Published online 2019 March 2.

**Review Article** 



# Prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Iranian Population Following Disasters and Wars: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Hossein Sepahvand<sup>1</sup>, Mina Mokhtari Hashtjini<sup>1</sup>, Mahmood Salesi<sup>2</sup>, Hedayat Sahraei<sup>3</sup> and Gila Pirzad Jahromi<sup>3,\*</sup>

Received 2018 January 10; Revised 2018 August 19; Accepted 2018 November 08.

#### **Abstract**

**Context:** Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a chronic psychiatric disorder that occurs as a result of an accident or life-threatening event. The purpose of our study was to examine the prevalence of PTSD in the Iranian population from 2000 to 2015 through a meta-analysis of the published studies to review the epidemiologic evidence of PTSD after disasters and wars and to examine PTSD determinants.

**Evidence Acquisition:** The electronic databases including PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, Magiran, etc. were explored to find related papers. Two authors independently reviewed and extracted data via an extraction sheet, and disagreements were resolved by holding a meeting with a third author. Meta-analysis was performed using "metaprop" command in STATA 11 software. Studies with < 25 participants were excluded from our analysis.

**Results:** Ultimately, 47 studies were included in this meta-analysis. Primary PTSD was investigated in 44 studies and secondary PTSD in six studies. Forty studies investigated natural PTSD and five studies technical PTSD. PTSD related to childbirth, job, earthquake, war, burn, accident, and rape events were investigated in seven, six, nine, nine, two, two, and two studies, respectively, and their pooled prevalence were 25%, 30%, 58%, 47%, 40%, 11%, and 74%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** The results revealed that the burden of PTSD among the Iranian population exposed to wars and disasters is high. PTSD was correlated with a range of factors including demographic and background factors and characteristics of the event exposure.

Keywords: Disasters, Iran, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Prevalence, War

### 1. Context

The high prevalence of trauma and disaster exposure, as well as their subsequent complications, for both survivors and community as a whole highlights the need for the secondary prevention of (post-traumatic stress disorder) PTSD (1).

Traumatic events have a different distribution of incidence in the world. However, in several geographical regions, specific populations are frequently exposed to trauma experiences such as combats, organized violence, terrorism, and natural disasters (2, 3). Studies on PTSD suggest different trajectories in different populations due to the various types of traumatic events, living situations, psychological agents, and methodological differences (4-6).

According to the literature, the prevalence of possible traumatic experiences is greater in the USA than in Europe (7). Indeed, while the PTSD prevalence in the USA has been reported about 10% for women and 5% for men (7, 8), it is between 2.0 and 3.5% in the European population (9, 10). It is worth mentioning that PTSD is related to various mental and physical distress, as well as high economic burden (9, 10).

Iran was unfortunately invaded for eight years, during 1980 - 1988, by neighboring countries. Besides, it was exposed to several natural disasters such as the Bam earthquake in 2003 that resulted in more than 40,000 deaths. Therefore, it would be of great importance to study various aspects of PTSD in this country (11, 12), as adverse mental

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Electrophysiology Research Center, Neuroscience Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Chemical Injuries Research Center, System Biology and Poisonings Institute, Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Neuroscience Research Center, Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: PhD, Assistant Professor, Neuroscience Research Center, Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. Tel/Fax: +98-9125090473, Fax: +98-2182482144. Email: dbspaper1395@gmail.com

health effects in Iran are mostly noted in times of war and natural disasters along with PTSD as the main outcome (13).

# 2. Evidence Acquisition

### 2.1. Data and Source Search Strategy

The purpose of the study was to carry out a metaanalysis of published studies reporting the prevalence of PTSD in the Iranian population from 2000 to 2015. This study was approved by the joint council of the centers for neuroscience study in 2015. Indeed, it was reviewed by the Research Committee of Baqiyatallah University (No., 421) in 2015 and all protocols were approved.

We estimated the prevalence of PTSD in the Iranian population with a comprehensive systematic review and a meta-analysis of the literature and evidence, followed by integrating the data and analyzing the findings. We included all published studies evaluating the prevalence of PTSD in the Iran population, irrespective of their publication status or language.

### 2.2. Search Strategy

The purpose of the study was to determine the PTSD prevalence in the population at risk based on the obtained data from Iranian patients' society. Therefore, we observed both national and international databases. In October 2015, the following libraries and electronic databases were searched for potentially relevant studies: PubMed, MED-LINE via OVID, Wiley, EMBASE via OVID, ProQuest dissertations and thesis, ISI Web of knowledge, Scopus, Magiran, SID, Google Scholar, and Noormags. Notably, the terminologies used to identify these articles included: PTSD, stress disorder, post-traumatic, posttraumatic neuroses, chronic post-traumatic stress disorder, delayed-onset posttraumatic stress disorder, acute post-traumatic stress disorder, post-traumatic stress disorders, Iran. Besides, we used a suitable combination of terminologies as mentioned above for searching. We also manually checked the references of all included studies to recognize any new study.

# 2.3. Types of Outcome Measures

We labeled PTSD diagnosed patients according to the standard questionnaires and interviews (diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-IV), Mississippi scale, PTSD symptom scale (PSS-I), posttraumatic stress disorder checklist (PCL), questionnaires, and interviews for PTSD based on various criteria) implemented by clinicians or trained interviewers and individuals in these studies to recognize PTSD.

#### 2.4. Inclusion Criteria

All patients exposed to horrifying and traumatic events such as earthquakes, wars, childbirth, job, and others were included.

Notably, articles were published from 2000 to 2015. The outcome was the point prevalence of PTSD defined according to the standard tools. All of the contributors were Iranian people and had PTSD following natural or unnatural events taking place in Iran.

# 2.5. Exclusion Criteria

Studies with < 25 participants were excluded because the risk of recruitment bias was high.

### 2.6. Selection of Studies

Two reviewers independently assessed the titles and abstracts of all articles found by the searching strategy outlined above for inclusion based on predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Disagreements were resolved through discussion. If it was not helpful, a third review author was addressed in order to handle very disagreements.

### 2.7. Data Extraction

Two reviewers independently extracted data via a tested extraction sheet and disagreements were resolved through a joint meeting with a third reviewer.

