Antecedents and outcomes of the onset sexual abuse incident as predictors of multiple-victim offending: An examination of proximal risk factors

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Data on 83 adult male child-sex offenders were analysed to test recent theoretical developments regarding how proximal antecedents and outcomes of the onset sexual abuse incident might shape the progression of sexual offending. Offenders who abused multiple victims were compared to offenders who abused a single victim only. Multiple-victim offenders were younger at offence-onset and were more likely to offend against younger-aged (particularly male) and nonfamilial children. No discernible differences were found between the groups on distal antecedents (e.g., developmental experiences, relationship histories, general criminogenic factors). Rather, it was the proximal antecedents (e.g., greater sexual attraction towards [particularly male] children, sexual difficulties, frequency of sexual thoughts about children, premeditation, sexual excitement) and outcomes (positive rumination about the sexual contact) that distinguished the two groups and predicted multiple-victim offending.