

Prevalence Incidence of Autism Related Child Sexual Assault: Narrative Review

Elsi Rahmadani^{1*}, Idris Adewale Ahmed²

¹Faculty of Nursing, Lincoln University College Malaysia

²Faculty of Applied Science, Lincoln University College Malaysia

Email: elsirahmadani@yahoo.co.id

KEYWORDS

Prevalence, Sexual Assault,
Autistic Children

ABSTRACT

Introduction: People who have autism spectrum disorders (ASD) sometimes misinterpret nonverbal cues or react badly in conversations with others. Children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder typically exhibit repetitive habits and developmental difficulties in their communication and interpersonal contact skills. People with autism report greater rates of sexual victimization, bullying, child abuse, and criminal victimization than people without autism. Children with autism have a number of difficulties that relate to speech and social interaction, which makes them more susceptible to child sexual abuse at an increased risk. **Methods:** A thorough examination of reference lists and scholarly web sources. A computerized search was carried out in the following databases: Web of Science, PubMed, Psych Info, and Google Scholar. Published works based on qualitative and quantitative research, including case studies, were chosen. Research on preventing sexual child abuse and screening for autism. A search for "cited by" articles was also conducted by looking through the reference lists of the papers that were obtained. To find pertinent articles, we lastly reached out to a number of subject-matter specialists. Kids with autism are the subject of Subjeck's study. **Results:** A selection of fourteen reports and publications were examined. All of the article data was categorized based on the frequency of sexual abuse of children with autism. **Conclusions:** Childhood autism spectrum disorders (ASD) were associated with a higher likelihood of self-reporting at age 18 having experienced coerced sexual abuse. This elevated risk, however, was mostly caused by a general neurodevelopmental problem component. For children and adolescents, coercive sexual victimization may be significantly increased by an individual's genetic susceptibility to autism-related general neurodevelopmental disorders.

1. Introduction

Social and communication issues, as well as repetitive and restricted behaviors, are the hallmarks of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), which can range in severity among people. According to Hodges et al. (2020), a diagnosis of autism may be made as early as 18 to 24 months of age. At this age, the distinctive signs of autism can be differentiated from other developmental delays or disorders. Asperger's disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, autism disorder, and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) were the distinct pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) diagnoses from the DSM-IV that were combined into the DSM-5's "spectrum" ASD diagnosis. Rett syndrome is now classified as a separate neurological condition and is not included under ASD in the DSM-5. For those with social communication impairments who do not exhibit repetitive, limited activities, a distinct social (pragmatic) communication disorder (SPCD) was established. Descriptors for severity level were also included in order to help classify the degree of assistance that a person with ASD requires (Hodges et al., 2020).

Autism traits include misinterpreting nonverbal cues or reacting badly in discussions with others are examples. Children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder typically exhibit repetitive habits and developmental difficulties in their communication and interpersonal contact skills. According to Iskayanti and Hartini (2019), autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disorder that can be detected in children as early as two to three months after birth through delays in social interactions, communication skills, repetitive behaviors, and limited interest. Due to their difficult living circumstances, children with ASD may be more vulnerable to various types of victimization in a variety of settings, including their neighborhood, home, and school.

Due to several factors pertaining to health and victimization, children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are particularly vulnerable. Both in-person and online, this encompasses elements in the settings

of the community, home, and school. According to May et al. (2017), ASD affects around 1–4% of children worldwide and is the most prevalent type of neurodevelopmental disease. As per the American Psychiatric Association. Furthermore, communication deficiencies are common in persons with ASD. Examples of these deficiencies include misinterpreting nonverbal cues, reacting incorrectly in discussions, and struggling to form age-appropriate connections. ASD, as used in the present study, includes autistic disorders including Asperger’s syndrome according to the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental” Disorder. Overlapping features of ASD include attention deficit and overactivity, behavior problems and difficulty with social skills disorders can have long-term negative impacts on academic achievement, work performance, and mental health. (Adams et al., 2016). Victimization is quite common among people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which is commonly referred to as autism (Paul et al., 2018). According to Trundle et al. (2023), victimization encompasses actions that involve cruel or unfair treatment of an individual. These actions include bullying, which is defined as intentional and repeated physical, verbal, and/or relational actions in situations where power is unequal, maltreatment, which includes neglect and physical and emotional abuse, sexual victimization, which includes rape and sexual assault, and crime, which includes robbery, theft, and assault.

