Military Sexual Violence and Cannabis Use Disorder Among OEF/OIF Veterans

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Introduction
- An estimated 15% of veterans face military sexual trauma (MST)
- Higher rates among women (30-50%) and LGBTQ+ (70-80%)
- Exact prevalence difficult to gauge
- Veterans who experience MST have higher risk for cumulative trauma and behavioral health disorders
- Increasing rate of cannabis use disorder (CUD) in recent years among veterans
- Veterans can also have high resilience (the ability to “bounce back” after distressing events), which can be protective against poor behavioral health outcomes
- Little is known of the link between MST, CUD, and resilience

Methods
Participants
- N = 1005
  - 13.6% past 30-day use of cannabis

Analysis
- Sexual violence (not including harassment) measured at Time 1 (Feb. 2020) and CUD, resilience measured at Time 2 (Feb. 2021)
- Chi-square tests for differences in military sexual violence among groups
  - Women v. Men (sex)
  - LGBQ v. Heterosexual
- Logistic regression - Military sexual violence predicting CUD
  - Women v. Men (sex)
  - LGBO v. Heterosexual
  - Logistic regression - Military sexual violence predicting CUD
    - CUDIT screen @ 12 for probable CUD
    - Control for sex, sexual orientation, and race/ethnicity
    - Moderated by resilience

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Experienced Military Sexual Violence</th>
<th>Male vs. Female</th>
<th>Heterosexual vs. LGBQ</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male (n = 914)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (n = 90)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual (n = 968)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBQ (n = 37)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Logistic Regression

- Military sexual violence
  - Resilience x MSV (Moderation)
  - (OR = 3.37*; 95% CI = [1.76, 6.45])
- CUD screen
  - Resilience
  - (OR = 0.40*; 95% CI = [0.23, 0.70])

Discussion
- Results point to the importance of screening for MST among veterans seeking care for CUD and vice versa
- Female and SGM veterans could be in need for targeted screening efforts for MST
- Resilience-based treatments may have independent protective effects on CUD
- Need for more robust analysis among female and LGBTQ+ veterans who use cannabis
- Future work to examine role of PTSD, other substances

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