SURVEY OF VETERANS IN THE UPSTATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Survey 2 Preliminary Results

OVERVIEW
- Purpose of the studies
- Survey 1
  - Results
- Survey 2
  - Modifications to the Design
  - Sample
  - Results
    - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Period of Service
    - Homelessness
    - Trant Interpersonal Relationship Assessment (TIRA)
- Future Directions

PURPOSE
- Craig Burnette, PhD – Long history with working with veterans, especially homeless veterans
- Concerns by veterans and their families about the resources available in the Upstate
- No data to clarify just how many veterans felt this way
- Issues:
  - Number with psychological/adjustment problems
  - Number with physical/medical problems
  - Homeless
- Survey also assessed social aspects
- Provide data so veterans can get needed resources

HOSPITALIZATION

CONSEQUENCES OF WAR
- Updated as of May 5, 2011 by Veterans for Common Sense
- US veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan war zones
- 2,200,594 deployed with 1,346,796 eligible for VA benefits

SURVEY 1
- Completed from 2009-2010
- Brittany Getz and Aubrey Thomson
- Based on existing veterans needs surveys
- Completed online and in paper form
- 202 Veterans and others completed the survey
  - 185 males, 13 females
  - 183 Surveys completed by Veterans
SURVEY 1 – RESULTS

SERVICE

- Service Period
- Branch

SURVEY 1 – HOMELESSNESS

- Where did you sleep last night?

SURVEY 1 – PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCERNS

SURVEY 2

- Building on previous study
- Currently collecting data both online and paper format

Includes:
- Demographics
- Service demographics
- Employment and Housing

Structured scales:
- SF-36 – Physical Health
- HADS – Depression and Anxiety
- PCL-PTSD – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- AUDIT – Alcohol Use Disorder
- Trant Interpersonal Relationship Assessment (TIRA) – Adjustment to Family, Friends, Co-Workers

SURVEY 2 – SERVICE PERIOD & BRANCH
SURVEY 2 – DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES

SURVEY 2 – PTSD BY SERVICE PERIOD

(F(3,57)=5.10, p=0.003)

SURVEY 2 – HOMELESSNESS

(SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES ONLY)

SURVEY 2 – SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

Results of Correlation Analysis (Significant)
- TIRA – Family
  - Positive correlation with General Health (SF-36) = 0.36
  - Negative correlation with Anxiety and Depression (HADS), r=-0.46 to -0.47
  - Negative correlation with PTSD (PC-PTSD), r=-0.46
- TIRA – Friend
  - Positive correlation with Pain, Role Limitation, General Health (SF-36), r=0.28 to 0.37
  - Negative correlation with Anxiety and Depression (HADS), r=-0.46 to -0.47
  - Negative correlation with PTSD (PC-PTSD), r=-0.34
- TIRA – Coworker
  - Positive correlation with General Health (SF-36) = 0.38
  - Negative correlation with Anxiety and Depression (HADS), r=-0.37 to -0.40

Trant Interpersonal Relationship Assessment
- Novel measure of social adjustment
- 3 scales
  - TIRA – Family: 5 items that ask the degree to which the respondent agrees with a series of statements about their perceptions of family support upon return from active service
  - Cronbach alpha = 0.95
  - TIRA – Friend: 5 items that ask the degree to which the respondent agrees with a series of statements about their perceptions of friend support upon return from active service
  - Cronbach alpha = 0.93
  - TIRA – Coworker: 5 items that ask the degree to which the respondent agrees with a series of statements about their perceptions of coworker support upon return from active service and the degree to which they contribute to a workplace
  - Cronbach alpha = 0.92

SURVEY 2 – SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

Preliminary results
- Vietnam era veterans appear to have significantly higher levels of PTSD compared to peacetime (PC-PTSD). Results also showed that OEF/OIF, although not significantly different, were lower.
- Homelessness showed significant relationship to higher levels of anxiety, PTSD, and perceived interpersonal relations (TIRA).
- Trant Interpersonal Relationship Assessment (TIRA) appears to be a reliable and highly useful weapon in veterans research.
- Better perceived interpersonal relations (TIRA) was related to better perceived health (SF-36), and lower levels of anxiety and depression (HADS), and fewer symptoms of PTSD (PC-PTSD)
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Continue to collect data next year (need volunteers)
- Possibly statewide
- Multivariate statistical analysis
- Need to move beyond descriptive statistics
- Further analysis of race, homelessness, interaction of race and homelessness
- Further analyses of important areas
- Experience of live fire in combat zones and relation to outcome variables
- Use of alcohol (AUDIT) and relation to outcome variables
- Analysis of clinical significant levels of PTSD, Anxiety, and Depression and outcome variables
- Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Trant go to graduate school