



Background

- ◆ Veterans are a special interest group within carceral settings despite making up only 1.6% of the population (Marushak et al., 2021).
 - ◆ An estimated 107,600 veterans were serving time in a state or federal prison in 2016. (Marushak et al., 2021). (Figure 1)
- ◆ Though Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is estimated to exist in 1-6% of the general civilian community, it is far more prevalent in the justice involved civilian populations, jumping up to between 25-55% (Yasmeen et al., 2021).
 - ◆ Among veterans, these prevalence rates are similarly elevated, ranging from 3-36% (Blodgett et al, 2015).
- ◆ Along with BPD, Substance Use Disorder (SUDs) emerges as a prevalent comorbid diagnosis (Trull et al., 2000), associated with higher treatment utilization (Tomko et al., 2014).

- ◆ BPD correlates with higher treatment-seeking behaviors for substance-use counseling or mental health services (Yasmeen et al., 2021) in carceral settings in the civilian population. (Figure 2). Statistics are not know for the veteran population.

Objectives of Proposed Study

- ◆ Given the significant associations between BPD and SUDs (Trull et al., 2000), recognizing the interactions between these disorders supports positive mental health and physical health outcomes for veterans.
- ◆ Understanding the existing trends of treatment seeking behaviors in the population of incarcerated Veterans with BPD and SUD will allow for more targeted intervention and treatment in this setting.
- ◆ These new designed interventions, informed by this research, will increase participant engagement, treatment retention, and effectively delivered care.

Hypotheses

- 1) BPD- SUD comorbidity will predict higher treatment utilization than mono-diagnosis of either, among justice involved veterans.
- 2) BPD – SUD comorbidity will see levels of higher justice involvement than mono-diagnosis among veterans.
- 3) Veterans with comorbid diagnosis will have inferior health outcomes compared to veterans with a mono-diagnosis.

Figure 1: BPD and Treatment-Seeking Trends

Pulled from Marushak et al., 2017, this figure represents the estimated number of incarcerated Veterans at the state and federal levels. Applying the information from Blodgett et al., 2015, BPD prevalence may range from 3-36% of this population.