The likelihood of peer victimization, child abuse, and other types of victimization is higher for children with ASD than for normally developing (TD) children. In order to analyze sensitivity to many types of victimization encountered in various circumstances, the notion of polyvictimization is employed (Hellström, 2019). The prevalence of polyvictimization among children with particular types of disabilities, including ASD, is little understood, nevertheless. Multiple types of abuse, victimization, or violence, such as traditional crime, child abuse, peer and sibling victimization, sexual assault, and indirect and witness victimization, are all considered instances of polyvictimization. Polyvictimization is another term for being exposed to violence in several contexts, including the community, home, and school. To understand the wide range of traumatic symptoms observed in children exposed to several types of early adversity, it may be helpful to look at polyvictimization. It is especially crucial to comprehend the susceptibility of children with ASD and the connections between victimization and violence in these many contexts and exposure domains because of their stressful life circumstances (Li et al., 2022).

The potential for sexual abuse in children with autism who exhibit the particular social-emotional and communication difficulties mentioned. while people's emotions are false, as they could be while meeting with potential sexual offenders, children with autism have a harder time comprehending them. Comparing autistic children to typical youngsters, the former are less able to recognize facial expressions that convey false emotions and comprehend the motivations behind such behavior. Potential victims are the target of perpetrators who try to win their trust, frequently by lying. Consequently, they could display false feelings that some autistic kids might not be able to detect.

Apart from emotional processing issues, children with autism may also have communication problems, which can make them attractive targets for sexual abusers because of the belief that they won't be able to report the abuse. Studies reveal that as many as 50% of kids with autism are functionally nonverbal. The incapacity of nonverbal children with autism to communicate might make them more vulnerable to abuse by sexual offenders, even though many of them communicate successfully using alternative and augmentative techniques. Children with autism may be more vulnerable to sexual abuse, thus it's critical to recognize the signs of sexual abuse. However, children who have experienced sexual abuse may not be recognized as abuse victims owing to the constellation of symptoms linked with autism (Dawes et al., 2020). In Hellström (2019), Chan et al. found that 2.8% of children with ASD had experienced sexual abuse in the previous 12 months. The most often reported type of sexual harassment is verbal sexual harassment, with victimization prevalence rates ranging from 2.8% to 8.4% and flashing/sexual exposure prevalence rates ranging from 0 to 2.6% to 5.2% (Hellström, 2019).

The present assessment of the literature concentrates on empirical research that was released between 2014 and 2024. Regarding the subject of sexual abuse of children with autism disorders. The primary

objective of this narrative review research was to examine the scientific literature about the incidence of sexual assault in children with autism.

2. Methodology

The study is a narrative review. An automated search was performed using the following databases: Google Scholar, Psych Info, PubMed, and Web of Science. Sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual violence, "autistic children," "developmental disabilities," and "sexual victimization" were among the key terms utilized. Every abstract was reviewed for empirical research on sexual abuse of children with autism. Studies on the detection of autism sexual abuse prevalence, whether or not they are reported. A search for "cited by" articles was also conducted by looking through the reference lists of the papers that were obtained. To find pertinent articles, we lastly reached out to a number of subject-matter specialists. More than a thousand sources were identified by our searches, and we then checked them for suitability. Thus, the subsequent inclusion criteria were applied; (1) The topic of the articles has to be youngsters with autism; (2) Especially with children who have autism (whole group, subgroup, or subset of subjects); (3) Specifically, the impact of autism on child sexual abuse; (4) Appearing between 2014 and 2024; (5) The fifth is about original empirical research, including meta-analyses; (6) Having an English writing style; (7) Having articles published in scholarly journals worldwide. A number of research were disqualified since they were review studies, which often had a wider scope, and they didn't present any novel or unique information. Additional pertinent papers were found by searching the reference lists. both investigations that are quantitative and qualitative.

