



Review article

A systematic review of probable posttraumatic stress disorder in first responders following man-made mass violence



Laura C. Wilson

Psychology Department, University of Mary Washington, 1301 College Ave, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, United States

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 26 September 2014

Received in revised form

3 June 2015

Accepted 25 June 2015

Available online 26 June 2015

Keywords:

Trauma

Psychopathology

Terrorism

Emergency services

Rescue workers

ABSTRACT

The current study was a systematic review examining probable posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in first responders following man-made mass violence. A systematic literature search yielded 20 studies that fit the inclusion criteria. The prevalence rates of probable PTSD across all 20 studies ranged from 1.3% to 22.0%. Fifteen of the 20 articles focused on first responders following the September 11th terrorist attacks and many of the studies used the same participant recruitment pools. Overall, the results of the systematic review described here suggest that our understanding of PTSD in first responders following man-made mass violence is based on a very small set of articles that have focused on a few particular events. This paper is meant to serve as a call for additional research and to encourage more breadth in the specific incidents that are examined.

© 2015 Elsevier Ireland Ltd. All rights reserved.

Contents

1. Introduction	21
2. Method	23
2.1. Analytic plan	24
3. Results	24
4. Discussion	24
Acknowledgments	25
References	25

1. Introduction

First responders exposed to major disasters (e.g., natural disasters, transportation accidents, terrorist attacks) are at increased risk of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) when compared to first responders who have not worked major disasters and the overall prevalence of PTSD in the general population (Berger et al., 2012; Fullerton et al., 2004). This increase in risk is due to a range of experiences, such as exposure to potential physical harm, witnessing injury and death, and learning upsetting details about horrifying events (Berger et al., 2012). For example, the 12-month prevalence of PTSD among the general population in the United States is approximately 4% (Kessler et al., 2005), whereas the

worldwide current prevalence rate among first responders who have worked major disasters is 10% (Berger et al., 2012). The heightened risk demonstrated in first responders following disasters is particularly concerning because empirical evidence suggests that the prevalence of such events is increasing. From 1980 to 1989, there were 2870 disasters, which included natural disasters, technological accidents and man-made mass violence incidents (Eshghi and Larson, 2008). Conversely, from 2000 to 2005, the number of disasters had increased to almost 5000 incidents.

In the wake of recent disasters, particularly mass violence purposely caused by humans (e.g., terrorist attacks, bombings), there has been a growing interest in the mental health of first responders and an emphasis on the quality of care provided to these workers. These events are of particular interest because evidence suggests that man-made disasters lead to more negative

E-mail address: lwilson5@umw.edu

Table 1

Sample and measurement characteristics of the identified studies, and prevalence (prev) rates of probable PTSD in a systematic review of PTSD among first responders following man-made mass violence.

