

**The Relationship Between Childhood Abuse Victimization and Future Sexual Offense Victim Characteristics**

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Individuals convicted of sexual offenses are more likely to have experienced multiple types of childhood maltreatment than those with non-sexual violent offenses (Haapasalo & Kankkonen, 1997). Additionally, those with histories of more than one type of childhood maltreatment (e.g., physical/sexual abuse, neglect) were more likely to be convicted of sexual offenses than those with a history of physical abuse or sexual abuse victimization only (Leach, Stewart, & Smallbone, 2016). The abused – abuser hypothesis theorizes that those who are the victims of abuse are at higher risk of abusing others later in life (Garland, & Dougher, 1990; Leach, et. al, 2016). However, research is clear that most people who are abused do not go on to abuse others. Studies have explored the specificity of this theory, examining how frequently offenders replicate their abuse histories. The current study aimed to explore relationships between offender childhood abuse victimization history and future victim characteristics. Archival data consisted of 107 men referred for sexual behavior evaluations following sexual offense charges/convictions or sexual boundary violations. Of this sample, 39.6% self-reported a history of sexual or physical abuse victimization, or both. Findings from this study could inform risk assessments and treatment for this population as well as guide early interventions for victims of sexual abuse.

**References:**

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