

# Ethnic Identity and Social Support as Mediators Between Incarceration and Depression Symptoms Among Black Sexual Gender Minorities

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# Key Highlights

- Addressing *child sexual abuse* (CSA) among BMSM can potentially reduce long term effects of *depression symptoms* and improve overall *quality of life*.
- Having a positive ethnic identity and social support is critical to explaining lower *depression symptoms*.
- Identifying protective mechanisms maybe a way to optimize HIV related outcomes for BMSM.

# Background/Rationale

- Adverse mental health outcomes, such as those linked to *depression*, can have a widespread impact on the *lives* and *well-being* of *individuals* and *society*.
- While numerous factors contribute to adverse mental health outcomes, *childhood trauma* and adversity frequently relate to *depression* in adulthood among the general US population.

# Child Sexual Abuse

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One study focused on Black sexual minorities in New York City reported a prevalence of 28.1% for *CSA*.

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Another multisite study across six cities, including one southern US city (Atlanta), identified high rates of both *CSA* (30%) and *depression* (43.8%) among Black MSM.

# Ethnic Identity/Social Support

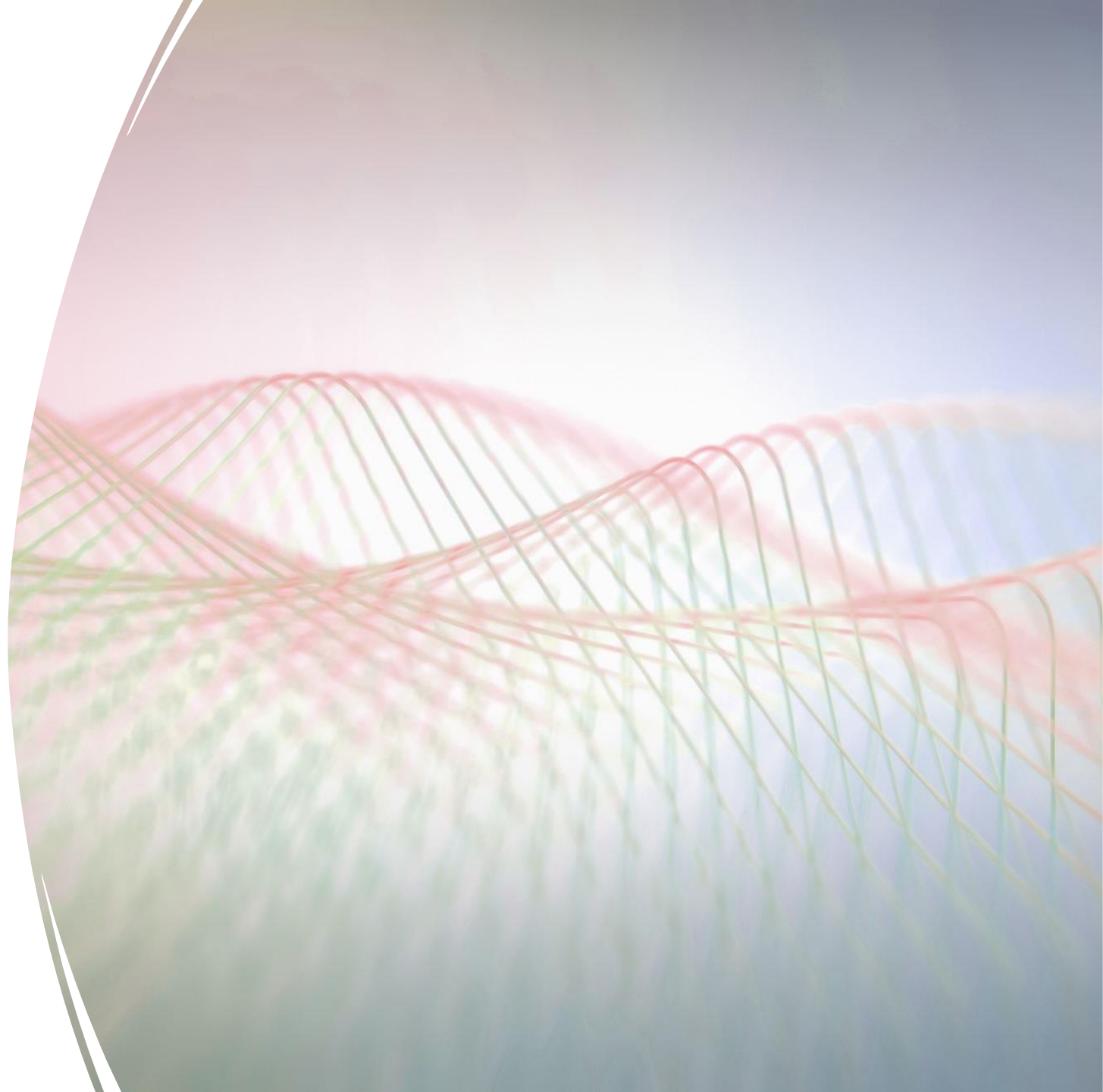
- Positive *ethnic identity* and *social support* has been found to serve as a mediator (explaining the process) in reducing *depression symptoms*.