Information was categorized regarding the study characteristics (year of publication, place of the study, study method quality), participants' characteristics, the cause of PTSD, accession percentage, diagnosis tool, age range, and study population.

### 2.8. Statistical Analysis

Meta-analysis was performed using "metaprop" command in STATA 11 software. This command calculates the pooled estimate after arcsine stabilizes the estimations. According to the existence of heterogeneity between studies, data were pooled using a fixed or random effects model. The heterogeneity of studies was assessed by the Cochran Q statistic. We planned to test the statistical heterogeneity with the Q test ( $\chi^2$ ,  $I^2$ , and Tau-squared statistics). The findings were considered heterogeneous if the P value was less than 0.1. Moreover,  $I^2$  was utilized to provide a model of the degree of inconsistency between the results of the studies. A value of 0% indicated no observed heterogeneity, whereas larger values showed increasing heterogeneity.

### 3. Results

Our initial search retrieved 59024 studies of PTSD following traumatic events and disasters, which had been published from 2000 to 2015 (Figure 1). However, 16111 papers were eliminated because of duplication among databases. Then, 42913 studies were included in the primary screening.

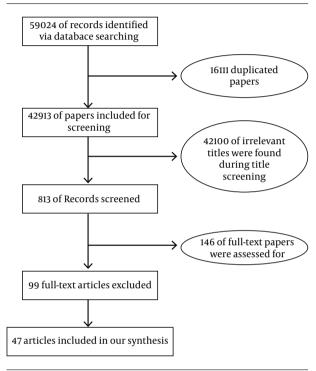


Figure 1. Systematic literature review process. The flow diagram describes the systematic review of the literature.

Upon screening the titles and abstracts, 186 studies were identified for full-text reviewing.

Finally, we scrutinized the total number of 186 full texts. In the end, after applying the inclusion/exclusion criteria, 47 studies were selected (Table 1).

# 3.1. Articles' Descriptive Characteristics

Table 1 provides a summary including the lead author, year of publication, study design, population research, subjects' roles (e.g., disaster workers), time of data collection, PTSD tool, and the main findings.

The number of participants in all studies was 16546. Based on the year, the studies were done in various years as follows: 2001 to 2005: 3 studies, 2006 to 2010: 20 studies, and 2011 to 2015: 24 studies.

Eight studies only included male participants; nine studies only female participants, and 30 studies both male and female participants. Primary PTSD was investigated in 44 studies and secondary PTSD in four studies. Forty studies investigated natural PTSD and five studies technical PTSD.

The instrument for diagnosing PTSD was divided into five categories:

- -Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-IV)
  - -Mississippi scale
  - -PTSD Symptom Scale (PSS-I)
- -Questionnaires and interviews for PTSD based on various criteria
  - -Posttraumatic stress disorder checklist (PCL)

We categorized studies according to the following PTSD causes as war, earthquake, childbirth, and job; then, we reported the prevalence of PTSD in each category.

# 3.2. PTSD Prevalence Based on the Cause of PTSD

### 3.2.1. Childbirth

Seven studies investigated PTSD following childbirth. Based on testing heterogeneity ( $\chi^2$  = 274.98, chi-square DF = 6, P  $\leq$  0.001) and heterogeneity indices (I<sup>2</sup> = 97.82% and tau-squared = 0.13), we used a random-effects model to calculate the prevalence. The pooled prevalence of PTSD in these studies was 25% [95% CI (14 - 37)]. Moreover, Begg's test [z = 0.75, P value = 0.453) showed that there was no publication bias in results. Figure 1 depicts the prevalence of PTSD in all included studies.

### 3.2.2. Job

Six studies investigated job-related PTSD. Based on the test of heterogeneity ( $\chi^2=919.57$ , chi-square DF = 6, P  $\leq$  0.001) and heterogeneity indices [I² = 99.35% and tau-squared=0.98], we used a random-effects model to calculate the prevalence. The pooled prevalence of PTSD in these studies was 30% [95% CI (4 - 66)]. Moreover, Begg's test (z = 1.65, P value = 0.1) showed that there was no publication bias in results. Figure 2 depicts the prevalence of PTSD in all included studies.

# 3.2.3. Earthquake

Nine studies investigated PTSD following earthquakes. Based on testing the heterogeneity ( $\chi^2 = 974.7$ , chi-square DF = 9, P  $\leq$  0.001) and heterogeneity indices ( $I^2 = 99.08\%$  and tau-squared = 0.32), we used a random-effects model to calculate the prevalence. The pooled prevalence of PTSD in these studies was 58% [95% CI (41-75)]. Moreover, Begg's

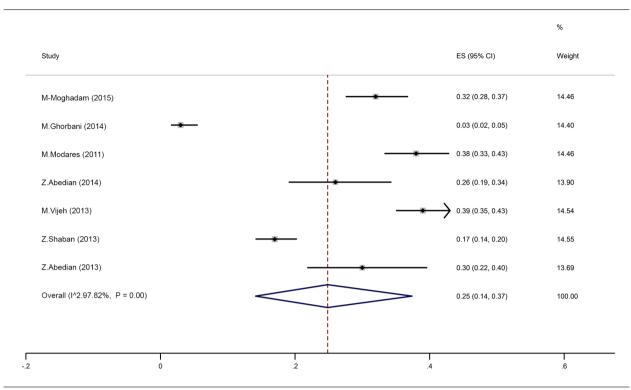


Figure 2. Forest plot for the prevalence of PTSD following childbirth

test (z = -0.8, P value = 0.42) showed that there was no publication bias in results. Figure 3 depicts the prevalence of PTSD in all included studies.

### 3.2.4. War

Nine studies investigated PTSD following the war. Based on the test of heterogeneity ( $\chi^2$  = 772.9, chi-square DF = 9, P  $\leq$  0.001) and heterogeneity indices (I<sup>2</sup> = 98.84% and tau-squared = 0.25), we used a random-effects model to calculate the prevalence. The pooled prevalence of PTSD in these studies was 47% [95% CI (32 - 63)]. Moreover, Begg's test (z = 0.45, P value = 0.65) showed that there was no publication bias in results. Figure 4 depicts the prevalence of PTSD in all included studies. In addition, among these studies, the prevalence of PTSD in four studies (one study reported two prevalence rates) related to the war veterans was 46% [95% CI (27 - 66)] and in three studies related to the civilians was 30% [95% CI (14 - 48)].

