


Adolescent Development

48.212: Dr. Jeffrey Leitzel
Ch. 11: Sexuality


1



Child Sexual Abuse

- o What is it?
- o How do we define?

8



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

9



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

10



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

11



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

12



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

13



Coding

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

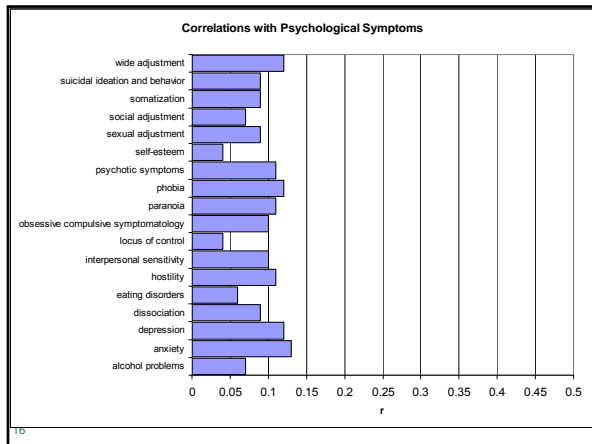
14



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

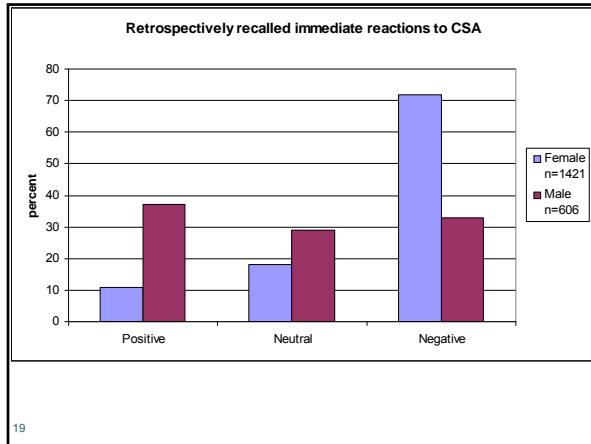
15



- ### Moderators examined
- Duration
 - Force
 - Frequency
 - Incest
 - Penetration

 - Only force & incest were significant

- ### 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



Conclusions

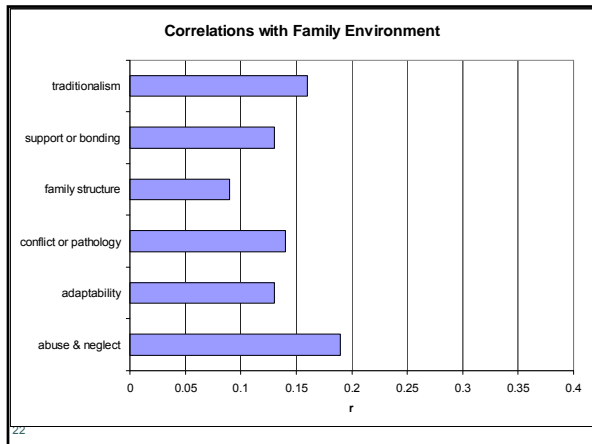
- males and females appear to be affected differently
- lasting negative effects not especially prevalent
- negative effects are generally temporary

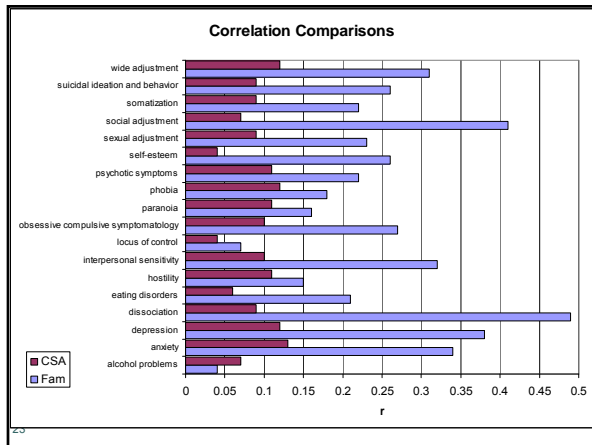
20

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%.

21





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.

● ● ● | **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"

25

● ● ● | **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

26
