Introduction

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Survivors
- Higher risk of sexual revictimization during adolescence and adulthood (Mossman & Long, 1996)
- 3.1 times more likely to be revictimized later as an adult than non-victims (Eisen, et al., 1996)

Risk Factors for Sexual Revictimization
- Emotion Regulation
  - Survivors have difficulties regulating emotions and lack proper strategies to cope with trauma
  - Differences in the ability to regulate emotions may depend on time of initial victimization
  - Emotion generative process may be disrupted at one of the five stages
- 1. Selection of the situation
- 2. Modification of the situation
- 3. Deployment of attention
- 4. Change of cognitions
- 5. Modulation of responses
- Risk perception
  - Two levels of risk recognition
  - General sense of perceived vulnerability
  - Recognition of situational risks
- The importance of risk perception in relation to sexual victimization is unclear

Research Hypotheses
- Revisited participants will have more difficulties perceiving risk and regulating emotions compared to non-victimized participants.
- Of revisited participants, those who experienced initial victimization during childhood or adolescence will have more difficulties perceiving risks and regulating emotion compared to participants that experienced initial victimization later on as adults and non-victims

Method

Participants (see Table 1 for descriptions)
- Women (N = 491) ranged in age from 18-25 (M = 21.74, SD = 2.23)
- 61% European-American; 35% African-American; 6% Hispanic; 4% Asian-American; 3% Native-American; and 3% Other
- Data collected from the region of three Midwestern and one Southern university
- Sample recruited from both a college and community population
- Sample collected from all four sites

Measures
- Victimization
  - The Modified Sexual Experiences Survey (DiLillo et al., 2010)
  - Computer Assisted Maltreatment Inventory (Messman-Moore et al., 2000)
- Emotion Regulation
  - The Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale (Gratz et al., 2004)
- The Emotion Amplification and Reduction Scales (Hanson et al., 2000)
- Risk Perception
  - Risk Perception Survey (Messman-Moore et al., 2006)
- Trauma Symptom Inventory - Dysfunctional Sexual Behavior – Revised (Boore, 2010)
- Procedures
  - Participants completed self-report measures and computer administered measures.

Results

Revictimization Status
- No significant differences were found on the TSI regarding when one would feel uncomfortable
  - (F[6,186] = 70, p < .05) or when they would leave
  - (F[6,186] = 86, p = .53) between non-victims, those that experienced only one trauma, or those that experienced revictimization.
- A significant difference was found on the DERS, such that non-victims reported greater emotion regulation abilities than women who experienced sexual assault as an (a) adult; (b) during adolescence and adulthood; (c) and childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, (F[6,446] = 10.45, p = .00).
- A significant difference was found on the TEARS Reduction score, such that non-victims reduced emotions more effectively than those experiencing victimization in adulthood and those experiencing victimization in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, (F[6,446] = 5.69, p < .01).
- No significant difference was found on the TEARS Amplification score between victims and non-victims, (F[6,446] = 75, p = .61).
- A significant difference was found on the TSI DSB-R, such that overall, victims of sexual assault exhibit more dysfunctional sexual behavior than non-victims, (F[6,430] = 14.66, p < .01).
- These results show that victims of multiple victimization exhibit more dysfunctional sexual behaviors than those that experience victimization only once.

Age of Initial Victimization
- No significant differences were found on the RPS regarding when one would feel uncomfortable
  - (F[3,204] = 54, p = .66) or when they would leave
  - (F[3,204] = 123, p = .30) between childhood victims, adolescence victims, adult victims, and non-victims.
- No significant differences on the DERS were found between the time the first victimization occurred (e.g., childhood, adolescence, or adulthood), though a significant difference was found between victims and non-victims on this measure, (F[3,479] = 10.27, p < .01).
- A significant difference was found on the TEARS Reduction score such that, non-victims reduce emotions more effectively than those initially experiencing victimization in childhood, adolescence, or adulthood, (F[3,479] = 2.58, p < .01). However, there is no significant difference between childhood, adolescence, or adulthood victims and engagement in dysfunctional sexual behavior.
- The TEARS Reduction score shows that those experiencing victimization in adulthood (M = 22.51, SD = 5.47) and those experiencing victimization in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood (M = 21.75, SD = 6.08) do not reduce emotions more effectively than non-victims (M = 24.83, SD = 5.85).
- Non-Victims can recognize emotions better and can calm themselves more effectively than victims.

Discussion

Significant Findings/Implications
- The DERS shows that non-victims (M = 1.86, SD = 51) show greater emotion regulation abilities than women who experienced sexual assault as an (a) adult (M = 50, SD = 48); (b) during adolescence and adulthood (M = 66, SD = 63); (c) and childhood, adolescence, and adulthood (M = 66, SD = 63). Results also show that victims of multiple victimizations have more difficulties regulating emotions compared to those that experienced a single event. Women that are victims of sexual assault likely lack the proper coping strategies to regulate emotions supporting an impairment to one of the five stages of emotion regulation identified by Gross. These women may use negative coping strategies like dysfunctional sexual behavior which this study has identified as a risk factor for victimization.
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Future Directions
- Differences in college and community sample
  - Victims in a college sample may have a higher level of functioning compared to community samples.
  - Suffered less impairment than those in the community sample
- Possible interaction
  - Interaction between emotion regulation and risk perception

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