

Table 4.3 Mediators of the Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

Potential Mediators	Influence on Child Sexual Abuse Outcomes
Preabuse Characteristics	
Prior traumatic experiences	A history of experiencing prior traumatic events is associated with greater negative outcomes.
History of psychological problems	A prior history of psychological problems, such as anxiety, is associated with greater negative outcomes.
Dysfunctional family environment	The presence of certain family characteristics such as parental psychopathology, illness, and domestic violence is associated with a greater negative effect.
Abuse Characteristics	
Type of sexual activity	More severe forms of sexual activity (e.g., penetration) are associated with a greater negative effect.
Child–perpetrator relationship	A greater negative effect is associated with fathers, father figures, and intense emotional relationships.
Force or physical injury	Presence of force or physical injury is associated with a greater negative effect.
Multiple traumatic events	Different combinations of child maltreatment are associated with a greater negative effect as are multiple episodes of abuse.
Postabuse Characteristics	
Response toward the victim	Negative responses toward victims’ disclosures of abuse are associated with a greater negative effect.
Available social support	Increased social support is associated with a less severe effect.

SOURCES: References are representative rather than exhaustive: Berliner, 2011; Copeland, Keeler, Angold, & Costello, 2007; Fergusson, McLeod, & Horwood, 2013; J. Ford, Elhai, Connor, & Freuh, 2010; Gilbert, Widom et al., 2009; Higgins & McCabe, 2000; Ippen, Harris, Van Horn, & Lieberman, 2011; Kilpatrick et al., 2003; Macdonald, Danielson, Resnick, Saunders, & Kilpatrick, 2010; K. Putnam, Harris, & Putnam, 2013; Ruggiero, McLeer, & Dixon, 2000; Trickett, Noll, & Putnam, 2011; Tyler, 2002; Vranceanu, Hobfoll, & Johnson, 2007.