



Psychiatric Epidemiology

The SRBI staff has shown considerable expertise in the area of psychiatric or psychological epidemiology, particularly in the measurement of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Initially, this experience grew out of studies of combat veterans. Dr. John Boyle of SRBI directed the first wave survey component of the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study, the Congressionally mandated study of the incidence and prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among combat veterans.

The measurement of PTSD, depression and other psychological conditions has been incorporated in many of the victimization studies conducted by SRBI. Many of the surveys of sexual assault, crime victimization, and natural disasters include the measurement of PTSD and other clinical conditions. It is notable that SRBI collaborated with academic researchers to develop some of the first large-scale applications of these measures in telephone surveys of normal civilian populations.

Please contact Dr. John Boyle, Managing Partner of SRBI's Health Research Practice, at (301) 608-3883 for additional information.

Study Examples:

- Longitudinal Study of Patients with Anxiety Disorders
- Fibromyalgia, Depression and Myofascial TMD: A Family Study
- Study of Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Association with Psychiatric Disorders and Trauma
- Survey of Seasonal Affective Disorders
- Assessment of Fire-Related Psychological Injury on Children, Adolescents and Their Parents
- Psychosocial Risks among Gulf War Veterans
- Mental Health Outcomes Associated with Peacekeeping Duty for US Military Personnel
- Survey of Veterans Exposed to Mustard Gas
- DSM-4 Field Trials
- Disasters' Impact upon Adults and Adolescents
- Adult Psychological Functioning after Earthquakes
- Cognitively Impaired Elderly and Their Caregivers
- Patterns of Service Utilization by Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients
- And many others

Case Study

Psychological Sequelae of the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks in New York City

The first of these surveys involved telephone interviews with 1,000 adults from a geographically stratified, random digit dialing sample of households below 110th Street in Manhattan. The survey generated estimates of both post traumatic stress disorder and depression related to the attacks. The findings were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in March 2002.

Beyond Diagnosis: A National Survey on the Management and Treatment of Depression

SRBI conducted this survey for the National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association. This project involved a national sample of 1,000 persons who had been diagnosed with major depression and were interviewed about the management and treatment of their depression. A comparison sample of 500 partners and spouses of persons with major depression were also interviewed concerning their experiences with the condition and its management. A national sample of 800 primary care physicians and 700 mental health therapists were also interviewed as part of this project.