

Risks United States Soldiers and Veterans Face from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

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Abstract

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a growing concern with the United States military. The objective of this paper was to evaluate the risks of suicide, relationship problems, and addiction in PTSD veterans. Data was taken from medical journals and other government sites. Hypothesis tests were implemented to show a correlation or a similarity of those aspect previously mentioned. In one hypothesis test it was found that the percent risk of getting PTSD increases exponentially with the number of life threatening experiences. Those life threatening experiences seem to be a major cause of high suicide rates in veterans rather than civilians. A hypothesis test found that the rate of suicides in veterans is almost double that of the rate of suicide of civilians. That gave the idea for a hypothesis test of positive linear correlation between the number of symptoms of PTSD a patient has and the percent of patients that had suicidal thoughts. A hypothesis test proved that there was a negative correlation of worsening PTSD conditions and sexual satisfaction in the veteran's partner. In some journal articles there seemed to be some similarities between PTSD, alcoholism, and cocaine addiction, so a hypothesis test was set up based on the percent of a sample's answers on the PTSD checklist (PCL) for civilians or each of the three group. The civilian version of the PCL was used in order to get the sample of alcoholics and cocaine addicts. This test confirmed my hypothesis and indicated that PTSD, alcoholism, and cocaine addiction have similar symptoms.