### 3.2.5. Others

Two studies were related to burns and its prevalence was 40% [95% CI (32 - 49)]. Two studies were related to accidents with the prevalence of 11% [95% CI (5 - 21)] and two

studies were related to rape victims with the prevalence of 74% [95% CI (67 - 80)].

# 4. Discussion

In the current research, the highest prevalence of PTSD was found among earthquake survivors (58%). An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale struck Bam city in Iran on December 27, 2003, that was one of the worst disasters of the century. It was disastrous and left more than 40,000 dead and about 30,000 injured people (22, 39, 42, 52). In some studies on adults survived after a disaster, the PTSD prevalence was reported between 30 and 60% (60-62). The results of our study are in agreement with these results.

According to a study by Dai et al. while the reported incidence of PTSD in survivors recognized < 9 months after an earthquake was 28.76%, the incidence of PTSD was 19.48% for survivors evaluated > 9 months after the earthquake for PTSD (63).

Sex and education level are also explanatory variables for the onset of PTSD after earthquakes. Women and those of low education level were more expected to develop PTSD, less expected to use strategies against distress, more

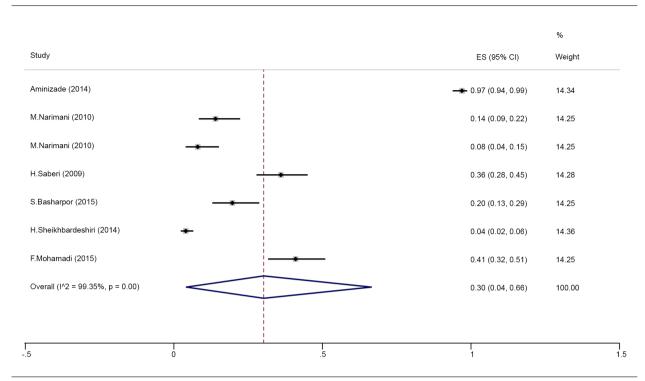


Figure 3. Forest plot for the prevalence of job-related PTSD

susceptive to threats, and more expected to evaluate disasters more negatively (63, 64).

In the current study, there were nine studies associated with wars that reported a prevalence of 47%. Furthermore, PTSD in war veterans was 46% and in the civilians was 30%. The Iran-Iraq War continued from September 1980 to August 1988, with air attacks and heavy artillery fire (37, 53). Exposure to air attacks and massive artillery fire were devastating as they were irregular and people could not avoid or predict its devastating consequences (65). In addition, based on a systematic review in Lebanon during several wars between 1975 and 2006, reported PTSD rates were between 3.7 and 35% (65). According to the mentioned studies, PTSD rates have been increased with time, which is in line with our results.

The rate of PTSD in US military veterans following the Vietnam War varied between 2 and 17% (66). The PTSD prevalence in Australian Vietnam veterans was estimated at 21% in the lifetime and 12% at present (67).

Another study reported that the PTSD rate was 21.6% in the grapes of Wrath War in 1996 and ranged from 15.4 to 35.0% in July 2006 (65). Some of these variations may be associated with the approval of various measures based on various DSM diagnostic measures for PTSD. The gap be-

tween exposure to war violence and data gathering, exposure to different types of war events, and the severity of such exposures can be considered as other factors.

In our study, the prevalence of job-related PTSD was 30%. Our literature review showed that the prevalence of PTSD in rescue workers, in general, ranged from 14% to 36%. In addition, we observed higher PTSD rates in studies carried out among ambulance workers. This is consistent with other studies (68). Several studies have confirmed that rescue operations have a higher risk of PTSD incidence (69, 70). These observations confirm that rescue workers comprise a susceptible group for the incidence of PTSD (71, 72).

According to another study, various occupational groups had different rates of risks for PTSD incidence (68, 73). However, the current study confirms the results of previous studies that ambulance workers have the highest PTSD rates among the occupational population of rescuers (68). The very high rate may be because ambulance workers are exposed to higher anxiety at work compared to other rescue groups (74). A study reported that rescuers from Asia, at least partially, have a higher PTSD prevalence compared to the European counterparts (68).

In our study, seven studies investigated PTSD follow-

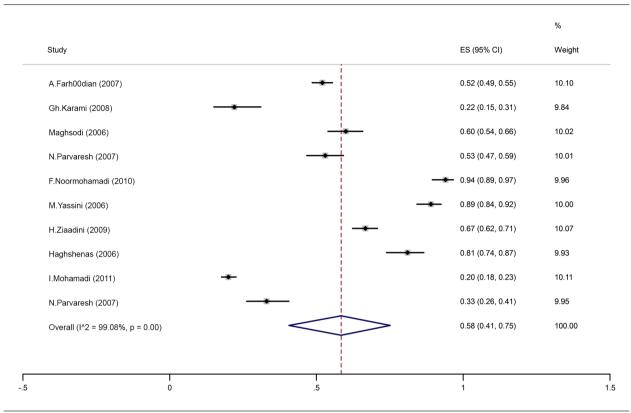


Figure 4. Forest plot for the prevalence of PTSD following earthquakes

ing childbirth and the prevalence of PTSD in these studies was 25%. PTSD after childbirth was first defined by Bydlowski and Raoul-Duval (75) with painful experiences during labor leading to tocophobia and recurrence of tension, nightmares, and flashbacks towards the end of the next pregnancy. Numerous authors afterward suggested that PTSD may occur after distressing labor or delivery (76, 77).

A difficult or traumatic birth may be an important stressor, similar to the known stressors such as violence or war causing PTSD symptoms. The stressful experience is often a pain but loss of control and fear of death can also be a kind of pain (78). Studies accomplished in the USA, Sweden, Germany, the UK, Australia, and Canada have reported a prevalence ranging from 0.9 to 5.6%. There is a meaningful relationship between the creation of PTSD and the control source, the level of social support, and the previous experience of injuries in these studies (75).

In the current study, two studies were related to burn cases, and the reported prevalence was 40%. In other studies, the pain was also associated with PTSD incidence in injured patients including burn patients (79, 80). Moreover, in our study, two studies were related to accidents with the

prevalence of 11% and two studies were related to rape victims with the prevalence of 74%.

