

EFFECTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

1. **High Rate of Re-Victimization** = 66% - 82% (Sorenson, Stein, Siegel, Golding, and Burnam, 1987) and 32% (Briere & Runtz, 1987)
2. **Traumatic Sexualization** = A child's sexuality is shaped in a developmentally inappropriate and interpersonally dysfunctional fashion as a result of sexual behavior (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985)
3. **Drug and Alcohol Abuse** = (Briere & Runtz, 1987; Burnam et al., 1988)
4. **Dissociate Disorder** = Victims experience forms of dissociation such as memory impairment, repression of memories about the abuse, detachment or numbing during times of stress (Briere & Runtz 1987; Polusny & Follette, 1995)
5. **Low self-esteem** = Although the origin of this factor is inconclusive, child sexual abuse does appear to be linked to low levels of self-esteem, particularly in women. Particularly, increased feelings of pessimism and fatalism. A higher prevalence of major depressive disorders is also noted for victims with chronic and re-occurring episodes that last longer than for non-victims (Alexander & Lupfer 1987; Romans, Martin & Mullen, 1996)
6. **Powerlessness** = This occurs when the child's desires, will and sense of efficacy are contravened and his/her personal and physical space is invaded. Powerlessness becomes reinforced when the child can not stop the sexual abuse. (Little empirical research on this topic.) (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985)
7. **Stigmatization** = It has been suggested that victims may incorporate a sense of shame and guilt which increases their stigma of being "different" because of the sexual abuse. Children may also believe that there is something fundamentally different about them. They may continue to perceive this into adulthood. (Little empirical research on this topic.) (Roth & Newman, 1991; Nash, Hulse, Sexton, Harralson, and Lambert, 1993)

EFFECTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE (CONTINUED)

8. **Learned Expectancy Related to Victimization** = There is a belief that women who were victimized in their childhood may learn and adopt an inappropriate repertoire of sexual behaviors associated with pain, punishment, and other negative consequences (Little empirical research on this topic.) (Messman & Long, 1996)

9. **Social Isolation** = Victimization interferes with long-term social and interpersonal outcomes. They may feel insecure and are disorganized in their relationships (Cole & Putnam, 1992)

Other Effects Specific to Adolescence:

1. **Running Away**
2. **Increase in Deviant Activities**
3. **Early & Pre-marital Pregnancy**

