

# **Assumptions not often assessed or satisfied in published mediation analyses in psychology and psychiatry**

Elizabeth A. Stuart,<sup>1</sup> Ian Schmid<sup>1</sup>, Trang Nguyen<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Sarker<sup>2</sup>, Adam Pittman<sup>3</sup>, Kelly Benke, Kara Rudolph, Elena Badillo-Goicoechea, and Jeannie-Marie Leoutsakos

Author affiliations: Department of Mental Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Elizabeth A. Stuart, Ian Schmid, Trang Nguyen, Elena Badillo-Goicoechea, Kelly Benke); Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Adam Pittman, Elizabeth Sarker); Department of Epidemiology, Columbia University (Kara Rudolph); Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (Jeannie-Marie Leoutsakos).

## **Contents**

**Web Table 1**

**Web Table 2**

**Web Table 1:** Count of articles from each journal

<b>Journal*</b>	<b>No. Articles</b>
American Journal of Psychiatry	3
Biological Psychiatry	4
British Journal of Psychiatry	2
Child Development	4
Developmental Psychology	8
Frontiers in Human Neuroscience	3
Frontiers in Psychology	48
JAMA Psychiatry	2
Journal of Affective Disorders	46
Journal of Applied Psychology	6
Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry	6
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology	12
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	10
Journal of Psychiatric Research	11
Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	3
Molecular Psychiatry	1
Neuropsychopharmacology	5
Psychological Medicine	14
Psychological Science	5
Schizophrenia Bulletin	3
Schizophrenia Research	10

\* The total number of journals is 23 because there were two journals that overlap between the Psychology and Psychiatry ranking lists, and five journals did not have any mediation analysis articles.

Web Table 2: Main results stratified by journal field. P-value tests for difference between fields

<b>Study Characteristic</b>	<b>Psychiatry</b>	<b>Psychology</b>	<b>p-value</b>
Temporal ordering of exposure and mediator	42.9	44.2	0.96
Temporal ordering of mediator and outcome	26.1	36	0.17
Temporal ordering of exposure, mediator and outcome	21	25.6	0.55
Adjusts for covariates	63	57	0.47
Covariates adjusted for include baseline measure of mediator	14.3	12.8	0.92
Covariates adjusted for include baseline measure of outcome	18.5	12.8	0.36
Covariates adjusted for include baseline measures of both mediator and outcome	12.6	10.5	0.80
Discuss mediation assumptions at all	41.2	43	0.90
Examine interaction of exposure and mediator	1.8	3.5	0.75
Performs sensitivity analysis to mediation assumptions	1.7	2.3	1