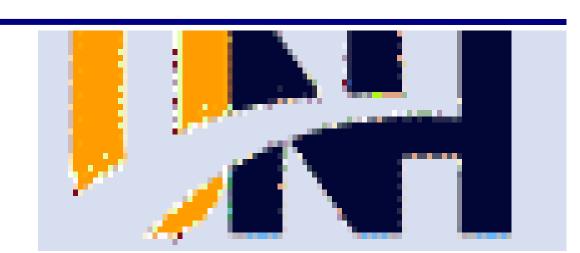


The Relationship between Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms, Academic Self-Efficacy, Academic Motivation, and Performance in Veteran College Students

& Melissa L. Whitson, Ph.D. University of New Haven



Introduction

The U.S. has the largest military in the world with more than 2.7 million armed forces members (Hurt, Ryan & Straley, 2011).

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has been a major problem among veterans

Negatively impacts health
Makes reintegration into society
more difficult

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and many other services aim to reintegrate veterans; however aiding veterans has been a challenge due to the complex impact that posttraumatic stress symptoms can have on an individual's functioning.

Hypotheses

Antonietta Sollazzo

University of New Haven

Measures included:

The PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5; Weathers et al., 2013). A 20-item self-report checklist of PTSD symptoms based on the DSM-5. The Academic Motivation Scale (AMS; Vallerand et al., 1992). A 28-item measure of intrinsic motivation, extrinsic motivation, and amotivation. The College Academic Self-Efficacy Scale (CASES; Owen & Froman, 1988). A self-report measure of the degree of confidence for performing typical academic behaviors of college students.

Demographics Questionnaire

Procedure:

Participants were emailed a link to the electronic survey and invited to participate.

After providing informed consent, participants completed the three questionnaires online as well as the demographic questionnaire.

Participants were thanked for their participation and offered a gift card as

compensation for their participation.

Path Analyses:

Results & Discussion

Future Directions

We are currently collecting data from more participants to obtain a larger sample

Future studies could examine other variables related to academic success for veteran college students

These studies are important to understand the experiences and cognitions of veterans students and how they might impact their ability to perform academically The information gathered could then be used by colleges to help support veterans as they work towards their degrees

References

Hurt, A., Ryan, E., & Straley, J. (2011, July 3). By The Numbers: Today's Military.
Owen, S.V., & Froman, R.D. (1988). *Development of a College Academic Self-Efficacy Scale*.
(Report No. TM 012 263). East Lansing, MI: National Center for Research on Teacher Learning. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED298158)

Rudd, D.M., Goulding, J., & Bryan, C.J. (2011). Student veterans: A national survey exploring psychological symptoms and suicide risk. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, *42*, 354-360.

Vallerand, R.J., Pelletier, L.G., Blais, M.R., Briere, N.M., Senecal, C. Vallieres, E.F. (1992). The academic motivation scale: A measure of intrinsic, extrinsic, and amotivation in education. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, *52*, 1003-1017.

Weathers, F.W., Litz, B.T., Keane, T.M., Palmieri, P.A., Marx, B.P., & Schnurr, P.P.. (2013). The PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5). Scale available from the National Center for PTSD at www.ptsd.va.gov.