# Current Study

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The purpose of this study is to investigate the direct and indirect effects of *CSA*, *age of sexual experiences*, and *incarceration* on *depression symptoms* via *ethnic identity* and *social support*.



# Study Hypotheses

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H<sub>1</sub>: *CSA* (Five Year difference) will be directly and positively associated with *sexual experiences*.

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H<sub>2</sub>: *CSA* (Forced or imitated) will be directly and positively associated with *sexual experiences*.

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H<sub>3</sub>: *Age of sexual experiences* will be directly and positively associated with *incarceration*.

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H<sub>4</sub>: *Incarceration* will be directly associated and negatively associated with *EI* and *social support*.

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H<sub>5</sub>: *Incarceration* will be directly associated and negatively associated *social support*.

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H<sub>6</sub>: *EI* will mediate the relationship between incarceration and *depression symptoms*.

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H<sub>7</sub>: *Social Support* will mediate the relationship between *CSA* and *depression symptoms*.

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H<sub>8</sub>: *CSA* (Five Year difference) will be indirectly and positively associated with depression symptoms.

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H<sub>9</sub>: *CSA* (Forced or imitated) will be indirectly and positively associated with *depression symptoms*.

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# Measures

Constructs	Sample Item	Cronbach alpha
<b><i>Depression Symptoms</i></b>	DS was measured using the <i>Centers for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale</i> short (10 items) form. Participants reported how often they had experienced each of four depressive symptoms within the past week (i.e., feeling depressed, lonely, sad, and having crying spells). A total score will be calculated by summing the items.	0.89
<b><i>Child sexual abuse (CSA)</i></b>	“Was the person you had the sexual experience with an adult or someone at least 5 years older than you?”	Single Item
<b><i>Child sexual abuse (CSA)</i></b>	“When you were growing up (before 12 years old), did you experience any sexual experiences?”	Single Item
<b><i>Ethnic identity</i></b>	“I feel strong attachment towards my own ethnic group”.	0.81 to 0.89
<b><i>Social Support</i></b>	“How often is there someone available to whom you can count on to listen to you when you need to talk?”	0.94
<b><i>Incarceration</i></b>	“Have you ever spent one or more nights in a jail, detention facility, or prison?”	Single Item
<b><i>Age of sexual experiences</i></b>	“How old were you when you had your first sexual experience?”	Single Item



- We conducted a path analysis to examine whether *ethnic identity, social support, incarceration, age of sexual experiences*, and *CSA experiences* were associated with *depression symptoms*.
- Standardized path coefficients ( $\beta$ ) are reported for the direct effects and unstandardized coefficients (B) indirect effects were estimated.

# Goodness of FIT Results

<b>Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA)</b>	0.92
<b>The Chi Square Test: <math>\chi^2</math></b>	(14) of 131.955 ( $p < 0.06$ )
<b>Comparative Fit Index (CFI)</b>	0.95
<b>Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR)</b>	0.04
<b>Tucker Lewis Index</b>	0.95

# Results

***Table 1 presents categorical variables (N=225)***

	N	Percent
Incarceration		
Yes	155	69%
No	70	31%
Child abuse neglect (with an adult or someone 5 years older)		
Yes	149	66%
No	75	33%
Child abuse neglect (felt uncomfortable)		
Yes	126	56%
No	99	44%

