



Military Families and Children Focus Group

NCFR 2023 Session #0002
October 30, 2023
12:30pm Eastern

Session hosted by Kayla Reed-Fitzke and Christine McCall. 28 members attended the meeting.

Agenda

1. 2023 Focus Group Awards
2. Member Announcements
3. Military Family Scientists in Alt-Ac Positions: Advice for Students and Faculty
4. Looking Ahead

Outstanding Student and New Professional Proposal Award - 2023

Dr. Brian McKay

“Assessing Individual Well-Being and Unit Cohesion in
Connection to Military Service Members’ Retention
Intentions”

Dr. Brian McKay is a Scientific Data Specialist in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Georgia. Dr. McKay’s research is focused on advancing the understanding and treatment of infectious diseases. Today Dr. McKay is receiving an award for his work entitled, “Assessing Individual Well-Being and Unit Cohesion in Connection to Military Service Members’ Retention Intentions”



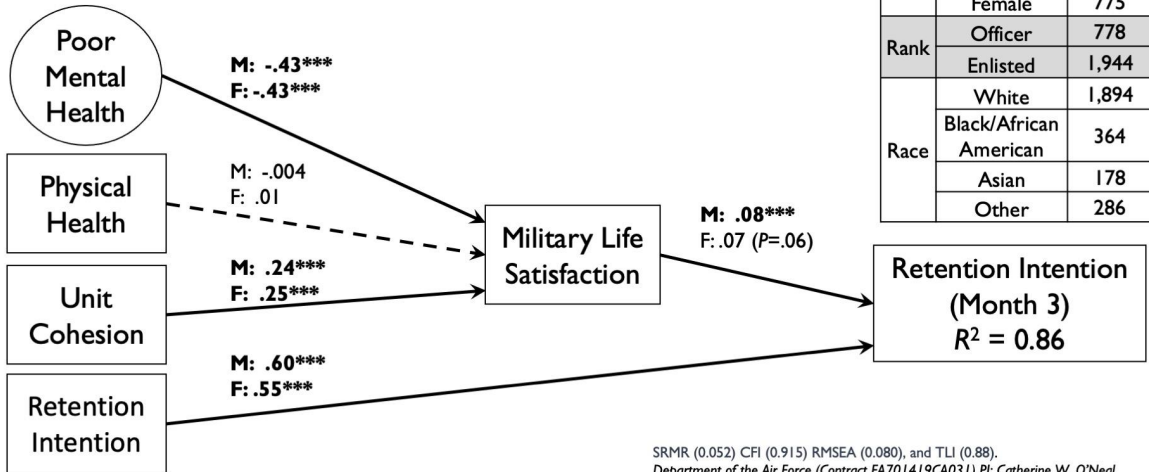
DAF
Personal Financial
Readiness Program
Evaluation

Assessing Individual Well-Being and Unit Cohesion in Connection to Military Service Members' Retention Intention

Brian McKay¹, Allan Tate¹, Mallory Lucier-Greer², Catherine W. O'Neal¹
¹University of Georgia ²Auburn University



M = Male; F = Female



		N (2,722)	%
Sex	Male	1,947	71.53
	Female	775	28.47
Rank	Officer	778	28.58
	Enlisted	1,944	71.42
Race	White	1,894	69.58
	Black/African American	364	13.37
	Asian	178	6.54
	Other	286	10.51

SRMR (0.052) CFI (0.915) RMSEA (0.080), and TLI (0.88).
Department of the Air Force (Contract FA701419CA031) PI: Catherine W. O'Neal

Outstanding Professional Proposal Award - 2023

Dr. Deirdre Quinn

“Changes in Unhealthy Alcohol Use Prior to and During the COVID-19 Pandemic Among Women Veterans of Reproductive Age”

Dr. Deirdre Quinn is a Core Investigator at the VA's Center For Health Equity Research and Promotion and Adjunct Instructor of Medicine in the Division of Internal Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Quinn researches individual, relational, and structural influences on women's sexual and reproductive health. Today Dr. Quinn is receiving an award for her work entitled “Changes in Unhealthy Alcohol Use Prior to and During the COVID-19 Pandemic Among Women Veterans of Reproductive Age”

Changes in unhealthy alcohol use prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic among women Veterans of reproductive age

Deirdre A. Quinn, PhD, MSc, MLitt, Caitlan A. Tighe, PhD, Karley E. Atchison, MA, & Rachel L. Bachrach, PhD

INTRODUCTION

- Women Veterans with unhealthy alcohol use may be highly vulnerable to adverse physical and mental health consequences.
- The pandemic negatively impacted physical, psychological, and financial well-being.
- Compared with men, women are more likely to use alcohol to cope with stress and anxiety.

AIM: To explore unhealthy alcohol use among women Veterans of reproductive age, including individual- and system-level correlates of changes in unhealthy alcohol use during the pandemic.

METHODS

- **Data Source:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) electronic health record data
- **Population:** National sample of women Veterans ages 18-45 with evidence of at least one primary care encounter/year and data for the entire study timeframe
- **Study Period:**
 - Pre-pandemic: 3/11/18 – 3/10/20
 - Pandemic: 3/11/20 – 3/10/22
- **Outcome: Unhealthy Alcohol Use**
 - At least one relevant ICD-10 diagnosis code of Alcohol Use Disorder and/or a positive screen (≥3) on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT-C)
- **Veteran characteristics:** age, race/ethnicity, history of COVID-19, history of COVID vaccination, rurality, history of military sexual trauma, history of depression
- **Analyses:** Descriptive statistics and logistic regression

Time Period	Developed Unhealthy Alcohol Use	Remitted Unhealthy Alcohol Use	Maintained Unhealthy Use	Unchanged Low/No Use
Pre-pandemic to during pandemic	16,195 (10.1%)	16,853 (10.5%)	23,186 (14.4%)	104,713 (65%)

Women Veterans ages 18-45 who developed unhealthy alcohol use during the pandemic were more likely to be younger, to live in urban areas, and to have a history of depression.

