

Annotated Bibliography: Family Adjustment of Wounded Military Members

Advances in technology and battlefield medicine have resulted in unprecedented survival rates for U.S. service members injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. U.S. military hospitals provide the best medical, physical rehabilitation, psychiatric, and prosthetic care in the world, and thousands of war injured are currently receiving, or have received, treatment. According to a recent study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, only about 10 percent of Americans injured in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have lost their lives compared to 30 percent of Americans injured in World War II, and 24 percent injured in Vietnam.

DoD reports that more than 18,000 U.S. soldiers have been wounded since combat operations began in Afghanistan and Iraq. While many of these soldiers are able to return to duty, those who are not are discharged. Hundreds are amputees, and hundreds more have been severely burned or sustained debilitating head injuries. In addition to their physical injuries, many must also overcome emotional damage such as coping with post-traumatic stress disorder. As a result of their increased survivability, injured soldiers and their families require tremendous support after they return home. Financial difficulties, decreased mobility, and limited career prospects are just a few of the many challenges they must confront.

The Military Family Research Institute is compiling an annotated bibliography of research on the adjustment of families of wounded service members. Our focus is on family and relationship issues associated with wounds and injuries. As part of this process, we will be posting relevant articles to this website on a monthly basis. Due to the paucity of empirical research in this area, we include relevant articles on civilian families with a chronically disabled or severely injured family member as well.

These articles are set up as an Excel spreadsheet which is saved as "Read Only" file. Each study appears in a row; specific information about each study appears in the columns. This format allows readers to scan through columns across studies. Studies with particular study features, such as samples of a certain size or measurement of specific constructs, can be identified quickly. This format also permits easy sorting according to wounded category, author, date of publication. etc.

Once the project is completed, we will publish a full document, indexed by topic area that includes complete details about databases searched, terms and key words used, and criteria for inclusion.

The following table describes the information provided under each column heading.

COLUMN	DESCRIPTION
Wounded Category	The category of wound or injury. Current categories include: amputation, burns, chronic disability, combat stress reaction (CSR), general combat/war, multiple injuries, prisoners-of-war, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other head injuries.
Date of Posting	Month that article is posted to the website
Authors Year Title Source	The complete reference of the article or report.
N	The number of participants in the study.
Participants	Characteristics of the participants in the study.
Method	Usually the type of method used for data collection (e.g., questionnaire, interview). Also, the method of sample selection (e.g., random sampling, convenience sample). If reports are literature reviews that do not involve data collection, it will be indicated here.
Retrospective	This column is marked when respondents are asked to recall <i>previous</i> thoughts/feelings/behaviors as part of the data collection.
Concurrent	This column is marked when respondents are asked to describe <i>current</i> thoughts/feelings/behaviors as part of the data collection.
Predictor variable(s)IV construct	The independent, cause, or predictor variable, usually domain-related.
Predictor measure(s)IV operation	How the predictor variable(s) is/are measured. The specific measure is given when it is available.
Outcome variable(s)DV construct	The dependent, effect, or outcome variable.
Outcome measure(s)DV operation	How the outcome variable(s) is/are measured.
Findings	A brief summary of important study findings.
Notes	This column contains various information, including: the MFRI author's evaluation of the study; links to other studies; number of times article cited in Social Sciences Abstracts, and ideas for future studies.