

## **Abstract**

Structural equation modeling is an increasing popular statistical tool, particularly in the field of social sciences, because of its ability to compute relationships between unobservable, latent variables. Two main approaches have surfaced in structural equation modeling, namely the partial least squares approach and the covariance based approach. This thesis aims to focus on the model estimation and model evaluation methods of the two approaches, as well as to compare and contrast the differences in modeling assumptions and other properties between the two approaches. Finally, the thesis will employ the two approaches of structural equation modeling to profile the mental health status of an adolescent and quantify the direct and indirect effects certain predictors have in shaping an adolescent's mental health.