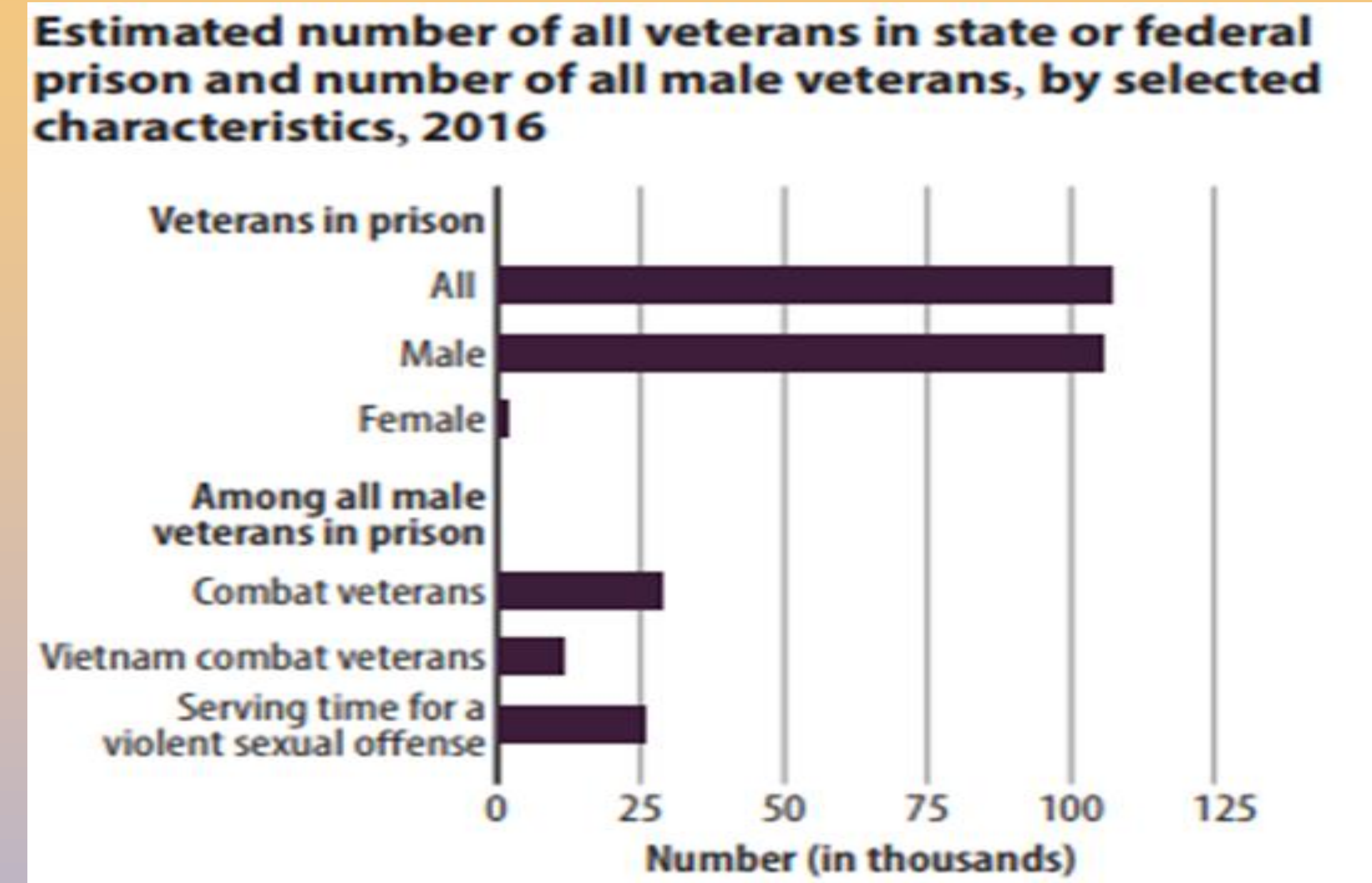


Figure 2: BPD and Treatment-seeking Trends in Carceral Settings

Pulled from Yasmeen et al., 2021, this figure demonstrates the existing literature in intercorrelations of treatment seeking behaviors in the incarcerated civilian community. There were moderate to strong correlations between incarcerated treatment seeking individuals with BPD who were substance use treatment-seeking (.640**) and psychoeducation treatment-seeking (.648**). There is no existing data to support that this trend is maintained within the veteran population.

Variable	1	2	3	4	5
1. BPD features					
2. Any treatment-seeking ^a	0.155**				
3. Psychoeducation	0.067	0.648**			
4. Substance use treatment	0.226**	0.640**	0.417**		
5. Support group	0.059	0.552**	0.401**	0.349**	
6. Forensic mental health services	0.323**	0.334**	0.204**	0.233**	0.183**

For Consideration

All procedures will be in accordance with IRB protocols and participants will be required to electronically sign informed consent forms, acknowledging the voluntary nature of the study and that no personally identifiable information will be recorded. Participant email address will be required to ensure that an individual does not erroneously participate more than once. Assessment completion time will be recorded. Assessments which are clear outliers in completion will be discarded from analysis.

Prospective Methods: Participants

- ◆ This study will rely on a confirmatory cross-sectional methodology. Participant will be recruited through crowdsourcing software such as M-turk.
- ◆ All participants must be veterans over the age of 18 and must have the following life experiences, confirmed through assessment.
 - ◆ Meet diagnostic threshold of BPD
 - ◆ May or may not have a history of SUD
 - ◆ Have served time in a state or federal prison setting
 - ◆ Have access to a computer to complete assessments

Prospective Methods: Assessment

- ◆ McLean Screening Instrument for BPD (Zimmerman & Balling, 2021)
- ◆ Drug Abuse Screen Test (DAST-10) (Skinner, 1982)
- ◆ General Health Questionnaire-12 (Hystad & Johnson, 2020)
- ◆ Treatment Utilization Questionnaire (open response)
- ◆ The Criminal Justice Involvement scale (Morris & Slocum, 2010)

Citations

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