					
<b>2 Children Withholding Disclosure</b>	18	8	21	25	32
Delayed disclosure					
Partial disclosure					
Non-disclosure					
<b>3 Parental Discovery</b>	14	11	9	12	24
Parent's monitoring					
Parental solicitation					
<b>4 External Revelation</b>	7	3	5	6	21
Information from school					
Information from adults / children					
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>104</b>

# 1 Children's Spontaneous Disclosures: Face-to-face disclosure

We wanted to transfer school even at that time, Gunnel was very low in spirit that year, and had neither self-esteem nor self-confidence. Woke up several times a night and could shout straight out. And one day she got an outburst here at home where she yelled and cried, got dark eyes and kicked at everything. Shouted no-one wanted her close. Her dad had to hold her for 30 minutes before she got calm. There we really became worried and I broke totally together.

*Mother of Gunnel, 11 years old*



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*Face-to-face  
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*Bodily and  
emotional  
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*Face-to-face disclosure*

*Bodily and emotional response to relational exclusion*

*Being a parent*

*Mother of Gunnel, 11 years old*



## 2 Children Withholding Disclosure: Delayed and Non; Partial

On Friday, my son tried to commit suicide by hanging himself in one of the school toilets. Thank goodness, he failed! He was at the school nurse afterwards but did not say what had happened but gave another explanation for the injuries on the neck. He also said nothing to us but gave us as well a story about the neck injury that sounded credible. We did not find out what happened until the evening when the teacher called home, then a student in the son's class had told what happened to his parents and the parent called the teacher. I was very shocked, so we did not talk about the bullying at that time. But I assumed that the school was going to talk to the accused bullies. We were at the child psychiatry emergency unit with the son and the psychologist who spoke to him said he had been very degraded and beaten at school and that the best thing for him was to rest out at home and to start at another school.

*Mother of Vincent, 13 years old*



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*Non-disclosure,  
resisting to tell*

*Mother of Vincent, 13 years old*



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*Non-disclosure,  
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*External  
revelation*

*Mother of Vincent, 13 years old*



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*Emotional response*

*Non-disclosure, resisting to tell*

*External revelation*

*Mother of Vincent, 13 years old*



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*Emotional response*

*Non-disclosure, resisting to tell*

*External revelation*

*Barrier to disclose*

*Mother of Vincent, 13 years old*



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*Emotional response*

*Non-disclosure, resisting to tell*

*External revelation*

*Barrier to disclose*

*Being a parent*

*Mother of Vincent, 13 years old*



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### 3 Parental Discovery: Monitoring injuries, changed behavior or mood

Marita received nasty message on 'Kik', which I showed in my turn for Marita's mentor. Marita did not show me the message, but kept it a secret, but I saw that she felt terribly. She could not sleep, worried, mood swings, stomach-ache, etc. In the evening, I opened her message and read everything and then I cried myself to sleep. It was all that Marita was tiresome, she has no friends, nobody likes her, you should just know what Annika is talking about you, are you crying now, etc. I showed the mentor the messages the following week.

*Mother of Marita, 11 years*





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Non-disclosure,  
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Parental  
monitoring,  
bodily and  
emotional  
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*Non-disclosure, resisting to tell*

*Parental monitoring, bodily and emotional responses*

*Being a parent*

*Mother of Marita, 11 years*



# In Sum; Children's Disclosure and Parental Awareness: Two Sides of the Same Coin

Children's disclosure	In between	Parental awareness
Mobile/Face2x Delayed, Partial Non	Children's emotional and bodily responses, resistance and barriers	Monitoring Solicitation External revelation





Table 1

*Distribution of Relations for Included Participants Divided by Sex (Percentage in Parentheses)*

Parents	Sex				Children (n = 104)	
	Girls (n = 54)		Boys (n = 50)			
Mother	32	(31)	29	(28)	61	(59)
Father	7	(7)	7	(7)	14	(13)
Several parents	15	(14)	14	(13)	29	(28)