Study	Prevalence <i>N</i>	Population	Event	Recruitment source	Prev (%)	Time elapsed since event	PTSD measure
Berninger et al. (2010a)	8679	Firefighters	September 11th	FDNY-WTC-MMP	9.8 9.9 11.7 10.6	1 year 2 years 3 years 4 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-civilian using yes-no response format; required endorsement of at least 2 arousal questions, 1 re-experiencing question, 3 avoidance/numbing questions, and an endorsement of at least 9 total questions.
Berninger et al. (2010b)	5656	Firefighters	September 11th	FDNY-WTC-MMP	8.6 11.1	6 months 3–4 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-civilian using yes-no response format; required endorsement of at least 2 arousal questions, 1 re-experiencing question, 3 avoidance/numbing questions, and an endorsement of at least 9 total questions.
Bowler et al. (2010)	4017	Police officers	September 11th	WTCHR	8.3	2–3 years	Self-report measure; PCL-civilian using 5-point Likert response format; required endorsement (response of 3 or above) of at least 1 re-experiencing question, 2 arousal questions, and 3 avoidance/numbing questions.
Chiu et al. (2011a)	1915	Firefighters	September 11th	FDNY-WTC-MMP	22.0	4–6 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-civilian using 5-point Likert response format; required total score of 39 or greater.
Chiu et al. (2011b)	1915	Firefighters	September 11th	FDNY-WTC-MMP	17.0	4–6 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-civilian using 5-point Likert response format; required endorsement (response of 3 or above) of at least 1 re-experiencing question, 2 arousal questions, and 3 avoidance/numbing questions.
Corrigan et al. (2009)	8487	Firefighters	September 11th	FDNY-WTC-MMP	12.0	6 months	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-civilian using yes-no response format; required endorsement of at least 2 arousal questions, 1 re-experiencing question, and 3 avoidance/numbing questions.
Gabriel et al. (2007)	153	Police officers	Madrid bombing	Police officers who helped with rescue effort	1.3	5–12 weeks	Self-report measure; Spanish version of DTS using 5-point Likert response format; required total score of 40 or greater.
Luft et al. (2012)	8508	Police officers	September 11th	WTC-MMTP	5.9	10 months to 7 years	Self-report measure; PCL-civilian using 5-point Likert response format; required total score of 50 or greater.
Misra et al. (2009)	191	Ambulance personnel	London bombing	Ambulance personnel who helped with rescue effort	6.0	2 months	Self-report measure; TSQ; required endorsement of at least 6 symptoms.
Niles et al. (2011)	5363	Firefighters	September 11th	FDNY-WTC-MMP	8.5 10.2	1 year 3–4 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-civilian using yes-no response format; required endorsement of at least 2 arousal questions, 1 re-experiencing question, 3 avoidance/numbing questions, and an endorsement of at least 9 total questions.
North et al. (2002a)	181	Firefighters	Oklahoma City bombing	Firefighters who helped with rescue and recovery efforts	13.3	34 months	Interview; DIS for DSM-III-R Disaster Supplement; the specific guidelines used to identify PTSD were not specified in the article.
North et al. (2002b)	176	Firefighters	Oklahoma City bombing	Firefighters who helped with rescue and recovery efforts	13.0	34 months	Interview; DIS for DSM-III-R Disaster Supplement; the specific guidelines used to identify PTSD were not specified in the article.
Perrin et al. (2007)	8898	Police officers (<i>n</i> =3925) ¹ , firefighters (<i>n</i> =3232) ² , emergency medical services (<i>n</i> =1741) ³	September 11th	WTCHR	8.3 ¹ 17.4 ² 14.1 ³	2–3 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-civilian using 5-point Likert response format; required endorsement of at least 2 arousal questions, 1 re-experiencing question, and 3 avoidance.
Pietrzak et al. (2014)	4035	Police officers	September 11th	WTC-HP	8.6 9.3 9.8	3 years 6 years 8 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-specific stressor using 5-point Likert response format; required total score of 44 or greater.
Pietrzak et al. (2012)	8466	Police officers	September 11th	WTC-MMTP	5.4	4 years	Self-report measure; adapted from PCL-specific stressor using 5-point Likert response format; required total score of 50 or greater, and endorsement of at least 2 arousal questions, 1 re-experiencing question, and 3 avoidance.
Renck et al. (2002)	41	Police officers	Sweden discotheque fire	Police officers who helped with rescue efforts.	2.0	18 months	Self-report measure; impact of event scale-revised; using 6-point Likert response format; required total score of 20 or greater.
Soo et al. (2011)	11,006	Firefighters	September 11th	FDNY-WTC-MMP	7.7 6.3 7.1 7.4 7.0 ¹ 6.5 ²	5–6 years 6–7 years 7–8 years 8–9 years 6–9 years	Self-report measure; PCL-civilian using 5-point Likert response format; required endorsement (response of 3 or above) of at least 1 re-experiencing question, 2 arousal questions and 3 avoidance/numbing questions, and a total score of 44 or greater.
Webber et al. (2011a)	10,829	Firefighters (<i>n</i> =9614) ¹ , emergency medical services (<i>n</i> =1215) ²	September 11th	FDNY-BHS			Self-report measure; PCL-civilian using 5-point Likert response format; required endorsement (response of 3 or above) of at least

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/6813749>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/6813749>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)