Post-traumatic stress disorder in events that cause significant damage should be checked as this disorder develops especially two months after the accident. Driving accidents are responsible for more than 50% of deaths worldwide at the age of 15 - 44 (81). In Iran, driving accidents are the second leading cause of death (82). In a systematic review by Olofsson et al. which examined 12 studies on post-traumatic stress disaster related to accidents, 29% of post-traumatic stress was reported to reduce to 13% after 3 - 6 months of injury (83).

Violence and sexual harassment are of important issues that are considered in many perspectives such as psychological, social, cultural, demographic, political, and health viewpoints, and are observed in all countries and all social, cultural, and religious groups as they affect thousands of women every year. However, it is believed that over 80% of sexual harassment cases are not reported and the actual incidence is higher than what is now reflected (21). The results of a study by Zinzow et al. showed about 30% to 50% of victims developed PTSD after the onset of

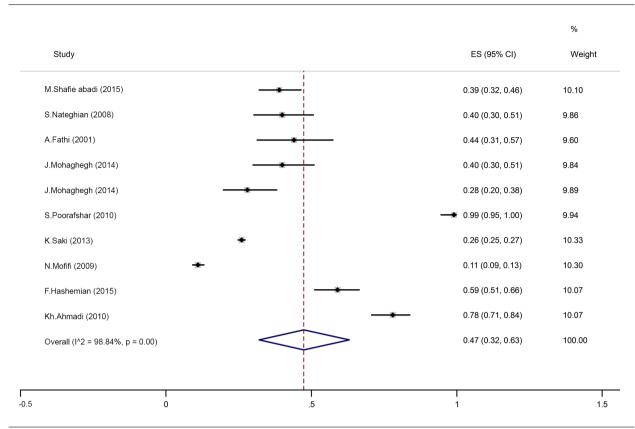


Figure 5. Forest plot for the prevalence of PTSD following the war

PTSD symptoms (84). In addition, in a study by Alynch, the prevalence of PTSD was reported to follow completely different rates. In victims with less experience of sexual harassment, this rate was 4%, and in those with a higher degree of sexual harassment, it was 80% (85).

In this study, our purpose was to carry out a systematic review of the evidence regarding PTSD following the war and disasters that might recommend a direction for research and intervention. Arguably, the available information is sufficient to suggest plausible ranges of PTSD prevalence that can be expected after war and disasters, within the particular exposure groups.

The current study had some limitations. We opted to include a wide range of PTSD studies, with differences in methodologies. In addition, this meta-analysis only included cross-sectional studies, making to understand the temporal order of correlations between explanatory variables and PTSD. This study has several strengths including the fact that this is the first systematic review of PTSD prevalence in the Iranian population.

# 5. Conclusions

The results suggest that the burden of PTSD among Iranian populations exposed to war and disasters is substantial. PTSD is correlated with a range of factors including sociodemographic and background factors and event exposure characteristics. It is suggested that counseling and treatment services at hospital and community levels be provided to improve the deleterious consequences of war and disasters in these vulnerable groups in the Iranian population.

#### **Footnotes**

**Authors' Contribution:** All the authors contributed to the design, analysis, and writing of the draft. All authors have approved the final manuscript.

**Declaration of Interest:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

**Funding/Support:** This study was supported by the Neuroscience Research Centre, Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

### References

- Kearns MC, Ressler KJ, Zatzick D, Rothbaum BO. Early interventions for PTSD: A review. *Depress Anxiety*. 2012;29(10):833-42. doi: 10.1002/da.21997. [PubMed: 22941845]. [PubMed Central: PMC3665083].
- Brunello N, Davidson JR, Deahl M, Kessler RC, Mendlewicz J, Racagni G, et al. Posttraumatic stress disorder: Diagnosis and epidemiology, comorbidity and social consequences, biology and treatment. *Neu-ropsychobiology*. 2001;43(3):150–62. doi: 10.1159/000054884. [PubMed: 11287794].
- 3. Kessler RC. Posttraumatic stress disorder: The burden to the individual and to society. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2000;**61 Suppl 5**:4–12. discussion 13-4. [PubMed: 10761674].
- Brewin CR, Andrews B, Valentine JD. Meta-analysis of risk factors for posttraumatic stress disorder in trauma-exposed adults. *J Con*sult Clin Psychol. 2000;68(5):748–66. doi: 10.1037/0022-006X.68.5.748. [PubMed: 11068961].
- Ozer EJ, Best SR, Lipsey TL, Weiss DS. Predictors of posttraumatic stress disorder and symptoms in adults: A meta-analysis. *Psychol Bull.* 2003;129(1):52-73. doi: 10.1037/0033-2909.129.1.52. [PubMed: 12555794].
- Schnurr PP, Lunney CA, Sengupta A. Risk factors for the development versus maintenance of posttraumatic stress disorder. J Trauma Stress. 2004;17(2):85–95. doi: 10.1023/B:JOTS.0000022614.21794.f4. [PubMed: 15141781].
- Wittchen HU, Gloster A, Beesdo K, Schonfeld S, Perkonigg A. Posttraumatic stress disorder: Diagnostic and epidemiological perspectives. CNS Spectr. 2009;14(1 Suppl 1):5-12. [PubMed: 19169189].
- Kessler RC, Sonnega A, Bromet E, Hughes M, Nelson CB. Posttraumatic stress disorder in the National Comorbidity Survey. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 1995;52(12):1048-60. doi: 10.1001/archpsyc.1995.03950240066012. [PubMed: 7492257].
- Kessler RC, Coccaro EF, Fava M, Jaeger S, Jin R, Walters E. The prevalence and correlates of DSM-IV intermittent explosive disorder in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2006;63(6):669–78. doi: 10.1001/archpsyc.63.6.669. [PubMed: 16754840]. [PubMed Central: PMC1924721].
- Wittchen HU, Jacobi F, Rehm J, Gustavsson A, Svensson M, Jonsson B, et al. The size and burden of mental disorders and other disorders of the brain in Europe 2010. Eur Neuropsychopharmacol. 2011;21(9):655– 79. doi: 10.1016/j.euroneuro.2011.07.018. [PubMed: 21896369].
- Hashtjini MM, Jahromi GP, Sadr SS, Meftahi GH, Hatef B, Javidnazar D. Deep brain stimulation in a rat model of posttraumatic stress disorder modifies forebrain neuronal activity and serum corticosterone. *Iran J Basic Med Sci.* 2018;21(4):370–5. doi: 10.22038/IJBMS.2018.27482.6705. [PubMed: 29796219]. [PubMed Central: PMC5960752].
- Asalgoo S, Tat M, Sahraei H, Pirzad Jahromi G. The psychoactive agent crocin can regulate hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activity. Front Neurosci. 2017;11:668. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2017.00668. [PubMed: 29249934]. [PubMed Central: PMC5717018].
- Asalgoo S, Jahromi GP, Meftahi GH, Sahraei H. Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD): Mechanisms and possible treatments. *Neurophysiology*. 2016;47(6):482–9. doi: 10.1007/s11062-016-9559-9.
- Firouzkouhi Moghadam M, Shamsi A, Hajizadeh Moro F. The prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among women with normal vaginal delivery in Zahedan city. Arch Psychiatry Psychother. 2015;17(1):15-9. doi:10.12740/app/37943.
- Naderi M, Firouzkoohi Moghadam M, Hamzenejad M, Emamdadi A, Karami H. Post-traumatic stress disorder and related factors in parents of children with cancer in South-East of iran. Iran Red Crescent

