

Abuse Trauma Variables

‘To date, investigators have largely considered each type of abuse and its severity in isolation, rather than examining these variables as interactive factors’

Frank Putnam *

- the detailed nature of the child’s attachment to his or her parents
- the age and developmental level of the child at its onset
- its duration and frequency
- whether different form of abuse coexist
- the relationship of the child to the abuser(s)
- the type and severity of the abusive acts
- the existence of multiple abusers
- the degree of physical violence and aggression used
- the age and gender of the offender
- the existence of peer or adult supports
- whether or not the child has been able to tell
- the parental reaction to the disclosure
- the ‘institutional’ response

* Putnam FW (1997) Dissociation in Children and Adolescents. New York (NY): Guilford Press.