# Results

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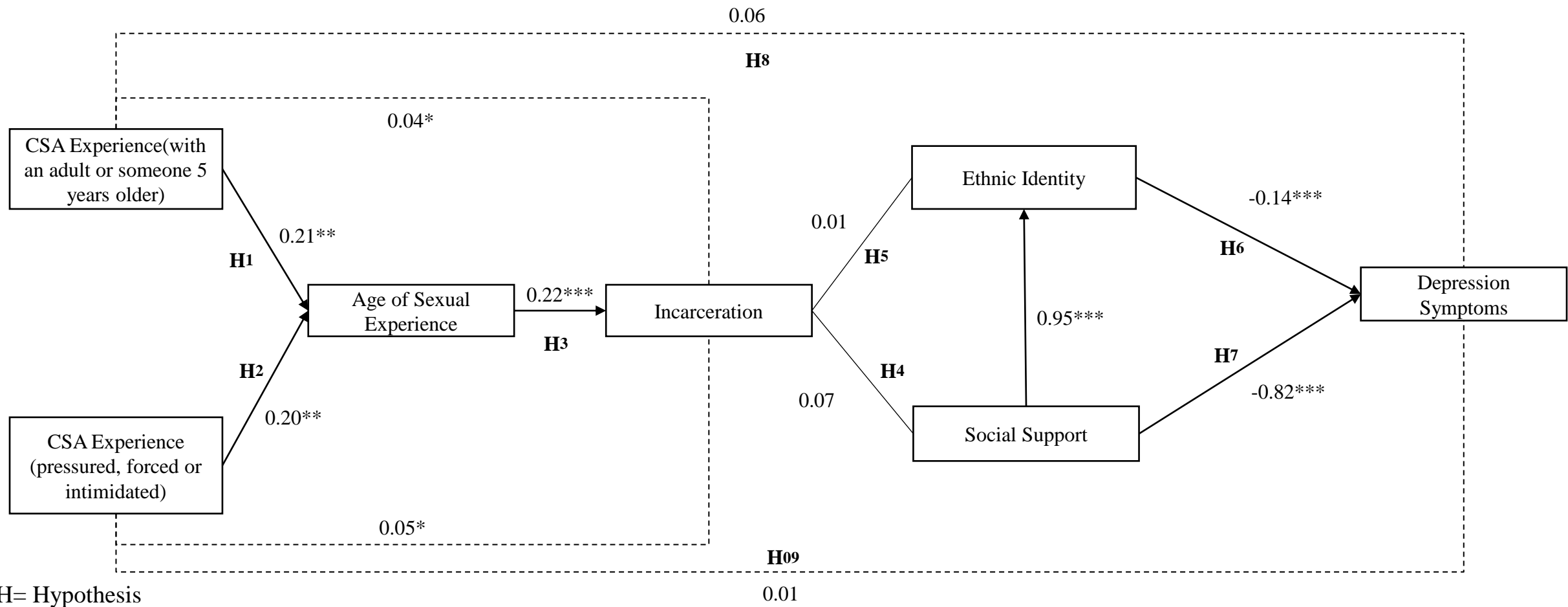
***Table 2 present continuous variables (N=225)***

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Range</i>
Age of Sexual Experience	13.1	4.61	3.0-25.0
Ethnic Identity	3.21	1.86	1.0-5.0
Social Support	4.56	2.34	1.0-7.0
Depression	16.38	7.20	0.0-30.0

# Results

<b>Table 3. Direct and Indirect Effects on Depression (N=226)</b>					
	<b>B</b>	<b>β</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>95CI%</b>
Direct Effects					
<b>Age of Sexual Experience</b>					
CSA experience (Felt or Fondled)	1.84	<b>0.20**</b>	0.63	0.003	0.61,3.07
CSA experience (pressured, forced or intimidated)	2.03	<b>0.21**</b>	0.66	0.002	0.73,3.32
<b>Incarceration</b>					
Age of Sexual Experience	0.02	<b>0.22***</b>	0.01	0.001	0.01,0.04
<b>Ethnic Identity</b>					
Incarceration	0.32	0.08	0.31	0.293	-0.28,0.92
<b>Social Support</b>					
Incarceration	-0.02	-0.00	0.12	0.863	-0.27,0.22
Ethnic Identity	1.20	<b>0.96***</b>	0.01	0	1.17,1.22
<b>Depression</b>					
Ethnic Identity	-1.26	<b>-0.14***</b>	0.29	0.001	-1.83, -0.58
Social Support	-5.92	<b>-0.82***</b>	0.23	0.001	-6.38, -5.47
Indirect Effects					
<b>Incarceration</b>					
CSA experience (Felt or Fondled)	<b>0.04*</b>		0.02	0.02	0.01, 0.08
CSA Experience (pressured, forced or intimidated).	<b>0.05*</b>		0.02	0.03	0.01, 0.09
<i>p&lt;.05*, p&lt;.01**, p&lt;.001***, Note: CSA= Child sexual abuse; child sexual abuse experience (Felt or fondled); child abuse sexual experience (pressured, forced, or intimidated).</i>					

*Path model testing direct and indirect effects from Child Sexual abuse experiences to depression symptoms via ethnic identity and social support. Figure 1*



- One of the first studies to examine the direct and indirect effects on depression via CSA, incarceration, and age of sexual experiences among BMSM.
- Establishing a link between ethnic identity and social support to depression among BMSM.
- Future studies should consider the long-term effects on CSA on BMSM mental health.
- Develop culturally competent interventions that addresses CSA impact on long term health outcomes among this population.



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# Thank you



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