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Family Maltreatment Before, During, and After Combat Deployments

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Family Maltreatment Before, During, and After Combat Deployments

Partner Abuse by Day of the Week

Partner Abuse by Day of the Year
Partner Abuse with Offender Alcohol Use

Proportion of Incidents with Offender Alcohol Use

Do rates of maltreatment increase after experiencing a combat-deployment?

Deployers vs. non-deployers?

Relative to rates pre-deployment?

Are rates due to stress/PTSD/Depression?

Deployers vs. Civilians?
Study 1
- Rates of partner abuse among abusive couples
  - 4,874 abusive couples perpetrated 7,003 incidents

Study 2
- Rates of partner abuse among all married deployers
  - 150,996 married deployers (3,524 offenders) perpetrated 4,990 incidents

Study 3
- Rates of child maltreatment with active-duty offender
  - 2,887 child victims experienced 2,993 incidents

Study 4
- Rates of child maltreatment with civilian offender
  - 2,444 child victims experienced 2,879 incidents

Overall rates post- vs. pre-deployment
- 87%
- 0.50
- 1.00

Overall rates post- vs. pre-deployment
- 1,026 incidents pre-deployment/1,592,428 person days = ~6.44 incidents per 10,000 person days
- 1,537 incidents post-deployment/2,675,192 person days = ~5.74 incidents per 10,000 person days
Dose-response: Total number of deployments

- One Deployment
- >1 Deployment

Dose-response: Total length of all deployments

- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-12 months
- 12+ months

What about gender?

- Male Offender
- Female Offender
- Bidirectional

CM rates by type of maltreatment

- Physical Abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
Rates during deployment among civilian parent offenders

Conclusions

In general, the past experience of deployment does not seem to be a risk factor.

However, the current experience of deployment seems to be a risk factor for child maltreatment (especially neglect).

Why the belief that deployments increase maltreatment?

Not unfounded, child maltreatment does increase during deployments.

Availability Heuristic

Rates of "severe" incidents increase after deployments.

Nonetheless, this may contribute to the perception that deployments cause family maltreatment.

Rates among abusive couples:

Mild: 77%
No Alcohol: 77%
Male perpetrated:
Severe with Alcohol: 15%

Severe Neglect: 14%

Moderate: 40%
No Alcohol: 40%
Sexual Abuse: <1%

Severe Neglect: 20%

Emotional Abuse: <5%
No Alcohol: <5%

PA among all married deployments:

Mild: 66%
No Alcohol: 66%
Male perpetrated:
Severe with Alcohol: 6%

Sexual Abuse: <1%

Severe Neglect: 20%

Emotional Abuse: <1%
No Alcohol: <1%

PA among active duty parents:

Mild: 84%
No Alcohol: 84%
Sexual Abuse: 1%

Severe Neglect: 14%

Emotional Abuse: <1%
No Alcohol: <1%

CM among civilian parents:

Mild: 70%
No Alcohol: 70%
Sexual Abuse: <1%

Severe Neglect: 20%

Emotional Abuse: 50%
No Alcohol: 50%

Rates during deployment among civilian parent offenders

In general, the past experience of deployment does not seem to be a risk factor.

However, the current experience of deployment seems to be a risk factor for child maltreatment (especially neglect).

Why the belief that deployments increase maltreatment?

Not unfounded, child maltreatment does increase during deployments.

Availability Heuristic

Rates of "severe" incidents increase after deployments.

Nonetheless, this may contribute to the perception that deployments cause family maltreatment.

However, these incidents are relatively rare.

We need to figure out why so many families do fine, but a small few experience problems.
Collaborators

- Ariel Basham
- Les Besentsy
- Pam Collins
- Lt. Col. Carol Copeland*
- Rachel Foster*
- David Linkh*
- Joel Milner*
- Mandy Rabenhorst*
- Col. (retired) Fred Stone
- Cindy Thomsen*
- Lt. Col. Wendy Travis*

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Study Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit of Analysis</th>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
<th>Days “Exposed” Total (pre/post)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA among abusive couples</td>
<td>4,874 couples</td>
<td>7,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA among all married deployers</td>
<td>156,296 deployers (3,524 offenders)</td>
<td>4,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM-deployed parents</td>
<td>2,287 child victims</td>
<td>2,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM-civilian parents</td>
<td>2,442 child victims</td>
<td>2,879</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Thanks!
Types of Maltreatment

Survival Analysis for Partner Abuse

McCarroll et al., 2008

Rentz et al., 2007

Figure 2. Army rates of child victim maltreatment by year and type.
**Gibbs et al., 2007**

**Table 1**

| Sample: 26,835 married, active duty Army males and females during 1990-1994 |
| DV: CTS |

**McCarroll et al., 2000**

**Table 2**

| Sample: 26,835 married, active duty Army males and females during 1990-1994 |
| DV: CTS |

**McCarroll et al., 2003**

**Table 3**

| Sample: 712 married, active duty Army males who completed 6-month deployment to Bosnia and 313 non-deploying, married, active duty Army males |
| DV: CTS |

**Newby et al., 2005**

**Table 4**

| Sample: 938 civilian wives of active duty Army males who completed 6-month deployment to Bosnia and 98 civilian wives of non-deploying, active duty Army males |
| DV: CTS |