



Adolescence

Chapter 11: Sexuality

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What do these women have in common?



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In common?



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• • • | And the happy couple



• • • | Child Sexual Abuse

- What is it?

- How do we define?

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• • • | Impact of CSA

1. CSA causes harm
2. Harm is pervasive among the population with a CSA history
3. Harm is likely to be intense
4. CSA is an equivalent experience for males and females

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1998 Meta-analysis

Rind, B., Tromovitch, P., & Bauserman, R. (1998). A meta-analytic examination of assumed properties of child sexual abuse using college samples. *Psychological Bulletin*, 124(1), 22-53.

Examined the empirical status of our "common sense" ideas about the effects

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CSA terminology

- describes virtually all sexual interactions with significantly older persons
- peers any time coercion is involved
- problems with validity of the CSA construct
 - very different incidents receive same label

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Previous literature reviews

- qualitative reviews
 - entirely narrative
 - susceptible to reviewers subjective interpretations
- meta analyses
 - substantial proportion of clinical samples
 - most have not evaluated or adequately control for other trauma, family environment

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Rind et al College samples

- large, nonclinical samples
- useful for addressing general population questions
- studies tend to provide data on moderator variables
- Detailed inclusion criteria resulted in:
 - 59 usable studies, 70 samples
 - N = 35,703, 13,704 males; 21,999 females
 - 54 samples-data on psychological correlates
 - N = 15,824; 3,254 males; 12,570 females

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Coding

- Psychological correlates
- Moderator variables
- Definition of CSA in study
- Reaction data – both retrospective and current
- Self-reported effects
- Family environment measures

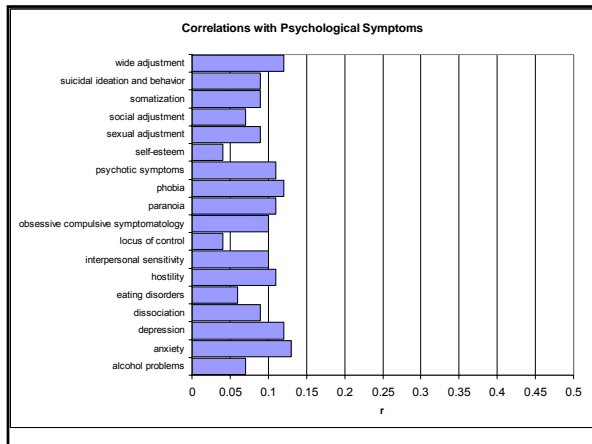
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Prevalence

- Overall
 - Males 14% (3-37%)
 - Females 27% (8-71%)
- Force or threat
 - males 23% females 41%
- Relation with adjustment, $r = .09$
- 17 of 18 symptom – CSA correlations statistically significant – all small

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Moderators examined

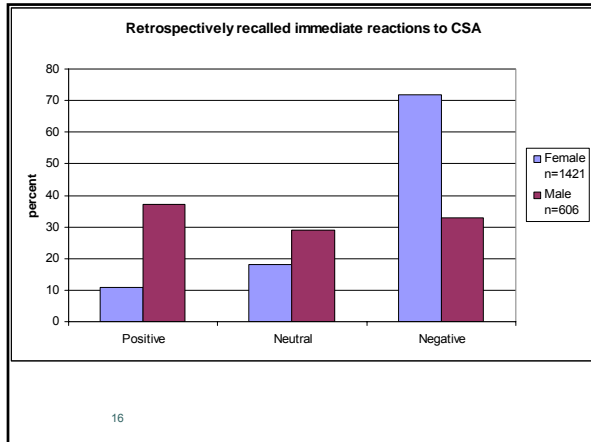
- Duration
- Force
- Frequency
- Incest
- Penetration
- Only force & incest were significant

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Reactions to CSA

- Recalled immediate – females more pervasively negative 72% vs. 33% of males
- Current reflections similar, 59% of females negative vs. 26% of males
- Lasting effects on sexual functioning for 8-15%
- General effects more rare

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Conclusions

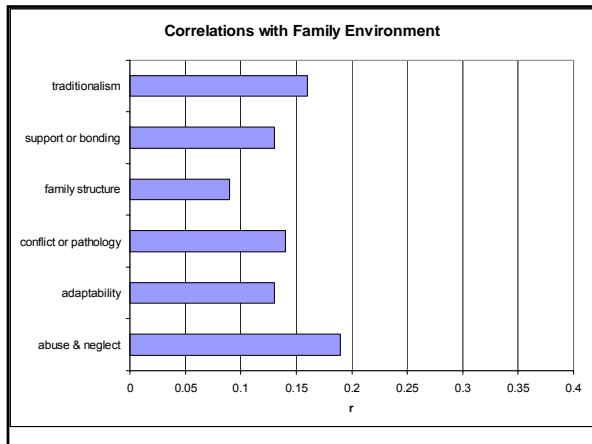
- males and females appear to be affected differently
- lasting negative effects not especially prevalent
- negative effects are generally temporary

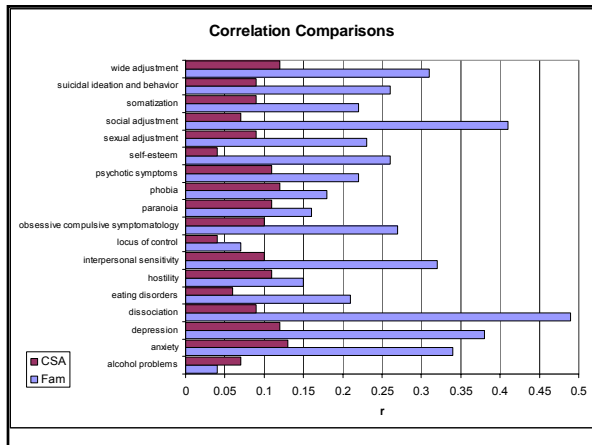
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Family environment and CSA

- aggregate correlation between family environmental factors and psychological symptoms was .29,
- accounted for 9 x variability in psychological symptoms that CSA history did
- statistical control=statistically significant CSA – symptom relations from 41% to 17%.

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CSA and predictors of adjustment/ functioning

- not a new finding
- family environment variables stronger predictors of adjustment variability than CSA
- research on school achievement has concluded that neglect & physical abuse were associated with poorer school functioning and behavior while sexual abuse was not.

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● ● ● | **CSA as a focus of scientific study**

- Most studies use a legal-moral definition
- What does abuse imply in scientific terms?
- Conflation of sexual morals and science not a new phenomenon
 - Masturbation
 - DSM-I "disorders"

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● ● ● | **CSA as a societal issue**

- Wrongfulness ≠ harmfulness
- Lack of harmfulness ≠ lack of wrongfulness
- Moral codes not necessarily based on harmfulness or health
- Legal codes often the same

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