3. Result and Discussion

Author, Years	Years	Country	Title	Result
(Paul et al., 2018)	2018	France	Victimisation in a French population of children and youths with autism spectrum disorder: a case control study	According to the study's findings, verbal sexual harassment for ASD is 7.7%, flashing or sexual exposure is 2.6%, and sexual assault by a recognized adult is 2.6%.
(Pfeffer, 2016)	2016	USA	Childhood Victimization in a National Sample of Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders	Sexual assault by an adult stranger (2.6%), sexual abuse by a known adult (2.4%), and sexual assault by a peer (6.4%) are all experiences that people with ASD have had. In the last year, 7.6% of the research participants reported having been sexually victimized, and 14% reported having been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives. Sexual harassment accounted for 4.8% of all reported forms of sexual victimization within the past 12 months.
(Euser et al., 2016)	2015	Netherlands	The prevalence of child sexual abuse in out-of-home care: increased risk for children with a mild	The study's findings indicate that the prevalence of sexual abuse intellectual disabilities, including ASD, is estimated to be 8.5% for physical contact abuse, 3.6% for

			intellectual disability	penetration, 4.2% for genital touch, 3.6% for non-genital touch, and 1.2% for no physical contact.
(Libster et al., 2024)	2024	Los Angeles USA	Predictors of Sexual Victimization Among Autistic and Non-Autistic College Students	The findings of this study indicate that among autistic students, 15% (n = 40) of women and 2% (n = 5) of males had suffered sexual assault, while 24% (n = 65) of women and 5% (n = 13) of men had had unwanted sexual contact. Sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact were not significantly predicted by race/ethnicity, wealth, or kind of institution.
Cantor, et al, 2020	2020	USA	Report on the AAU campus climate survey on sexual assault and misconduct. Westat, Inc	According to the study's findings, non-consensual sexual contact by force or incapacity to consent has occurred for 26% of women and 7% of males among American college students. Additionally, there is a higher likelihood of sexual victimization among students with certain impairments than among those without.
(Brown et al., 2017)	2017	USA	Unwanted Sexual Contact: Students With Autism and Other Disabilities at Greater Risk	According to the study's findings, 8.2% of people with ASD experience unwanted sexual contact, while 15.4% of males and 61.5% of women differ in this regard by disability status.
(Roberts et al., 2015)	2015	USA	Association of autistic traits in adulthood with childhood abuse, interpersonal victimization, and posttraumatic stress	Sexual abuse among children with autism is 26.7%, while sexual harassment is 10.6%, according to the study's findings..
(Chan et al., 2018)	2018	Hongkong	Associating disabilities, school environments, and child Victimization	According to the study's findings, the prevalence of autism and the frequency of child sexual abuse each year are 2.8%.
(Greger et al., 2015)	2015	Norway	Previous maltreatment and present mental health in a high-risk adolescent population	The findings of this study indicate that the prevalence and frequency of children with autism are 27.3%.

