



NeuRA

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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER LIBRARY

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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER Factsheet

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What is prevalence?

Many studies have reported a high prevalence of various health problems, including mental health problems, among people in forensic settings. Prevalence represents the overall proportion of individuals in a population who have the disorder of interest. 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 criminal offenders?

Moderate quality evidence finds the point prevalence in male prisoners is 6.2%, and in female prisoners it is 21.1%. One-year prevalence in male prisoners is 9.9%, and in female prisoners it is 26.1%. Lifetime prevalence in male prisoners is 17.8%, and in female prisoners it is 40.4%. These rates are significantly higher in females than males, and are also significantly higher in studies conducted in high-income countries when compared to low income countries.

Moderate quality evidence finds the point prevalence of PTSD in adolescent males in detention centres is 8.6%, and it is 18.2% in adolescent females in detention centres. Moderate to low quality evidence finds the point prevalence of PTSD older prisoners (>50 years) is 6.2% (males and females combined).

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



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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.