



## Introduction

Previous studies have found that injury severity can predict posttraumatic psychopathology (Blanchard, Hickling, Taylor, & Loos, 1996; Jeavons, 2000). Some studies have depicted that spiritual intervention may be effective in the healing process of injured veterans (Freeman & Shaler, 2016). Other studies discuss couple therapy and its effect on military veterans (Doss et al., 2011). However there is little research regarding the relationship between religious affiliation, relationship status, psychological injury (PTSD from serving), and physical injury in the military, thus the present study aims to assess this relationship.

## Method

### Participants

Recruited through Amazon's Mechanical Turk.  
 N = 257 United States Military Veterans (72.4% male)  
 Mean age = 37.7 (S = 11.6) with 78.8% self-reporting as European-American

### Measures

- Military veterans responded to demographic and military characteristic questions:
  - Military veterans indicated the presence of physical (PTSD) or psychological injury sustained while serving
  - Military veterans reported their religious affiliation, religious attendance, and relationship status
- Religious Affiliation: No religion endorsed: 25.3%, Christianity: 44.7%, Catholicism: 17.9%, and Other religion: 12.1%
- Relationship Status: 69% reported being in a relationship
- Injury Sustained: 30.7% self-reported PTSD and 20.2% a physical injury caused while serving

## Research Questions

**RQ1:** Is physical injury related to psychological (PTSD) injury?

**RQ2:** Is relationship status associated with religious affiliation?

**RQ3:** Is relationship status associated with physical injury?

**RQ4:** Is relationship status associated with psychological (PTSD) injury?

**RQ5:** Is religious affiliation associated with physical injury?

**RQ6:** Is religious affiliation associated with psychological (PTSD) injury?

Table 1. *Psychological (PTSD) and Physical Injury*

		PTSD	
		Yes	No
Physical Injury	Yes	30	49
	No	22	156

Note.  $\chi^2_{(1)} = 22.24, p < .001, \phi = .29$

Table 2. *Religious Affiliation and Relationship Status*

		Religion Present	
		Yes	No
Relationship Status	Yes	35	132
	No	30	60

Note.  $\chi^2_{(1)} = 4.74, p = .029, \phi = .14$

## References

- Freeman, D., & Shaler, L. (2016). Introduction: Special Issue on Religious and Spiritually-Oriented Interventions with Veteran and Military Populations. *Social Work & Christianity, 43*(3), 3-6.
- Doss, B. D., Rowe, L. S., Carhart, K., Madsen, J. W., & Georgia, E. J. (2011). Sudden Gains in Treatment-as-Usual Couple Therapy for Military Veterans. *Behavior Therapy, 42*(3), 509-520.

Table 3. *Religious Affiliation and Psychological Injury (PTSD)*

		Religion Present	
		Yes	No
PTSD	Yes	61	18
	No	116	62

Note.  $\chi^2_{(1)} = 3.704, p = .054, \phi = .12$

## Results & Discussion

- **RQ1:** The relationship between psychological (PTSD) and physical injury was significant,  $\chi^2_{(1)} = 22.24, p < .001, \phi = .29$  (see table 1).
- **RQ2:** The association between relationship status and religious affiliation was significant,  $\chi^2_{(1)} = 4.74, p = .035, \phi = .14$  (see table 2).
- **RQ3:** Relationship status was not significantly associated with physical injury.
- **RQ4:** Relationship status was not significantly associated with psychological (PTSD) injury.
- **RQ5:** Religious affiliation was not significantly associated with physical injury.
- **RQ6:** The association between religious affiliation and psychological injury (PTSD) was trending towards significant,  $\chi^2_{(1)} = 3.704, p = .054, \phi = .12$ , (see table 3).
- Results lend support to previous literature indicating the relationship among physical and psychological (PTSD) injury, religious affiliation, and relationship status is complex but may work together to aid in helping service members' daily living.
- Future research should assess both presence of injury and extent of injury in daily living on relationship status and religious affiliation.