(Christoffersen, 2022)	2020	Denmark	Sexual Crime Against Schoolchildren With Disabilities: A Nationwide Prospective Birth Cohort Study	The findings of this study indicate that the prevalence and frequency of children with autism are 27.3%.
(Brenner et al., 2018)	2017	New York	Behavioral symptoms of reported abuse in children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder in inpatient settings	According to the study's findings, 8% of parents said their autistic kid had seen sexual abuse, and 1% said their child had been subjected to both physical and sexual abuse.
(McDonnell et al., 2019)	2019	USA	Child maltreatment in autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability: Results from a population-based sample	The findings of this study indicate that among children who had at least one complaint of maltreatment, the number of sexual abuse cases reported with autism (ASD) was only 0.12 (0.62) SD (standard deviation) and ASD+ ID (intellectual disability) 0.36 (1.28). ASD+ ID cases with sexual abuse substantiated were 0.23 (1.11) SD (standard deviation) among children with at least one substantiation.
(Gotby et al., 2018)	2018	USA	Childhood neurodevelopmental disorders and risk of coercive sexual victimization in childhood and adolescence	The findings of this study demonstrate that 256 girls (9%) and 18 boys (1%) with autism (ASD) and ADHD reported experiencing sexual victimization. There is a correlation between experiencing sexual victimization till the age of 18 and having parents who reported adult ASD and ADHD. According to the logistic regression analysis, girls who scored higher than the 9–12 age cut-off for ASD were nearly three times more likely to self-report being the victim of forceful sexual abuse (OR = 2.97, 95% CI = 1.32–6.71).

(Pecora et al., 2019)	2019	Australia	Characterising the sexuality and sexual experiences of autistic females. Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders	As a result of this study, autistic males aged 21 and females aged 78 were shown to be sexually victimized by unwelcome sexual approaches or behaviors.
-----------------------	------	-----------	--	---

In comparison to those without autism, people with autism report greater rates of bullying, child abuse, sexual victimization, and criminal victimization (Paul et al., 2018). Individuals that exhibit repetitive and restricted habits may become more vulnerable to bullying since they stand out from their peers. Additionally, they might be highly socially isolated (Trundle et al., 2023). Children with autism have a number of difficulties associated with social interaction and communication, which makes them more susceptible to child sexual abuse (CSA).

Assessments of sexual abuse were incorporated into each study. Respondents with ASD experienced verbal sexual harassment 7.7%, flashing/sexual exposure 2.6%, and sexual assault by a known adult 2.6% (Paul et al., 2018). Prevalence rates of sexual abuse by a known adult were reported by Pfeffer et al. to be 2.4%, sexual assault by a known adult to be 2.4%, sexual assault by an adult stranger to be 2.6%, and sexual assault by a peer to be 6.4%. In the last year, 7.6% of the research participants reported having been sexually victimized, and 14% reported having been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives. Sexual harassment accounted for 4.8% of all reported forms of sexual victimization within the past 12 months (Pfeffer, 2016). Sexual abuse intellectual disabilities, including ASD, is estimated to be prevalent in the following areas: physical contact abuse (8.5%), penetration (3.6%), touch (genital) (4.2%), touch not the genital (3.6%), and no physical contact (1.2%) (Euser et al., 2016).

15 percent (n = 40) of women and 2 percent (n = 65) of men with autism had suffered sexual assault, while 5% (n = 13) of males had experienced unwanted sexual contact. Sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact were not significantly predicted by race/ethnicity, wealth, or kind of institution (Libster et al., 2024). 26% of women and 7% of males in the United States' college population had forced or been unable to consent to non-consensual sexual intercourse (Cartor, 2020). Additionally, the likelihood of sexual victimization is higher for students with certain impairments than for those without disabilities. According to Brown in the USA, 8.2% of people with ASD have unwanted sexual contact, and males are 15.4% more likely than women to have this status (15.5% vs. 61.5%) (Brown et al., 2017).

Autism Prevalence Childhood Sexual harassment is 10.6% and sexual abuse is 26.7% (Roberts et al., 2015). Greger et al. (2015) found that 27.3% of children with Asperger's syndrome reported experiencing sexual assault or rape within the previous three months, while Chan et al. (2018) found that 2.8% of children with ASD had experienced sexual abuse within the previous year. Brenner et al.'s research findings indicate that 8 (8%) parents stated that their autistic kid had been sexually abused, and 1 percent claimed that their child had been subjected to both physical and sexual abuse (Brenner et al., 2018). The frequency of incidents of sexual abuse reported with autism (ASD) was only 0.12 (0.62) SD (standard deviation), and ASD+ ID (intellectual disability) was 0.36 (1.28), according to McDonnell et al. abuse features among children with at least one report. There were 0.23 (1.11) SD (standard deviation) of the number of incidents of sexual abuse confirmed ASD+ ID among children with at least one substantiation (McDonnell et al., 2019).

