NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS’ PERCEIVED BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS OF SEEKING TREATMENT FOR PTSD

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the literature previously conducted on Native American veterans and PTSD in order to identify critical gaps of information within this population and address them via a research study. The first manuscript contains a narrative review on studies relating to Native American veteran Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It also provides an in-depth look at Native American demographics and historical trauma theory. It also identifies several key limitations of previously conducted studies (lack of studies, limited sample size and the lack of pan-tribal data). The second manuscript describes a study addressing these limitations, which describes Native American veterans’ perceived barriers and facilitators for seeking treatment for PTSD as they relate to identification with one’s own Native cultural identity and an exploration of weather differences exist between gender across these variables. The participants include 717 self-identified Native American veterans, consisting of over 200 tribal affiliations, and representing all branches of the United States Military. This study utilizes $r_s$ values to show direction of monotonic relationships and $r_s^2$ values to show the coefficient of determination. Results indicate positive monotonic relationships exist between one’s level of identification with Native culture and several of the barriers and facilitators identified, as well as significant differences by gender.

Keywords: Native American, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, veteran, military