

The current literature introduces conceptualizations of the concerning mental health conditions among the youth population and reports on the effective strategies and interventions implemented in other school settings to address the mental health needs of students. Currently, there is limited literature about the mental health of students in Seventh-day Adventist academies so that movement towards continued discussion and action can take place. This presentation aims to bring awareness towards the importance of assessing for the mental health needs of high school students in Adventist academies. Furthermore, this presentation proposes several theoretical frameworks to guide the conceptualization of the mental health problems that may exist within Adventist academies and their surrounding communities. By utilizing structural functionalism and socioecological theory, we explore the social structure of the Adventist educational system to support key stakeholders in meeting the mental health needs of their students.

A needs assessment will be conducted by the presenter in the future as a stepping stone towards understanding the mental health needs present for high school students in Adventist academies based on the perspective of administrators, direct school personnel, support staff and alumni; thus, addressing the current literature gap. An invitation to collaborate during the needs assessment process will be provided for the purpose of taking the next steps to support high school students attending Adventist academies.