A total of 256 girls (9%) and 18 boys (1%) who had autism (ASD) and ADHD reported experiencing sexual victimization, according to Gotby et al. There is a correlation between experiencing sexual victimization till the age of 18 and having parents who reported adult ASD and ADHD. The logistic regression study showed that girls who scored higher than the cut-off for ASD at age 9/12 had an almost threefold higher chance of self-reported coercive sexual victimization (OR = 2.97, 95% CI = 1.32–6.7) (Gotby et al., 2018). Pecora reports that 78 female children and 21 male children with autism

are sexually victimized by unwanted sexual advances or behaviors (Pecora et al., 2019). Those who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or other similar neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) may be more vulnerable to sexual assault. Women with the highest quintile of autism features were more likely to have experienced childhood sexual abuse than those with the lowest quintile (40.1% versus 26.7%, respectively) (Roberts et al., 2015). 95 people with self-reported diagnoses of ASD participated in the study, and compared to 117 control participants, the cases self-reported higher sexual victimization (Brown-Lavoie et al., 2014). It is hypothesized that people with ASD would be more likely to mistake potentially harmful circumstances for benign ones. Children with ASD may be less able to spot possible criminals because they are unable to discern false emotions in facial expressions (Gotby et al., 2018).

Due to their speech difficulties and emotional processing problems, children with autism may be particularly appealing to sexual abusers who fear they won't be able to disclose the abuse. Studies have shown that up to 50% of children with autism are functionally nonverbal. Nonverbal children with autism are unable to communicate effectively, and augmentative approaches can help them do so. Understanding the warning signals of sexual abuse is essential because, despite the fact that many sexual offenders employ different forms of abuse, children with autism may be more susceptible to abuse. However, the combination of symptoms linked with autism may make it difficult to identify children who have experienced sexual assault as victims of abuse (Dawes et al., 2020).

The next section explains the reasons why sexual abuse behaviors in children with autism may go unreported or be misdiagnosed as autism during childhood (Dawes et al., 2020). Some sexual predators may target autistic children specifically because they think they are more vulnerable and helpless than typical youngsters. Children with autism who experience sexual abuse may thus exhibit these traits in ways that are ignored or incorrectly attributed to autism rather than the potential that they are sexually assaulted. The likelihood of sexual abuse is lower for those without autism spectrum disorder (ASD) than for those with ASD. The possibility that sexual assault may target people with ASD is increased by this misinformation, according to medical specialists (Cockbain et al., 2017).

This conclusion aligns with other research that revealed that adults and children with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) are more likely to experience sexual victimization (Brown-Lavoie et al., 2014). Nevertheless, our results, which showed no particular impact of ASD symptoms after adjusting for overall symptom load, do not support the theories that the relationship between ASD and forceful sexual victimization is mediated by impulsivity, social deficiencies, or communication issues. This implies that a higher risk of victimization is predicted by the overall neurodevelopmental disorders phenotype rather than by a particular symptom cluster or diagnosis (Gotby et al., 2018).

4. Conclusion

The likelihood that an 18-year-old would self-report having experienced coerced sexual abuse was elevated by indications of childhood ASD. This elevated risk, however, was mostly caused by a general neurodevelopmental problem component. For children and adolescents, forceful sexual victimization may be significantly influenced by an individual's genetic susceptibility to autism-related general neurodevelopmental disorders. It's possible that people with ASD tend to mistake potentially harmful circumstances as harmless. It's true that kids with ASD have trouble spotting false emotions in facial expressions, which may make them less capable of spotting possible criminals. One theory is that people with ASD could be more likely to mistake potentially harmful circumstances for harmless ones. Indeed, kids with ASD have trouble spotting false emotions in facial expressions, which may make it harder for them to spot possible criminals.

