

# Putting Research to Work for Military Families



**Focus:**  
Multiple  
Branches

## Intimate Partner Aggression Perpetrated and Sustained by Male Afghanistan, Iraq, and Vietnam Veterans With and Without Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Teten, A., Schumacher, J., Taft, C., Stanley, M., Kent, T., Bailey, S., ... White, D. (2010). Intimate partner aggression perpetrated and sustained by male Afghanistan, Iraq, and Vietnam veterans with and without posttraumatic stress disorder. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 25(9), 1612-1630. doi:10.1177/0886260509354583

**SUMMARY:** Self-reported data were used to compare rates of intimate partner violence among OEF/OIF Veterans with and without posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Vietnam Veterans with PTSD. The OEF/OIF Veterans with PTSD were more likely to report perpetrating and experiencing intimate partner violence compared to OEF/OIF Veterans without PTSD and Vietnam Veterans.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- The OEF/OIF Veterans with PTSD were 1.9-3.1 times more likely to perpetrate intimate partner aggression (against their female partner) than the Vietnam Veterans with PTSD and OEF/OIF Veterans without PTSD.
- The OEF/OIF Veterans with PTSD were 1.6-6 times more likely to report that their female partner had perpetrated aggression toward them than the other two groups.
- Reports of aggression towards a female intimate partner or by a female intimate partner were significantly correlated suggesting a bidirectional influence on aggression.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS:

Programs could:

- Offer classes for Service members and Veterans regarding effective means of managing conflict
- Engage in awareness campaigns, such as Intimate Partner Awareness Month, offering military personnel and their family information and resources regarding family violence
- Disseminate information for the military families and service providers regarding how to report incidents of intimate partner violence

### IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICIES:

Policies could:

- Continue to support programs that screen military personnel for both intimate partner violence perpetration and victimization
- Continue to support programs that identify and prevent intimate partner violence in military families
- Encourage collaboration between DoD and community-based programs that offer shelters and childcare services to military families coping with intimate partner violence

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.



# Putting Research to Work for Military Families



## METHODS

- Participants were recruited from a regional VA medical center to complete a paper-and pencil survey.
- Veterans who had undergone a PTSD screening in the six months prior to the study were contacted via phone and invited to participate. Announcements about the study were also made during treatment groups.
- Participants had to have been in a romantic heterosexual relationship for at least three months prior to the study.

## PARTICIPANTS

- Ninety-four Veterans participated in the study, including 59 OEF/OIF Veterans, 33 Vietnam Veterans, and two who had served in both conflicts.
- Forty-six percent of the OEF/OIF Veterans and 89% of the Vietnam Veterans had PTSD.
- Regarding ethnicity: 41% of the Veterans were White, 34% Black, and 24% Latino/Latina.
- The majority of Veterans were White (41%) and married (57%). Age of sample was not reported.

## LIMITATIONS

- As this sample was from one VA medical center, the findings may not generalize to Veterans who are not using VA healthcare or live in different parts of the country.
- Data were based on self-report instruments which may introduce biases.
- As participants were recruited from a mental health clinic, their perspectives and experiences may differ from those not actively involved in treatment, limiting the generalizability of the results.

## AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research could:

- Examine intimate partner violence with sexual minority Veterans to see if the findings are similar or different in same-sex relationship aggression
- Include information from romantic partners to better understand their perspective on intimate partner violence
- Explore the effects of intimate partner violence on military child outcomes (e.g., mental and physical health)

## ASSESSING RESEARCH THAT WORKS



For more information about the Assessing Research that Works rating scale visit:  
<https://reachmilitaryfamilies.umn.edu/content/assessing-research-that-works>