Women and Sexual Abuse: An Analysis of the Effects on Future Intimacy
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Introduction
How does the sexual abuse of a woman affect her future intimate relationships? It has been studied that the mental effects after a sexual abuse can have long-term results in a woman’s future intimate relationships. The purpose of asking this question is to shine light on the women who have endured sexual abuse from a male family member at a young age and have difficulties forming intimate relationships when they grow up.

Methods and Materials
• Interview the victims of sexual abuse by going to a support group.
• Interview the leader of the group to get their perspective and how they have progressed.
• Use Interactionism to analyze how the victims relate to their intimate partner.
• Interview officers who practice in the sexual crime department.
• Conduct surveys and utilize interview questions.

Findings
• Women who have suffered from sexual abuse run from intimacy. [3]
• Suffer from depression, anxiety, self-loathing, self-injury, sleep disorders, eating disorders, and expectations of early death.
• After enduring sexual abuse, they find it hard to be touched by an intimate partner. [4]
• They suffer from posttraumatic stress, and they stray away from society.

Quotables

Women who encounter domestic sexual assault, whether sooner or later in life, tend to have the highest percentage of trust issues, along with health complications and neglect from family members. [2]

Results and Conclusions
Women that experience sexual abuse don’t form relationships with a partner as easily as a woman who has never endured sexual abuse. It’s not common for a person who went through this type of abuse to just move on because the experience is extremely traumatizing. Some cases are never heard of due to the victims’ fear of speaking the truth against their attackers. Research shows that they need a large amount of time before fully trusting an intimate partner in their lives. [5] They shut themselves from the world to cope with the abuse.

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