Analysis of Association Between STS Category and Functional Impairment Score

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STS is stress induced by exposure to student trauma and has been associated with function impairment. A box plot and table have been created to demonstrate this relationship more clearly. Shown below is a table containing the mean functional impairment score for each STS category: “Little or No STS”, “Mild STS”, “Moderate STS”, “High STS”, and “Severe STS”.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| STS Category | Functional Impairment Score |
| Little or No STS | 7.74 |
| Mild STS | 10.6 |
| Moderate STS | 12.1 |
| High STS | 16.9 |
| Severe STS | 18.8 |

As shown in the table, a steady increase can be seen in the functional impairment score as the STS category increases ordinally. Graphically represented by the boxplot below, this relationship is made more clear.

A graph with blue squares and black lines

Description automatically generated

To identify whether or not there is a significant increase in the functional impairment score as you increase in ordinal categories, a Jonckheere-Terpstra test was conducted. Through this test, the increase across the categories was quantified. The following table contains the results of this test.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Test Statistic | p-value |
| 9,926 | < 0.0001 |

The result strongly suggests that there is a statistically significant increasing trend in functional impairment scores as the STS category increases. In other words, higher levels of Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) are associated with higher levels of functional impairment among the participants.