- *Med J.* 2012;**14**(12):776–81. doi: 10.5812/ircmj.2163. [PubMed: 23483014]. [PubMed Central: PMC3587866].
- Sadeghi-Bazargani H, Maghsoudi H, Soudmand-Niri M, Ranjbar F, Mashadi-Abdollahi H. Stress disorder and PTSD after burn injuries: A prospective study of predictors of PTSD at Sina Burn Center, Iran. Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat. 2011;7:425–9. doi: 10.2147/NDT.S23041. [PubMed: 21857783]. [PubMed Central: PMC3157486].
- Khajeh Mougahi N, Nazemi S. [The Investigation of post-traumatic syndrome disease symptoms among children less than 6 years, 3 months after bombing in Ahvaz]. Jundishapur Sci Med J. 2009;7(4):520– 6. Persian.
- Aminizadeh M, Tirgari B, Iranmanesh S, Garoosi B, Karimi M, Sheikh-Bardsiri H. [Post-traumatic stress disorder prevalence in employees of emergency departments of teaching hospitals affiliated to Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Iran]. J Manage Med Inform Sch. 2013;1(1):18-25. Persian.
- Ghorbani M, Dolatian M, Shams J, Majd H. [Compare of post traumatic stress disorder between parents of term and pre term infants]. J Shahid Beheshti Sch Nurs Midwifery. 2015;24. Persian. doi: 10.22037/anm.v24i86.8672.
- Shafiee Kamalabadi M, Bigdeli I, Alavi K, Kianersi F. [Prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder and comorbid personality disorders in the groups veterans Tehran city]. J Clan Psycol. 2014;6(1):75–65. Persian.
- Kharamin SA, Gorji R, Amini K. [The prevalence rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the rape victims of Kohgiloyeh and Boyairahmad province during (2011-2012)]. Iran J Forensic Med. 2012;18(2):99– 106. Persian.
- Farhoudian A, Sharifi V, Rahimi Movaghar A, Radgoudarzi R, Mohammadi M, Younesian M, et al. [The prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder and its symptoms among Bam earthquake survivors]. Adv Cogn Sci. 2006;8(3):58-7. Persian.
- Donyavi V, Shafighi F, Rouhani SM, Hosseini S, Kazemi J, Arghanoun S. [The prevalence of PTSD in conscript and official staff of earth force in Tehran during 2005-6]. Ann Mil Health Sci Res. 2007;5(1):1121-5. Persian.
- Modares M, Mir Molai S, Rahimi Kian F, Sadighe Afrasyabi S. [Examination of prevalence of after childbirth and related factors]. *J Hayat*. 2010;16(66-76). Persian.
- Karami GR, Motaghed M, Anisi J, Ameli J, Kachouei H, Ghodousi K, et al. [Psychological sequels of Barn earthquake]. J Behav Sci. 2007;1:27– 32. Persian.
- Narimani M, Zahed A, Basharpoor S. [Prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder in hospital emergency nurses and fire department workers in Uremia city]. J Res Behav Sci. 2010;8:69–74. Persian.
- Khodadadi N, Ghanbari Khanghah A, Mousavi SM, Khaleghdoost T, Mousavi SMJ. [Related factors to onset of post-traumatic stress disorder after road accidents]. J Holist Nurs Midwifery. 2014;24(2):9-17. Persian.
- Saberi HR, Abbasian H, Kashani MM, Esfahani AH. Post-traumatic stress disorder: A neglected health concern among commercial motor vehicle drivers. Int J Occup Environ Med. 2013;4(4):185–94. [PubMed: 24141867].
- Haji Maghsoudi F, Yasini M, Karimzadeh A. [Prevalence of psychological disorders in youth after natural disasters]. J Med Res. 2004;3:56–67.
- 30. Vasegh Rahimparvar SF, Mottaghi B, Daneshparvar H, Jafari A. [The study of post-traumatic stress disorder in women complaining of rape referred to legal medicine center in Tehran in 2013]. *Iran J Forensic Med.* 2015;21(1):47–52. Persian.
- 31. Andy Z, Sahbaei F, Mahmoodi M. [The comparison of the rate of posttraumatic stress disorder in minor and moderate patients with burn]. *Iran J Nurs*. 2006;**19**(45):49–56. Persian.
- 32. Abedian Z, Soltani N, Mokhber N, Esmaeily H. Comparing posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in primiparous and multiparous

