# Understanding and Combating Covert Violence: Routledge Research in Educational

Covert violence is a pervasive problem in educational settings, affecting students, teachers, and administrators alike. It can take many forms, from subtle forms of bullying and harassment to more overt acts of intimidation and aggression. While overt violence is often more visible and easier to address, covert violence can be just as damaging, if not more so, because it is often hidden from view and therefore more difficult to prevent and address.



Global Perspectives on Microaggressions in Schools: Understanding and Combating Covert Violence (Routledge Research in Educational Equality and

Diversity) by Victor Hugo

$\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 4.	3 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 3198 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetti	ng: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 176 pages
Paperback	: 98 pages
Item Weight	: 4.2 ounces
Dimensions	: 5.83 x 0.23 x 8.27 inches



This article will explore the concept of covert violence, its prevalence in educational settings, and strategies for combating it. It will draw on

research from the field of education and related disciplines to provide a comprehensive understanding of this issue.

### What is Covert Violence?

Covert violence is a form of violence that is characterized by its hidden or indirect nature. It can be difficult to identify and define, as it often takes place in private or behind closed doors. Covert violence can include a wide range of behaviors, such as:

- Verbal abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Social isolation
- Cyberbullying
- Intimidation
- Threats
- Physical violence

Covert violence can be perpetrated by anyone, including students, teachers, administrators, and parents. It can occur in any educational setting, from elementary schools to universities.

## **Prevalence of Covert Violence in Educational Settings**

Research suggests that covert violence is a significant problem in educational settings. A study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that 20% of students reported being bullied at school in the past year.

Another study by the National Association of School Psychologists found that 30% of teachers reported being bullied by students in the past year.

Covert violence can have a devastating impact on students, teachers, and administrators. It can lead to a range of negative outcomes, including:

- Decreased academic performance
- Increased absenteeism
- Mental health problems
- Physical health problems
- Increased risk of dropping out of school

## **Strategies for Combating Covert Violence**

There are a number of strategies that can be used to combat covert violence in educational settings. These strategies include:

- Creating a safe and supportive school climate
- Implementing anti-bullying policies and procedures
- Providing training for teachers and administrators on how to identify and address covert violence
- Encouraging students to report incidents of covert violence
- Working with parents and community members to create a culture of respect and non-violence

Covert violence is a serious problem in educational settings that can have a devastating impact on students, teachers, and administrators. However,

there are a number of strategies that can be used to combat covert violence and create a safe and supportive learning environment for all.

#### References

- National Center for Education Statistics. (2017). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2017*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.
- National Association of School Psychologists. (2018). School Climate and Safety: A National Survey of School Psychologists. Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.



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