

Putting Research to Work for Military Families



Focus:
Multiple
Branches

Male Veteran Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Program Outcomes

Schaffer, B. J. (2015). Male veteran intimate partner violence (IPV) program outcomes. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work*, 13(2), 133-141. doi:10.1080/23761407.2015.1006943

SUMMARY: An examination of a psycho-educationally based treatment approach for male Veteran intimate partner violence (IPV) offenders was conducted. Pre and post-test domestic violence and abuse screen behavioral outcomes as well as program failure, and recidivism were analyzed. The study highlights the need for more intervention approaches for IPV offenders.

KEY FINDINGS:

- There were significant reductions in the frequency of physical abuse towards partners.
- Participants were less likely to psychologically abuse their partner after completion of the program.
- Participants didn't exhibit as many controlling behaviors upon completion of the program.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS:

Programs could:

- Continue providing domestic violence training opportunities for professionals working with Service members
- Promote, across military branches, the benefits of intervention approaches for intimate partner violence offenders
- Offer support groups for the victims of domestic violence

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICIES:

Policies could:

- Continue support for the unique challenges (e.g. intimate partner violence, post-traumatic stress disorder) faced by male Service members who were deployed in combat related missions
- Encourage awareness among military professionals working with Service members on the importance of developing further treatment protocols for male Service member intimate partner violence offenders
- Continue efforts to increase collaboration between the military branches and local communities to enhance treatment programs for Service member intimate partner violence offenders

This product is the result of a partnership funded by the Department of Defense between the Office of Military Community and Family Policy and the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture through a grant/cooperative agreement with The University of Minnesota.



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METHODS

- Male Veterans were identified through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and Cincinnati Adult Parole Authority.
- Criteria for inclusion were Veteran status, completion of the domestic violence and abuse screen pre-test, completion of a psychosocial intake, agreement to a behavioral contract, and participation in Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Domestic Relations Clinic treatment.
- Domestic violence and abuse behavioral checklist results were analyzed pre and post treatment for changes in abusive behaviors.

PARTICIPANTS

- Participants were Veterans who were court mandated, addicted, formerly incarcerated, and on state and county probation.
- Veterans served in multiple branches, with 46% having served in the Army, 25% Navy, 13% Air Force, and 14% Marines and Coast Guard.
- The average age of participants was 45.6 years old, with 61% identifying as Black, 38% White, and .9% Hispanic.
- 178 participants were referred for treatment; however, only 131 successfully completed.

LIMITATIONS

- Analyses conducted using the data collected through the domestic violence and abuse checklist were not explained; putting into question the results presented.
- The study included only male Veteran intimate partner violence offenders in one location, which limits generalizability.
- Post-program follow-up did not occur; therefore, the short and long-term outcomes of the treatment program were unknown.

AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research could:

- Explore the relationship between domestic violence, military service, and culture
- Evaluate how treatment program outcomes for male and female intimate partner violence offenders may differ
- Conduct a longitudinal study of male Veteran intimate partner violence offenders post Domestic Relations Clinic treatment

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