- women with preeclampsia. *J Midwifery Reprod Health*. 2013;1:13-8. doi: 10.22038/imrh.2013.755.
- Parvaresh N, Bahram Negad A. PTSD in Bam student survivors immigrated to Kerman 4 months after earthquake. Iran J Psychiatry Clin Psychol. 2006;12:165-8.
- 34. Nateghian S, Molazadeh J, Goudarzi MA, Rahimi C. [Forgiveness and marital satisfaction in combat veterans with post traumatic stress disorder and their wives]. *Q J Fundam Mental Health*. 2008;**10**(37):33–46. Persian.
- Fathi Ashtiani A, Karaminia R. [Examination of Clinical Appearance some of the Psychological traumas of war]. J Mil Med. 2002;4(225-9). Persian.
- 36. Mohaghegh Motlagh SJ, Momtazi S, Mousavinasab S, Arab A, Saboori E, Saburi A. [Post-traumatic stress disorder in male chemical injured war veterans compared to non-chemical war veterans]. *Med J Mashhad Univ Med Sci.* 2014;**56**:361–8. Persian.
- Azampor Afshar S, Ahmadi K, Alyasi M. Examination of secondary PTSD and marital satisfaction among to spouses of veterans with PTSD. J Mil Psychol. 2009;1:67-76.
- Vizeh M, Kazemnejaz A, Afrasiabi S, Rouyhi M, Hassan M, Habibzadeh
  [Prevalance of post traumatic stress disorder after childbirth and its precipitating factors]. Hormozgan Med J. 2012;16(4):309-16. Persian.
- 39. Noor Mohammadi F, Ataei F. Post- traumatic stress disorder in survivors of Bam earthquake. J Dev Psychol. 2009;6:35–46.
- Attari A, Dashti S, Mahmodi M. [PTSD in Primary school student's witness of hanging Iran]. [Psychiatry Clin Psychol. 2006;12:129–33. Persian.
- 41. Nohi S, Azar M, Tavalai A, Karami G. [Examination of PTSD in the Aggressive patients Referred to the hospital's psychiatric clinic on 2005]. *J Mil Med*. 2006;8:175–81. Persian.
- 42. Yassini M, Hosseini F. Post traumatic stress disorders symptoms after bam earthquake. *Pak J Med Sci.* 2006;**22**(4):477–9.
- 43. Saki K, Rafieian-Kopaei M, Bahmani M. [The study of intensity and frequency of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from war in Ilam city]. *Life Sci J.* 2013;**10**(7s):407-17. Persian.
- Saberi H, Maroji A, Ghorishi. F, Hydary Z, Maroji A. [Examination of PTSD in Staff emergency of Kashan and Arak in 2008]. Feyz. 2009;12(1-6). Persian.
- Hemmati MA, Shokoohi H, Masoumi M, Khateri S, Soroush M, Modirian E, et al. Mental health disorders in child and adolescent survivors of post-war landmine explosions. *Mil Med Res.* 2015;2:30. doi:10.1186/s40779-015-0052-3. [PubMed: 26568841]. [PubMed Central: PMC4644284]
- Mirzamani SA, Mohammadi MR, Chara Jr PJ, Chara KA. PTSD symptoms of survivors of an airline event in Tehran. Arch Med Sci. 2007;3(2):173.
- 47. Mofidi N. [Studies on mental health in Kurdistan-Iran][dissertations]. Umeå University Medical; 2009. Persian.
- Shaban Z, Dolatian M, Shams J, Alavi-Majd H, Mahmoodi Z, Sajjadi H. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following childbirth: prevalence and contributing factors. *Iran Red Crescent Med J.* 2013;15(3):177–82. doi: 10.5812/ircmj.2312. [PubMed: 23983994]. [PubMed Central: PMC3745743].
- Abedian Z, Soltani N, Mokhber N, Esmaili H. [Examination of prevalence PTSD after childbirth with Preeclampsia and related factors]. *Iran J Obstet Gynecol Infertil.* 2013;16(90):16–24. Persian. doi: 10.22038/IJOGI.2013.2162.
- Sadat Z, Abdi M, Aghajani M. Prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder and related factors among patients discharged from critical care units in Kashan, Iran. Arch Trauma Res. 2015;4(4). e28466. doi: 10.5812/atr.28466. [PubMed: 26848472]. [PubMed Central: PMC4733532].
- 51. Amirian BSC. Characteristics of post traumatic stress disorder in the witnesses to victims of self-immolation. *Iran J Psychiatry*. 2008;**3**(2):52–

