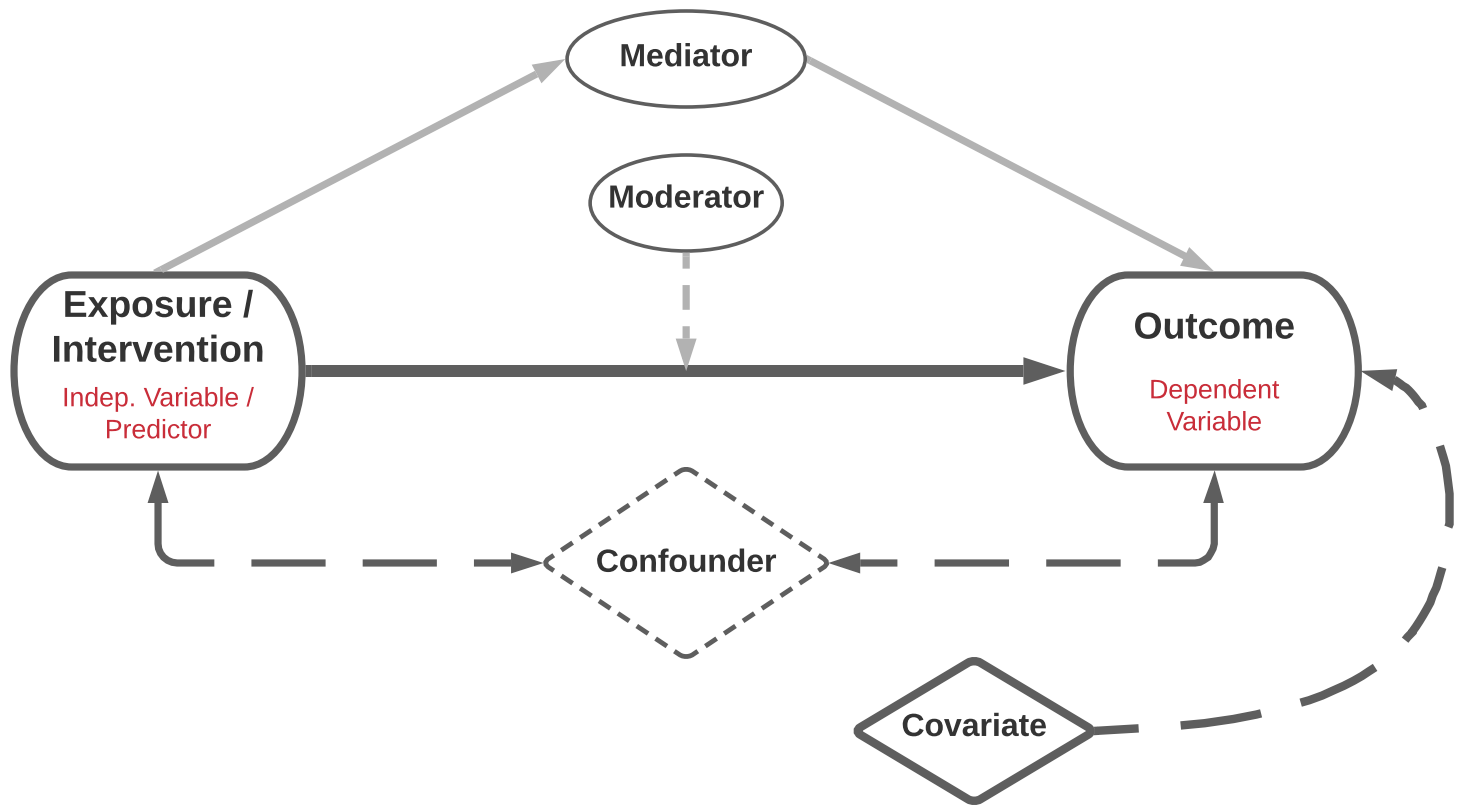




Mediators: Intervening variables that lie along the causal pathway btwn intervention and outcome

Moderators: Variables that change the size or direction of relationship btwn intervention and outcome; may have a direct effect on outcome or may interact with intervention in a way that influences the relationship; may account for variability in outcomes; as part of study design known or potential modifiers may be valuable for stratification in RCTs

Confounders: Variables related to both the intervention and the outcome, but are not on the causal pathway; may represent an alternate reason for the observed results

Covariates: Variables that explain a part of the variability in the outcome, but are NOT influenced by the intervention and don't change the relationship btwn intervention and outcome; examples include age and sex

** Role played by all 4 above depend on their relationship to intervention and outcome. For example, a variable that is a moderator in one study may be a covariate in another.