References

- [1] Brenner, J., Pan, Z., Mazefsky, C., Smith, K. A., Gabriels, R., Siegel, M., Erickson, C., Gabriels, R. L., Kaplan, D., Mazefsky, C., Morrow, E. M., Righi, G., Santangelo, S. L., Wink, L., Benevides, J., Beresford, C., Best, C., Bowen, K., Dechant, B., ... Williams, D. (2018). Behavioral Symptoms of Reported Abuse in Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Inpatient Settings. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 48(11),

3727–3735. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-017-3183-4>

- [2] Brown-Lavoie, S. M., Viecili, M. A., & Weiss, J. A. (2014). Sexual knowledge and victimization in adults with autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 44(9), 2185–2196. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-014-2093-y>
- [3] Brown, K. R., Peña, E. V., & Rankin, S. (2017). Unwanted sexual contact: Students with autism and other disabilities at greater risk. *Journal of College Student Development*, 58(5), 771–776. <https://doi.org/10.1353/csd.2017.0059>
- [4] Chan, K. L., Lo, C. K. M., & Ip, P. (2018). Associating disabilities, school environments, and child victimization. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 83(June), 21–30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.07.001>
- [5] Christoffersen, M. N. (2022). Sexual Crime Against Schoolchildren With Disabilities: A Nationwide Prospective Birth Cohort Study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(3–4), NP2177–NP2205. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520934442>
- [6] Dawes, J., Lum, J., Silber Carr, J., Lambright, N., & Child, S. (2020). How Does Autism Affect the Processing of Child Sexual Abuse Trauma? *Journal of Human Services: Training, Research, and Practice*, 5(1), 1–27.
- [7] Euser, S., Alink, L. R. A., Tharner, A., van Ijzendoorn, M. H., & Bakermans-Kranenburg, M. J. (2016). The Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse in Out-of-home Care: Increased Risk for Children with a Mild Intellectual Disability. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 29(1), 83–92. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.12160>
- [8] Gotby, V. O., Lichtenstein, P., Långström, N., & Pettersson, E. (2018). Childhood neurodevelopmental disorders and risk of coercive sexual victimization in childhood and adolescence - a population-based prospective twin study. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines*, 59(9), 957–965. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.12884>
- [9] Greger, H. K., Myhre, A. K., Lydersen, S., & Jozefiak, T. (2015). Previous maltreatment and present mental health in a high-risk adolescent population. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 45, 122–134. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.05.003>
- [10] Libster, N., Kasari, C., & Sturm, A. (2024). Predictors of Sexual Victimization Among Autistic and Non-Autistic College Students. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 54(9), 3467–3477. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-023-06064-w>
- [11] McDonnell, C. G., Boan, A. D., Bradley, C. C., Seay, K. D., Charles, J. M., & Carpenter, L. A. (2019). Child maltreatment in autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability: results from a population-based sample. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines*, 60(5), 576–584. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.12993>
- [12] Paul, A., Gallot, C., Lelouche, C., Bouvard, M. P., & Amestoy, A. (2018). Victimization in a French population of children and youths with autism spectrum disorder: A case control study. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 12(1), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-018-0256-x>
- [13] Pecora, L. A., Hancock, G. I., Mesibov, G. B., & Stokes, M. A. (2019). Characterising the Sexuality and Sexual Experiences of Autistic Females. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 49(12), 4834–4846. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04204-9>
- [14] Pfeffer, R. D. (2016). Childhood Victimization in a National Sample of Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 13(4), 311–319. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jppi.12203>
- [15] Roberts, A. L., Koenen, K. C., Lyall, K., Robinson, E. B., & Weisskopf, M. G. (2015). Association of autistic traits in adulthood with childhood abuse, interpersonal victimization, and posttraumatic stress. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 45, 135–142. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.04.010>

- [16] Trundle, G., Jones, K. A., Ropar, D., & Egan, V. (2023). Prevalence of Victimization in Autistic Individuals: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*, 24(4), 2282–2296. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221093689>