**Comparing secondary traumatic stress levels (stress induced by exposure to student trauma) to functional impairment.**

The goal of this study is to examine if there is a relationship between stress induced by student trauma and functional impairment levels. To do this, a survey was conducted gathering questions that would give an idea of an individual’s levels of secondary traumatic stress (STS), that were answered on a 5-point scale. *Never* scored as 1, and *Very Often* scored as *5.* Another series of questions were asked to determine their levels of functional impairment, also on a 5-point scale (*None* as 1, up to *A Great Deal as 5*). Participants were placed into a category based on their level of STS, which are shown in *Table 1,* with the total score of all the questions relating to STS determining where they place. The average Functional Impairment score within each of these groups is also shown in the table.

The average Functional Impairment score increases for each step up in STS level. From this, we can estimate a significant positive relationship between STS level and functional impairment scores.

*Table 1. STS Levels and Average Functional Impairment for each level*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STS Level** | **Little to no STS** | **Mild STS** | **Moderate STS** | **High STS** | **Severe STS** |
| **STS score range** | **27 or less** | **28-37** | **38-43** | **44-48** | **49+** |
| **Average Functional Impairment** | **7.97** | **10.6** | **12.14** | **16.85** | **18.8** |

In *figure one*, this relationship is visualized. The box plots show that there is a significant difference in the mean from moderate STS and high STS, and there is an increase between every level.

A graph with a number of squares

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