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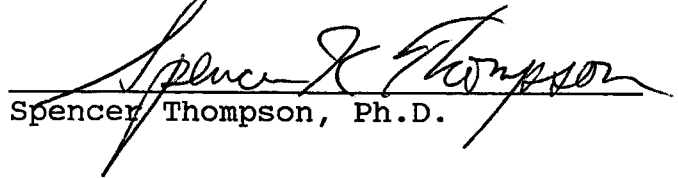
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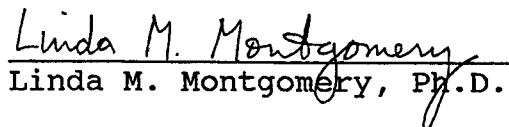
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AGE AND VIOLENT SEXUAL ABUSE: DOES VICTIM'S AGE  
AND VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL ABUSE  
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by

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THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Faculty of Psychology  
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin  
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Of Requirements  
For the Degree of  
MASTER OF ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

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## Abstract

Previous research on childhood sexual abuse has indicated an increased risk of suicide for children who experience more severe sexual abuse and children who experience sexual abuse accompanied by physical abuse. This study investigated the difference in suicide risk associated with varying severity of sexual abuse, and the difference in suicide risk associated with age at the time of sexual abuse. Data was collected from the psychological records of a state juvenile correctional facility for boys. Statistical analysis revealed no significant difference between those who experienced penetrating sexual abuse versus non-penetrating sexual abuse; however, an overall significant difference was found between those who experienced sexual abuse at or prior to the age of eight and those who experienced sexual abuse after the age of eight. In addition, a significant difference in suicidation was found for the physically abused, and among the various ethnicities, a significant difference in sexual abuse as well as suicidation was found.