
**Abstract**

Sexually abused children may have poor mental health because of their victimization as well as pre-existing or co-occurring family problems. Yet, few studies consider psychopathology in relation to children’s cumulative abuse and family experiences. This study uses data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being (NSCAW) to create latent subgroups of 553 children investigated for sexual abuse according to abuse and family characteristics. The study further investigates children’s psychological symptoms and child welfare service (CWS) patterns to understand how children’s needs relate to mental health services. Analyses were conducted by child age: 3 to 7, 8 to 11, and 12 to 14. Factor mixture modeling and regression analyses were the primary methodologies. Results show that meaningful subgroups of children can be identified within these age groups that relate to different symptom patterns. Among 3 to 7-year-olds, behavioral symptoms are associated with caregiver domestic violence and mental illness. Among 8 to 11-year-olds, depressive symptoms are associated with severe sexual abuse and multiple other family problems, while posttraumatic stress is associated with chronic, unresolved abuse. While many children are responded to with mental health services, results also show that services are not well-matched to children’s exhibited needs—the substantiation status of the sexual abuse explains service patterns. Implications for CWS and mental health services are discussed.