

# Examining Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms as a Link Between Juvenile Victimization and Aggression

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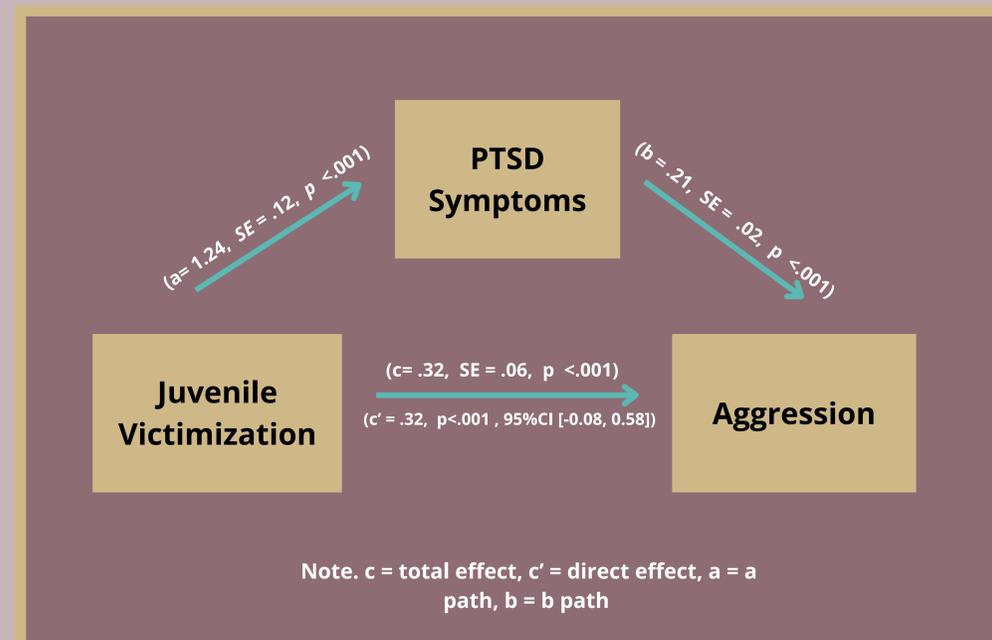


## Introduction

- Research shows that Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is associated with increased aggression.
- Childhood victimization is a significant risk factor for developing PTSD, which can lead to long-term psychological consequences, including heightened aggression.
- The General Strain Theory suggests that early exposure to trauma may contribute to aggressive behavior as a response to stress and frustration
- This study aims to examine the relationship between juvenile victimization, PTSD, and aggression in adulthood .

## Method

- 508 trauma-exposed adults were recruited via Amazon's Mechanical Turk CloudResearch platform.
  - The sample was predominantly white (76%, n=360) and women (60%, n=306).
- Participants completed self-report measures on
  - Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ)
  - PTSD Symptoms (PCL-5)
  - Aggression (BPAQ)
- A bivariate correlation analysis was used to examine the relationship between PTSD symptom severity and aggression.
- A mediation analysis was used to examine the indirect effect of juvenile victimization on aggression through PTSD symptoms.



## Results

- Bivariate correlation analysis revealed a positive and significant relationship between PTSD symptom severity and aggressive behavior. ( $r = .49, p < .001$ )
- There was a significant indirect relationship between juvenile victimization and aggression through PTSD symptoms (ACME = .26, 95% CI [0.19, 0.34]).

## Conclusions

- Our findings indicate that PTSD may act as a mechanistic link between juvenile victimization and aggressive behavior
- This may potentially help how we treat individuals that have suffered from childhood victimization.

## References

