



### SPR 18th Annual Meeting

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Location: Maroon Peak (Grand Hyatt/2nd Floor)

Time of Presentation: Jun 04 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Category/Theme: Etiology

#### **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Sexual and Non-Sexual Intimate Partner Violence among Veterans**

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Posttraumatic stress disorder has been associated with non-sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) among veterans. It is unclear if non-sexual IPV among veterans with PTSD is one-sided or mutual and if PTSD is associated with sexual IPV as well as non-sexual IPV. To address these questions, three recent studies will be reviewed (Study 1: Teten, Sherman, & Han, 2009; Study 2: Teten, Schumacher, Taft, Stanley, Kent, Bailey, Dunn, & White, in press; Study 3: Teten, Schumacher, Bailey, & Kent, 2009).

All studies utilize self-reports on the Conflict Tactics Scale-Revised. Study 1 (n = 184) uses heterosexual couples' reports and Studies 2 (n = 86) and 3 (n = 92) use male veterans reports of violence they perpetrated toward and they sustained from their female partners.

In Study 1, three patterns of physical violence were reported among couples: mutual violence (n = 48), one-sided violence (n = 55), and non-violence (n = 81). Among one-sided violent couples, just over half were male perpetrators (56%). Men in mutually violent couples were significantly more likely to have PTSD than men in either of the other two groups.

In Study 2, 85% of the sample reported psychological abuse of a partner and 42% reported physically assaulting their partners in the past year. Trends suggested that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with PTSD were more likely to perpetrate and sustain non-sexual IPV than their peers without PTSD, or male Vietnam veterans with PTSD; although the only comparison that reached significance indicated that male Iraq/Afghanistan veterans with PTSD were 6 times more likely to report being injured by their female partner than those without PTSD.

In Study 3, nearly 40% of veterans reported perpetrating sexual violence toward a female partner in the past year. Sexual IPV was associated with substance abuse but not PTSD.

Although PTSD was associated with non-sexual intimate partner violence perpetrated by male veterans and their female partners, sexual violence was not associated with PTSD. Results suggest sexual and non-sexual IPV are important prevention and intervention targets among veterans, but that non-sexual IPV may be a particular concern among those with PTSD and sexual IPV may be a particular concern among those with substance abuse issues.

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