

INPLASY

Post-traumatic stress disorder in Australian Defence Personnel 2002-23: A systematic review of incidence, prevalence, risk factors and treatment

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Department of Defence.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Risk of bias assessment.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202420076

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 19 February 2024 and was last updated on 19 February 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective The aim of the study is to determine the extent of previous health research which has been undertaken in relation to PTSD amongst Australian Defence Force personnel.

Condition being studied This study focusses on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a well-recognised severe and disabling condition experienced following exposure to traumatic events which can occur associated with military-related trauma, particularly on deployment. It can be associated with exposure to combat or being exposed to morally injurious events on, for example, peacekeeping missions.

METHODS

Participant or population Serving or transitioning members of the Australian Defence Force. (ADF).

Intervention This study was not limited to any particular intervention.

Comparator There were no restrictions on comparators - these could be within the Australian Defence Force, or the general population.

Study designs to be included All study designs were included.

Eligibility criteria Papers needed to include the following: serving or transitioning ADF personnel, mention PTSD as a health outcome.

Information sources The following electronic databases were searched, along with bibliographies of included articles: MEDLINE, Embase, PsycInfo, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and Web of Science.

Main outcome(s) The main outcome was to determine the degree of previous research into the incidence, prevalence, risk factors and treatment of PTSD within the ADF.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis The Johanna Briggs Institute risk of bias tools, specific to each study design, were used to assess the risk of bias.

Strategy of data synthesis Given the heterogenous nature of the retrieved articles, a descriptive analysis will be provided for the data.

Subgroup analysis There will be no subgroup analysis.

Sensitivity analysis There will be no sensitivity analysis.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Australia.

Keywords PTSD, Australian Defence Force, military, post-traumatic stress disorder.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Dee Tomic - Author 1 contributed to the risk of bias assessment and data analysis, and drafted the manuscript.

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