

# Math Anxiety in First Grade Students

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## The Problem

- Math anxiety is a prevalent issue in the United States
- 93% of Americans reported experiencing some level of math anxiety
- There is increasing evidence that individuals can experience math anxiety as early as first grade. However, the current literature focuses primarily on math anxiety in adolescents and adults.
- Furthermore, the conceptual issues related to math anxiety in young children remain unclear.

## Methodology

- Quantitative, correlational design
- Participants: 10 students between the ages of 6 and 7
- Participants were selected from two first grade classes at a public charter school
- Setting: Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Instrument: Math Anxiety Scale for Young Children – Revised (MASYC-R)
- Procedure: Participants completed the MASYC-R with the researcher in two groups of five. The researcher read each statement aloud, and participants rated themselves on a Google Form.

## Purpose of the Study

- Conduct further research on math anxiety in first grade students
- Fill in the gaps of literature by providing a theoretical framework on the nature of math anxiety
- Determine if – and to what extent – first grade students experience math anxiety
- Examine the differences in math anxiety among first grade students around three factors:
  - Negative reactions
  - Numerical confidence
  - Worry

Math Anxiety

Numerical Reactions

Numerical Confidence

Worry

## Questions

- Do first grade students experience math anxiety?
- To what extent do first grade students experience math anxiety?
- What are the differences in math anxiety among first grade students around numerical reactions, numerical confidence, and/or worry?

## Results

- The data is currently in the analysis phase of the study.