

Questionable Ethical Approval Number in Three Articles

Three articles [1-3] share the same ethical approval number (2021LL0501), which was stated in these articles "The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Jingzhou Mental Health Center (Approval No.: 2021LL0501)"; however, different participant groups were described in these articles. Please find the table for details.

DOI	10.1371/journal.pone.0345506	10.3389/fpsy.2026.1836080	10.3389/fpsy.2025.1597652
Participants	The recruitment period for this study spanned from September 19 to October 6, 2023 (T1), during which 10,535 mental health questionnaires were collected from all junior high school students in a designated district of Jingzhou City. Follow-up was conducted from March 27 to April 15, 2024 (T2), with 9,750 responses collected from the same cohort.	A cluster sampling method was used to recruit middle school students from 22 middle schools in Jingzhou City in 2025. The age of participants ranged from 8 to 20 years based on the actual student population included in the cluster sampling ... A total of 20, 225 questionnaires were collected; 19, 601 valid questionnaires were included in analyses, with an effective response rate of 96.91%	This study was conducted between October 2021 and December 2021, employing convenience sampling to select a total of 9,161 students from one university and one junior college in Jingzhou City, Hubei Province, and a junior college in Shangluo City, Shaanxi Province as participants.
Approval Statement	The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Jingzhou Mental Health Center (Approval No.: 2021LL0501)	This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Jingzhou Mental Health Center. (Serial Number: 2021LL0501)	This study has been approved by the Ethics Committee of Jingzhou Mental Health Center (Ethics Approval Number: 2021LL0501)
Author(s)	Xinwei Yu Li Zhang Xuejian Su Ye Yu Bo Liu Lifang Zhou Xiaopeng Deng	Xinyi Pang Xinfeng Zhang Chengguo Peng Zheming Tu	Chang Liu Lie Zhou Xiao-Xia Pi Bo Liu Xin-Feng Zhang Wen-Can Wei Suo-Cheng Nie
Title	From habit to high risk: The influence of multidimensional lifestyle changes on internet addiction risk among junior high school students and its predictive utility	Associative pathways of school bullying with adolescent internet addiction and the moderating role of emotional resilience	Network characteristics of the youth's insomnia and emotional symptoms and their gender differences
Journal	PLoS ONE	Front. Psychiatry	Front. Psychiatry
Submitted	2025-07-17	2026-03-22	2025-03-21
Published	2026-03-25	2026-06-09	2025-06-16

The article [1] and [3] share a common author Bo Liu, and the article [2] and [3] share a common author Xinfeng Zhang. The article [1] and [2] share no common author.

These findings suggest that the author reused the approval number without actually obtaining approval for the studies.

[1] 10.1371/journal.pone.0345506

[2] 10.3389/fpsy.2026.1836080

[3] 10.3389/fpsy.2025.1597652