

Factors Affecting Utilization of Treatment Services by Sexually Abused Girls

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Abstract— This study describes the naturalistic therapy experiences of a sample of sexually abused girls and the relationship of these experiences to demographic factors, abuse experiences, psychopathology, and family functioning. The sample consisted of 81 sexually abused girls, aged 6 to 16, participating in a longitudinal study of the effects of sexual abuse. Results indicated strong effects for abuse experiences and child psychopathology on the total amount of therapy received. Patterns of treatment utilization were associated with ethnic minority status, but these differences are confounded by differing abuse experiences for racial groups in the sample. Other patterns of treatment are discussed, as well as issues for further research and implications for treatment providers. 1996 Elsevier Science Ltd.