- 4.
- 52. Ziaaddini. Prevalence and correlates of PTSD among High school students after the earthquake disaster in the city of Bam, Iran. *Am J Appl Sci.* 2009;**6**(1):130–2. doi: 10.3844/ajassp.2009.130.132.
- 53. Hashemian F, Khoshnood K, Desai MM, Falahati F, Kasl S, Southwick S. Anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress in Iranian survivors of chemical warfare. *JAMA*. 2006;**296**(5):560-6. doi: 10.1001/jama.296.5.560. [PubMed: 16882962].
- Basharpoor S, Narimani M, Atadokht A. The role of attachment styles in the prediction of posttraumatic stress disorder in emergency nurses. J Crit Care Nurs. 2015;7:237–44.
- Sheikhbardsiri H, Sarhadi M, Abdollahyar A, Dastres M, Sheikh Rabari A, Aminizadeh M. The relationship between personality traits and post-traumatic stress disorder among EMS personnel and hospital emergency staffs. J Crit Care Nurs. 2015;8:35–42.
- Hagh-Shenas H, Goodarzi MA, Farajpoor M, Zamyad A. Post-traumatic stress disorder among survivors of Bam earthquake 40 days after the event. *East Mediterr Health J.* 2006;12 Suppl 2:S118–25. [PubMed: 17361683].
- 57. Mohamadi F. [Prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder and its Correlation with feature personality in nurses of vali asre hospital in Fasa on 2014] [dissertation]. Fasa University; 2014. Persian.
- Ahmadi K, Reshdatjo M, Karami G. [Frequently of PTSD Sardasht's chemically veterans]. Urmia Med J. 2010;21:1-9. Persian.
- Mohamadi I, Mohamadkhani P, Dolatshahi B, Golzari M. [Posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms and their comorbidity with other disorders in eleven to sixteen years old adolescents in the city of Bam]. Iran J Psychiatry Clin Psychol. 2010;16(3):187–94. Persian.
- 60. Green BL, Lindy JD, Grace MC, Leonard AC. Chronic posttraumatic stress disorder and diagnostic comorbidity in a disaster sample. *J Nerv Ment Dis.* 1992;**180**(12):760–6. doi: 10.1097/00005053-199212000-00004. [PubMed: 1469374].
- Galea S, Nandi A, Vlahov D. The epidemiology of post-traumatic stress disorder after disasters. *Epidemiol Rev.* 2005;27:78–91. doi: 10.1093/epirev/mxi003. [PubMed: 15958429].
- Yule W, Bolton D, Udwin O, Boyle S, O'Ryan D, Nurrish J. The long-term psychological effects of a disaster experienced in adolescence: I: The incidence and course of PTSD. J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2000;41(4):503-11. doi: 10.1111/1469-7610.00635. [PubMed: 10836680].
- 63. Dai W, Chen L, Lai Z, Li Y, Wang J, Liu A. The incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder among survivors after earthquakes: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC Psychiatry*. 2016;16:188. doi: 10.1186/s12888-016-0891-9. [PubMed: 27267874]. [PubMed Central: PMC4895994].
- 64. Priebe S, Grappasonni I, Mari M, Dewey M, Petrelli F, Costa A. Post-traumatic stress disorder six months after an earthquake: Findings from a community sample in a rural region in Italy. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. 2009;**44**(5):393–7. doi: 10.1007/s00127-008-0441-y. [PubMed: 18836882].
- Shaar KH. Post-traumatic stress disorder in adolescents in Lebanon as wars gained in ferocity: A systematic review. J Public Health Res. 2013;2(2):e17. doi: 10.4081/jphr.2013.e17. [PubMed: 25170488]. [PubMed Central: PMC4147728].
- Richardson LK, Frueh BC, Acierno R. Prevalence estimates of combatrelated post-traumatic stress disorder: Critical review. Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2010;44(1):4-19. doi: 10.3109/00048670903393597. [PubMed: 20073563]. [PubMed Central: PMC2891773].
- 67. O'Toole BI, Marshall RP, Grayson DA, Schureck RJ, Dobson M, Ffrench M, et al. The Australian Vietnam veterans health study: III. psychological health of Australian Vietnam veterans and its relationship to combat. *Int J Epidemiol*. 1996;25(2):331-40. doi: 10.1093/ije/25.2.319. [PubMed: 9119558].

- Berger W, Coutinho ES, Figueira I, Marques-Portella C, Luz MP, Neylan TC, et al. Rescuers at risk: A systematic review and meta-regression analysis of the worldwide current prevalence and correlates of PTSD in rescue workers. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 2012;47(6):1001-11. doi: 10.1007/s00127-011-0408-2. [PubMed: 21681455]. [PubMed Central: PMC3974968].
- Fullerton CS, Ursano RJ, Wang L. Acute stress disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, and depression in disaster or rescue workers. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2004;**161**(8):1370–6. doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.161.8.1370. [PubMed: 15285961].
- Long ME, Meyer DL, Jacobs GA. Psychological distress among American Red Cross disaster workers responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Psychiatry Res. 2007;149(1-3):303–8. doi: 10.1016/j.psychres.2006.05.022. [PubMed: 17113159].
- North CS, Tivis L, McMillen JC, Pfefferbaum B, Cox J, Spitznagel EL, et al. Coping, functioning, and adjustment of rescue workers after the Oklahoma city bombing. *J Trauma Stress*. 2002;15(3):171–5. doi: 10.1023/A:1015286909111. [PubMed: 12092908].
- 72. Berger W, Figueira I, Maurat AM, Bucassio EP, Vieira I, Jardim SR, et al. Partial and full PTSD in Brazilian ambulance workers: Prevalence and impact on health and on quality of life. *J Trauma Stress*. 2007;20(4):637–42. doi: 10.1002/jts.20242. [PubMed: 17721969].
- Marmar CR, Weiss DS, Metzler TJ, Ronfeldt HM, Foreman C. Stress responses of emergency services personnel to the Loma Prieta earth-quake Interstate 880 freeway collapse and control traumatic incidents. *J Trauma Stress*. 1996;9(1):63-85. doi: 10.1002/jts.2490090107. [PubMed: 8750452].
- 74. Young KM, Cooper CL. Occupational stress in the ambulance service: A diagnostic study. *Health Manpow Manage*. 1997;**23**(4-5):140-7. [PubMed: 10173518].
- Adewuya AO, Ologun YA, Ibigbami OS. Post-traumatic stress disorder after childbirth in Nigerian women: Prevalence and risk factors. BJOG. 2006;113(3):284–8. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2006.00861.x. [PubMed: 16487199].
- 76. Ayers S, Pickering AD. Do women get posttraumatic stress disor-

- der as a result of childbirth? A prospective study of incidence. *Birth.* 2001;**28**(2):111-8. doi: 10.1046/j.1523-536X.2001.00111.x. [PubMed: 11380382].
- Ballard CG, Stanley AK, Brockington IF. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after childbirth. Br J Psychiatry. 1995;166(4):525–8. doi: 10.1192/bjp.166.4.525. [PubMed: 7795928].
- Pantlen A, Rohde A. [Psychologic effects of traumatic live deliveries].
  Zentralbl Gynakol. 2001;123(1):42–7. German. doi: 10.1055/s-2001-12025.
  [PubMed: 11385911].
- Van Loey NE, Maas CJ, Faber AW, Taal LA. Predictors of chronic posttraumatic stress symptoms following burn injury: Results of a longitudinal study. *J Trauma Stress*. 2003;16(4):361-9. doi: 10.1023/A:1024465902416. [PubMed: 12895019].
- McGhee LL, Slater TM, Garza TH, Fowler M, DeSocio PA, Maani CV. The relationship of early pain scores and posttraumatic stress disorder in burned soldiers. *J Burn Care Res.* 2011;32(1):46–51. doi: 10.1097/BCR.0b013e318204b359. [PubMed: 21131845].
- Wang CH, Tsay SL, Bond AE. Post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and quality of life in patients with traffic-related injuries. *J Adv Nurs*. 2005;52(1):22–30. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2005.03560.x. [PubMed: 16149977].
- Kashani AT, Shariat-Mohaymany A, Ranjbari A. Analysis of factors associated with traffic injury severity on rural roads in Iran. *J Inj Violence Res*. 2012;4(1):36–41. doi: 10.5249/jivr.v4ii.67. [PubMed: 21502788]. [PubMed Central: PMC3291279].
- 83. Olofsson E, Bunketorp O, Andersson AL. Children and adolescents injured in traffic-associated psychological consequences: A literature review. *Acta Paediatr*. 2009;98(1):17–22. doi: 10.1111/j.1651-2227.2008.00998.x. [PubMed: 18795910].
- 84. Zinzow HM, Resnick HS, McCauley JL, Amstadter AB, Ruggiero KJ, Kilpatrick DG. The role of rape tactics in risk for posttraumatic stress disorder and major depression: Results from a national sample of college women. *Depress Anxiety*. 2010;27(8):708-15. doi: 10.1002/da.20719. [PubMed: 20602431].
- 85. Alynch V. Forensic nursing. Elsevier Mosby; 2006. p. 283-5.

