

# Putting Research to Work for Military Families



**Focus:**  
Multiple  
Branches

## Preliminary Investigation of the Roles of Military Background of Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms in Frequency and Recidivism, of Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration Among Court-Referred Men

Hoyt, T., Wray, A. M., & Klosterman Rielage, J. (2014). Preliminary investigation of the roles of military background of posttraumatic stress symptoms in frequency and recidivism, of intimate partner violence perpetration among court-referred men. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 29*(6), 1094-1110. doi:10.1177/0886260513506058

**SUMMARY:** Baseline measures and one-year post-program recidivism data were examined from military experienced and nonmilitary men referred for an interpersonal violence intervention program to test differences regarding intimate partner violence perpetration. Results indicated difference in physical assault and injury, as well a recidivism. Mental health may impact rate of intimate partner violence.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Intimate partner violence offenders with military experience had higher levels of physical assault than civilians (as reported by both the participant and his partner).
- PTSD symptoms were significantly greater and positively associated with intimate partner violence perpetration frequency among military members than civilians.
- Offenders with military experience showed a significantly lower rate of recidivism than civilian offenders.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS:

Programs could:

- Offer classes for Service members and their partners about anger management and effective means of disengaging from conflict
- Provide workshops and public forums during National Domestic Violence Awareness month to raise awareness of this public health problem and available resources
- Disseminate information to service providers working with military families regarding how to report suspected incidents of domestic violence

### IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICIES:

Policies could:

- Continue to support outreach programs to Veterans who are incarcerated for violence perpetration
- Recommend that Veterans Courts focus on diverting justice-involved Veterans into treatment rather than incarceration
- Encourage collaboration between DoD and community-based programs that work with military families coping with domestic violence issues

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## METHODS

- Data from men who were court-referred to an intervention program for having perpetrated at least one physical assault or one injurious behavior against their partner were used.
- Participants completed measures of interpersonal violence, lifetime trauma exposure, and PTSD before starting the program; conviction data were collected from public court records for one year after participants received services.
- Military and non-military men mandated to complete an intimate partner violence intervention were compared for this study.

## PARTICIPANTS

- Twenty men who served in the U.S. Military and 40 demographically matched civilian controls were analyzed.
- No data regarding service era, military branch, or participation in combat deployments were reported.
- The mean age of military and non-military participants was 35.5 years (SD = 6.5) and 4.7 years (SD = 6.4), respectively.
- Seventy-five percent Latino/Latina, 10% White.

## LIMITATIONS

- The sample size was small and primarily Latino which may have biased the results and made them less generalizable.
- No information was provided regarding the nature of the intervention program.
- Military relevant variables (e.g., rank, branch of service) were not assessed and may have important implications on the results.

## AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research could:

- Utilize a larger and more representative sample
- Collect partner reports of intimate partner violence perpetration at one year post-program to test differences in that outcome
- Continue to explore why rates of recidivism are low among military members compared to civilians

## ASSESSING RESEARCH THAT WORKS



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