



## POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER Factsheet

August 2021

### What is prevalence?

This topic presents the evidence for the prevalence of PTSD in people exposed to abuse and violence. Prevalence represents the overall proportion of individuals in a population who have PTSD. It is different from incidence, which represents only the new cases that have developed over a particular time period. Point prevalence is the proportion of individuals in a population who have the disorder at a given point in time (e.g., at one-month post-trauma), while period prevalence is the proportion of individuals in a population who have the disorder over specific time periods (e.g., one to two months post-trauma). Lifetime prevalence is the proportion of individuals in a population who have ever had the disorder and lifetime morbid risk also includes those who had the disorder but were deceased at the time of the survey.

### What is the evidence for the prevalence of PTSD in bereaved people?

Moderate quality evidence finds the lifetime prevalence of PTSD in homicidally bereaved people is between 19.1% and 71%, while current prevalence is between 5.2% and 6%. Time frames varied for measurement of PTSD post-homicide, from 4 months to 5 years.

Moderate to low quality evidence finds the prevalence of PTSD in bereaved children between 4 months and 2.6 years after the World Trade Centre attack was 29.6%. Prevalence in non-bereaved children after the attack was 2.9%.

Moderate to low quality evidence found the prevalence of PTSD in mothers after the loss of an infant ranged from 23% to 49.1% within 3 months post-loss, from 0.6% to 37% between 3 months and 12 months post-loss, and from 3.3% to 15.2% by 18 years post-loss. In fathers, prevalence of PTSD ranged from 5% to 8.4% between 7 weeks and 18 years post-loss.

For more information see the technical table

### HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at [neura.edu.au/donate](http://neura.edu.au/donate)



*NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.*

*Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.*

*Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.*

*While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about PTSD and its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.*