Table 1. Characteristics of Studies

First Author (Ref.)	Year	Year of Event	Duration of Identification	Total Sample Size	Male Sample Size	Female Sample Size	Prevalence Pr	Prevalence Primary/Secondary Natural/Technical PTSD PTSD	Natural/Technical PTSD	Age Range	Study Population	PTSD Cause	Tools
Firouzkouhi Moghadam (14)	2015		6 to 24 weeks after delivery	400		400	0.32	а	z		Women with childbirth	Childbirth	PSS-I
Naderi (15)	2012	2009-2010		256			0.2	S	z	29-75	Parents of children with cancer	Disease	PTSD standard questionnaire according To DSM-IV
Sadeghi-Bazargani (16)	2011	2009-2010	3.5 after event	B			0.31	d.	z	16-65	Burn patients	Burn	PCL-DSM4V-TR
Khajeh Mougahi (17)	2008	2008	3 months after bombing	62	42	20	0.63	ě.	⊢	4-6	Children near bombing place	Explosion	Questionnaire for people under 15 years based on DSM-IV
Aminizadeh (18)	2014	2011		240	171	79	0.97	Ь	z		Emergency staff	qof	Mississippi scale
Ghorbani (19)	2014	2011	2 months after childbirth	328	164	164	0.03	۵	z	28.2	Woman with preterm and tern pregnancy	childbirth	DSM-VI
Shafiee Kamalabadi (20)	2015	1980-1988	26 years after the war	172	22.1		0.39	d	z		Veterans	War	Mississippi scale
Kharamin (21)	2013	2011 - 2012		70		70	16.0	۵	z	7-40	Victims of rape	Rape	PTSD checklist-clinical interview
Farhoudian (22)	2007	2004	8 months after the earthquake	786			0.52	<u>a</u>	z	15 - 75	Earthquake survivors	Earthquake	CIDI
Donyavi (23)	2008	2005		355	335		0.15	ē.	z	20.68	Army staff in Tehran	Explosion and Accident	DSM-IV-TR criteria by psychiatrists
Modares(24)	2011	2008	6 to 8 weeks after childbirth	400		400	0.38	۵	z	25-30	Pregnantwomen	Childbirth	PSS-1-DSM-IV
Karami (25)	2008	2004	16 days after event	100	55	45	0.22	ů.	z	14-32	Earthquake Survivors	Earthquake	Interview based on questionnaire
Narimani (26)	2010	2008		100	18	82	0.14	Ь	z		Emergency staff	lob	Mississippi scale
Narimani (26)	2010	2008		100	06	10	0.08	Д	z		Firefighter staff	qof	Mississippi scale
Khodadadi (27)	2015	2010	1 month after event	68			0.023	d.	Т	18-65	Victims of road accident	Accident	SRS-PTSD
Saberi (28)	2009	2008		121	121		0.36	А	z		Emergency staff	qof	PTSS-10-DSM-IV, IES-15-DSM-IV
Haji Maghso udi (29)	2006	2004	A Few months after the earth quake	259			9.0	d.	z	17-18	Earthquake Survivors	Earthquake	CPSS-DSM-IV
Vasegh Rahi mparvar (30)	2015	2012 - 2013	6 weeks after rape	130		130	0.62	<u>c</u>	z	20 - 30	Rape Victims	Rape	PSS-I
Andy (31)	2007	2005		80	80		0.47	Ь	z	20 - 40	Burn patients	Burn	PSS-I -DSM-Iv
Abedian (32)	2014	2013		127		127	0.26	а	z		Women with pre-eclampsia	Childbirth	Prenatal Posttraumatic Stress
Parvaresh (33)	2007	2003	4 months after the earthquake	243	175	89	0.53	А	Z	Under 15	Bam students	Earthquake	PPQ
Nateghian (34)	2008	1980-1988	20 years after the war	84	42	42	6.4	c.	z	Men:40-49, women:30-39	Spouses of weterans with PTSD	War	Mississippi scale
Fathi Ashtiani (35)	20 01	1980-1988	14 years after the war	52	52		0.44	۵	z		Psychological war veterans	War	Davidian questionnaire based on semistructured interviews
Mohaghegh Motlagh (36)	2014	1980-1988	25 years after the war	08	80		0.4	P & s	z		Chemically injured veterans	War	PCL-M [U+0648] IES-R
Mohaghegh Motlagh (36)	2014	1980-1988	25 years after the war	88	68		0.28	۵	z		No-chemically injured veterans	War	PCL-M [U+0648] IES-R
Azampor Afshar (37)	2010	1980-1988	Yearlong	100		100	0.99	S	z		Spouses of veterans	War	Mississippi scale

6 to 8 weeks after childbirth
. 200 200
3 months after the 226 earth quake
25 years after the war 5110
Road accident 385 385 yearlong
years after the war 78 67
. 39
. 1000
6 to 8 weeks after 600 childbirth
. 332 191
. 1000
10 years after the 466 earth quake
16 years after the war 153
. 100
- 400
40 days after the 145 earthquake
. 100 +9
5 months after the 259 earthquake
20 years after the war 150
10 months after the 1000 earthquake
4 months after the 160 earthquake

Abbewatons: CAPS, clinician-administered PTSD scale for DSM-5; CIDi, composite international diagnostic interview, CPS, child PTSD symptom scale; IESE, impact of event scale; IESE, impact interview for IESE, impact inte