

Changes in PTSD Symptom Severity
in Women Over Time
as a Function of Intimate Partner Violence,
Childhood Maltreatment and Lifetime Trauma,
and Clinical Depression

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Research supported by NINR/NICHHD (R01 009286)

Background

- ❖ Research has shown there are a variety of physiologic and psychological consequences associated with intimate partner violence.
- ❖ Over the past decade researchers have shown that persons experiencing trauma and violence often have:
 - neuroendocrine and immune changes
 - increased morbidity
 - early mortality

Purpose of Study

- ❖ Develop models of change over time
 - in the level of post-traumatic stress (PTSD) symptoms in women experiencing intimate partner violence
 - in PTSD symptom severity in women as a function of intimate partner violence, childhood maltreatment and lifetime trauma, and clinical depression

	Method
	Latent growth curve models (LGCM) of PTSD symptom severity using longitudinal data collected at 7 time periods, estimated using structural equation modeling.

	Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Intimate partner violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Physical, sexual and threats of violence (Severity of Violence Against Women Scale, Marshall, 1992), Cronbach's $\alpha = .90 - .94$ · Emotional abuse (The Index of Spousal Abuse – Non Physical Subscale, Hudson & McIntosh, 1981); Cronbach's $\alpha = .94$ ❖ Childhood Maltreatment (Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, Bernstein & Fink, 1998); Cronbach's $\alpha = .84$ ❖ The Lifetime Trauma History Scale (Fullilove et. al, 1993) ❖ Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms (PSS) (Foa et al., 1993); Cronbach's $\alpha = .90$ ❖ Depression: Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI) Depression subscale (Briere, 1995); Cronbach's $\alpha = .90$

At Study Entry: 157 Women Currently in an Intimately Abusive Relationship		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Range</u>
Age	33.7 yrs (<i>SD</i> 9.5 yrs)	18-64
Race/Ethnicity		
Caucasian	72 (46%)	
African-American	74 (47%)	
Other	11 (6.9%)	
Education	High School	8 th grade – BS
Annual income	\$10,000 - \$14,999	<\$10K to >50K
Length of abusive relationship	5.35 yrs (<i>SD</i> 6.7 yrs)	<1 mo to 34 yrs

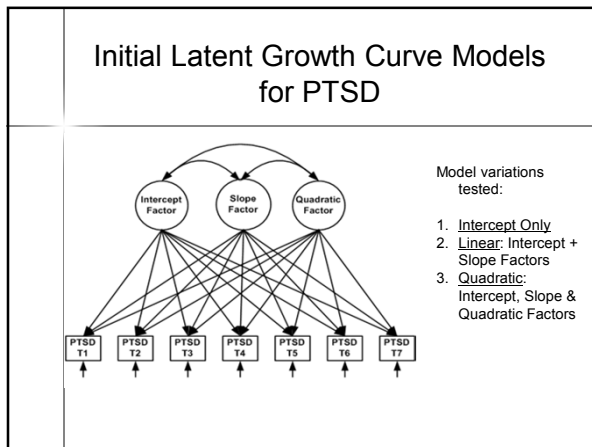
	<h3>Childhood Trauma</h3>
	<p>Items ask about childhood abuse, neglect, and witnessing violence (6 events)</p> <p>Women in this sample had a mean score of 3.5 out of 6</p> <p>Only 12% - or 19 women – had a score of "0"</p>

	<h3>Baseline Lifetime Trauma History (0-6 violent events, 0-8 non-violent events)</h3>																				
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Mental Health Consequences: Percentage of Women Experiencing PTSD and Depression	
<u>At Study Entry</u>	
Met diagnostic criteria for PTSD	92.4%
Clinically significant depression	58.6%

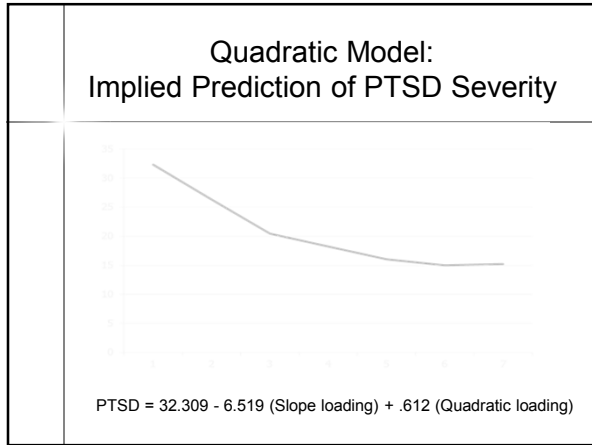
	<u>One year later</u>		<u>2 years later</u>	
	<u>IPV</u> <i>n</i> =69	<u>No IPV</u> <i>n</i> =63	<u>IPV</u> <i>n</i> =58	<u>No IPV</u> <i>n</i> =70
PTSD (Dx Criteria)	75.4%	46.8%	33.6%	18.8%
Depression (Clinically Sig)	23.2%	19%	10.2%	4.7%

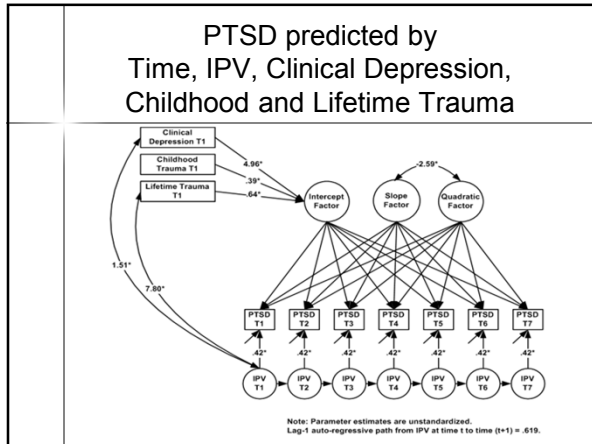


Model Fit and Nested Model Tests for Change in PTSD Over Time

Model	χ^2 (df)	p	CFI	RMSEA	SRMR
1. Intercept Factor Only	335.515 (26)	<.0001	.413	.275	.644
2. Linear: Intercept + Slope Factors	140.173 (23)	<.0001	.777	.181	.231
3. Quadratic: Intercept, Slope + Quadratic Factors	55.186 (19)	<.0001	.931	.110	.079

Model 3 vs. Model 1: $\Delta\chi^2 = 280.329$, $\Delta df = 7$, $p < .001$.
 Model 3 vs. Model 2: $\Delta\chi^2 = 85.527$, $\Delta df = 4$, $p < .001$.





	Discussion/Significance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Women recruited from crisis shelters showed a relatively high initial level of PTSD symptom severity.❖ On average, PTSD symptoms showed a curvilinear pattern of decline over a 2-year time period.❖ Residual levels of PTSD are related to their current experience (or non-experience) of intimate partner violence.

	Discussion/Significance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ The following factors tended to be associated with women having higher initial levels of PTSD symptoms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• clinical levels of depression,• experienced higher levels of childhood abuse and neglect, and/or• experienced greater lifetime violent and non-violent trauma.