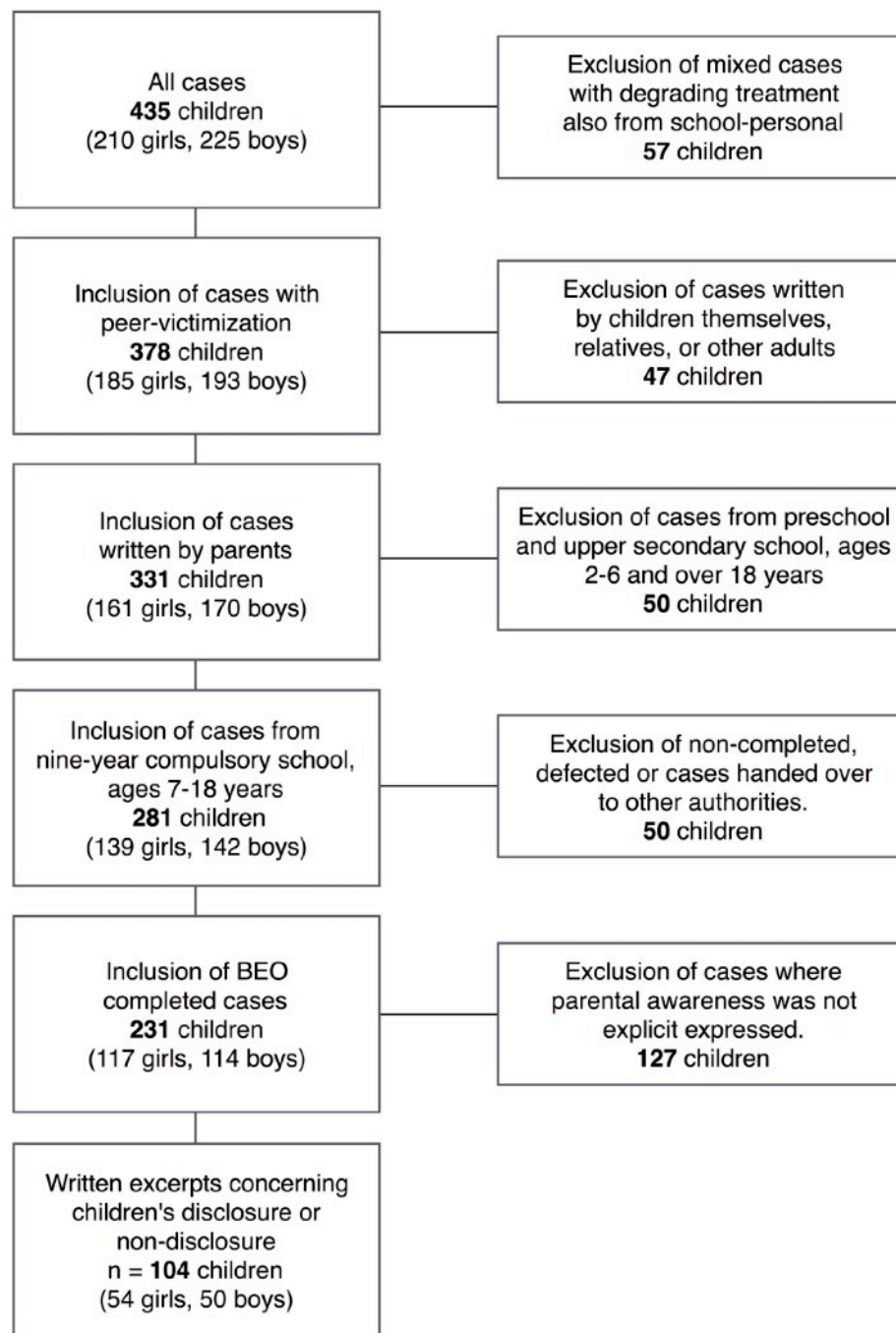


Figure 1: Step-by-step inclusion, to the left, and exclusion, to the right, of received cases.