

Title: Are There Differences In Mental Health, As Measured By K-10 And PCL-C, Depending Upon Where, When And Who Asks The Questions?

Author(s): Annabel McGuire¹ Michael Waller¹ Helen Benassi³, Cherie Nicholson³, Alexander McFarlane², Susan Treloar¹, and Cate D'Este⁴.

Presenter(s): Dr Annabel McGuire

Corresponding author's email: Dr Annabel McGuire – a.mcguire@uq.edu.au

Authors Affiliations:

1. University of Queensland
2. University of Adelaide
3. Directorate of Mental Health, Department of Defence, Australia
4. University of Newcastle

Additional authors email addresses

a.mcguire@uq.edu.au

m.waller@uq.edu.au

Helen.benassi@defence.gov.au

Cherie.Nicholson@defence.gov.au

alexander.mcfarlane@adelaide.edu.au

susan.treloar@uq.edu.au

Catherine.DEste@newcastle.edu.au

Abstract

Three separate studies contribute to a program of research on deployment health conducted by the Centre for Military and Veterans Health (CMVH) on behalf of the Australian Department of Defence. Analysis demonstrates that mental health, as measured by the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist – Civilian (PCL-C) and Kessler 10 (K10), differs depending upon whether the data are collected as part of routine Defence Return to Australia Psychological Screens (RtAPS) or collected by CMVH.

Plausible explanations include:

- a. Time between the two different data collections
- b. Differences in the environment in which the data were collected. Questionnaires conducted by an organisation external to the military, may contribute greater openness.
- c. Data collected during RtAPS were explicitly linked to the particular deployment. Whereas this link is more tenuous in the CMVH questionnaires.
- d. Increases in operational tempo and deployment on other operations may impact on these measures.

References

Reference for item a

Bliese, P., Wright, K., Adler, A., & Thomas, J. L.. Validation of the 90 to 120 Day Post-Deployment Psychological Short Screen: US Army Medical Research Unit - Europe. (2004)

Reference for item d

Smith, T. C., Ryan, M. A., Wingard, D. L., Slymen, D. J., Sallis, J. F., & Kritz-Silverstein, D.. New onset and persistent symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder self reported after deployment and

combat exposures: prospective population based US military cohort study. *British Medical Journal*, (2008) 336 (7640), 366-371.

Objectives

1. Describe differences in outcome measures of mental health screens depending upon the setting and the administrator of the screen
2. Evaluate a variety of explanations of the observed differences

Intended audience:

Mental Health Professionals
Health Surveillance and epidemiologists

Teaching methods - Lecture

Duration of Presentation

All presentations are 60 minutes

Biographical Data, degrees

PhD, Australian National University, Australian Capital Territory, Decision making/Psychology, 2006

BPSCH (Hons 1st Class), Australian National University, Australian Capital Territory, Psychology, 2002

Grad Dip Psychological Studies, Deakin University, Victoria, Australia, Statistics/Psychology, 2001

Graduate Certificate in Counselling, Institute of Counselling, Sydney, Australia, Counselling, 1998

Bachelor of Arts (Professional Writing), Canberra College of Advanced Education, Australia, Professional Writing, 1989.

Introduction Bio

Dr Annabel McGuire joined the Australian Centre for Military and Veterans Health in January 2007 as a Research Fellow within the Deployment Health Surveillance Program. Annabel is a Chief Investigator on the studies that focus on Australian deployments to Solomon Islands, East Timor and Bougainville. She is particularly interested in the consequences of deployment for Defense members' mental health

Prior to joining CMVH, Annabel was involved in an evaluation of the Military tactical and operational planning process for the Chief of Army which was an extension of her PhD thesis on expertise in military tactical decision making. She has now been extensively involved in a variety of research within military communities for more than eight years.

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7. **Directorate of Mental Health, Department of Defence, Australia**
8. **University of Newcastle**