



A discussion of:
**Psychological distress and mental health treatment among persons with
and without active duty military experience, Behavioral Risk Factor
Surveillance, System, United States, 2007 ***

Data Infrastructure Group Teleconference
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*Safran, et al, Int J Public Health 54 (2009) S61–S67



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Acknowledgment of manuscript co-authors

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Special thanks:

- Special thanks to the health departments of 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, for collecting the data reported upon in this project

We sought to examine:

- Self-reported psychological distress (K-6 scale)
- And mental health treatment

Among persons with and without active duty U.S. military experience (ADME) currently residing in private residences in the U.S.

Source: Safran, et al, *Int J Public Health* 54 (2009) S61–S67

Methods

- Analysis of 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data from 35 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- N = 202,029 for those answering all Kessler-6 (K-6) questions, the treatment question, and the active duty military experience (ADME) question*

Source: Safran, et al, Int J Public Health 54 (2009) S61–S67

Results (adjusted for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education):

- Overall mean K-6 scores of those with and without active duty military experience (ADME) were similar ($p = 0.3223$)
- More of those with, vs. without, ADME reported current mental health treatment (11.7 % vs. 9.6 %, $p = 0.0001$)
- Those with ADME receiving such treatment had a higher mean K-6 score (7.7) than those without ADME receiving such treatment (6.9) ($p = 0.0032$)

Source: Safran, et al, *Int J Public Health* 54 (2009) S61–S67

Conclusion...

After adjusting for age, sex, race/ethnicity, and education...

Compared to those without active duty military experience, community-dwelling persons with active duty military experience have:

- Similar demographically-adjusted mean K-6 psychological distress scores
- Greater likelihood of recent mental health treatment

Source: Safran, et al, Int J Public Health 54 (2009) S61–S67

Discussion

