

Examination of Mediation Effect Differences: A Covariance Structure Modeling Approach

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Abstract

A covariance structure modeling approach to examining mediation effect differences is outlined. Unlike a substantial part of available literature on mediation typically dealing with a single observed intervening variable, this article is concerned with the case of more than one latent mediators contributing to studied relationships between predictor and outcome measures. The described method can be used to point and interval estimate differences in the effects of explanatory variables upon a criterion that are transmitted through distinct mediator constructs. The procedure is also applicable for examining differences in total transmitted effects by two or more mediators, and is illustrated on data from a depression study of visually impaired subjects.