KEY FINDINGS

- N=160,947 women Veterans ages 18-45 had evidence of VA primary care and data for all 5 years
- Overall rates of alcohol use in this population were similar prior to and during the pandemic
 - 24.8% (n=40,039) had evidence of unhealthy alcohol use pre-pandemic
 - 24.4% (n=39,381) had evidence of unhealthy alcohol use during pandemic
- However, there was substantial *variability* in women Veterans' patterns of unhealthy alcohol use over the course of the study timeframe
- 10.1% of women Veterans (N=16,195) developed unhealthy alcohol use during the pandemic, while 10.5% remitted
- 14.4% of women Veterans endorses drinking at unhealthy levels across the study timeframe

IMPLICATIONS

- Women Veterans of reproductive age may benefit from targeted interventions focused on unhealthy alcohol use in the context of coping with external life stressors
- Targeted interventions may also want to focus on discussing the links between unhealthy alcohol use and physical health problems specific to women

Acknowledgements: This project was supported by a Veterans Health Foundation Medical Education and Patient Safety Award (PY23, MPI: Bachrach & Tighe). Drs. Quinn & Bachrach are supported by VA HSR&D Career Development Awards. Dr. Tighe was supported by a VA RRR&D Career Development Award.



@MsContraception @VAequity



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Thank you, Military REACH!

NCFR MILITARY & VETERAN FAMILY FOCUSED PRESENTATIONS

2 0 2 3 A N N U A L C O N F E R E N C E

10/30

#0001 Remote Access Only

VIRTUAL MILITARY FAMILIES AND CHILDREN FOCUS GROUP MEETING

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm ET

- *This virtual meeting is open to all who are interested in the Military Families and Children Focus Group.*

Presiders: Christina Marini, Christine McCall, Kayla Reed Fitzke, Focus Group Co-chairs



REMOTE ACCESS



AWARD WINNING PRESENTATIONS

ALL TIMES ARE ET



RESEARCH AND OUTREACHSM
MilitaryREACH.org



Connect with us
@MilitaryREACH


Shared the link to the NCFR Flyer:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AbhIM_T8k1-KmfLfbk3TZwMXQG332qKH/view?usp=drive_link

Military REACH is focused on bridging the gap between research and practice to provide high-quality support to military families. They create TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE (TRIP) REPORT. Visit their website monthly newsletters

Highlight: Special Session

11/9

 #232 Grand Ballroom C — Onsite and Remote Access 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

SPECIAL SESSION: *How to Elevate the Impact of Your Research and Programming: How Family Military Scholars Make an Impact on Their Communities and Inform Policy*

Elizabeth C. Coppola, Ph.D., Purdue Univ.; Catherine Walker O'Neal, Ph.D., Univ. of Georgia; Mallory Lucier-Greer, Ph.D., Auburn Univ.; Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, Ph.D., Purdue Univ.; Galina Portnoy, Ph.D., IPV Center of Innovation and Research, Connecticut VA Healthcare System, and Yale Univ. Sch. of Medicine


Discussants: Silvia K. Bartolic, Ph.D., Univ. of British Columbia; Anthony J. Ferraro, Ph.D., Kansas State Univ.; Sarah A. Kuborn, Ph.D., Southeast Missouri State Univ.

Chair: Elizabeth C. Coppola, Ph.D., Purdue Univ.

(Made Possible by the Family Policy, Family and Community Education, International, and Advancing Family Science Sections and the Military Families and Children Focus Group)

Liz Coppola presented about the upcoming special section at the NCFR conference.

Member Announcements



Have good news?
Looking for collaborations or
suggestions?
Hiring or recruiting?

Members shared updates about an upcoming textbook and shared open job postings.

Military Family Scientists in Alt-Ac Positions: Advice for Students and Faculty

Dr. Meredith Farnsworth, *Prevention Evaluation Specialist*

Integrated Prevention Advisory Group
U.S. Army Reserve Command, G-1
Services and Support Division
meredith.l.farnsworth.civ@army.mil

Dr. Elizabeth Coppola, *Biomedical Informatics and Data Science Postdoctoral Fellow*

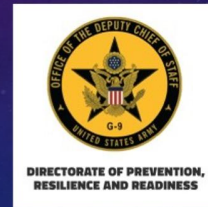
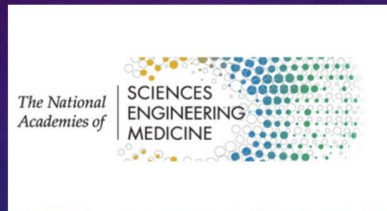
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Dr. Christine McCall, *Senior Scientist*

Military Workplace Climate Research, Fors Marsh
Health & Resilience Research Division, Office of People Analytics
cmccall@forsmarsh.com

We asked speakers to touch on what they do and for what organization, how they found their position, what the interview process was like, what advice they have for students, and what advice they have for faculty supporting students who might be interested in research positions outside of academia

MY JOURNEY



THE MILITARY Family RESEARCH INSTITUTE at Purdue University

Liz Coppola presented about her professional experiences.



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP



Interested in a postdoctoral fellowship with the Intimate Partner Violence Center for Innovation and Research (IPV-CIR)?

The IPV-CIR is a National VA IPV Assistance Program Innovation Hub, located in and additionally supported by the PRIME Center at VA Connecticut Healthcare System.

To develop, disseminate, implement, and evaluate innovative, high-quality, Veteran-centered, trauma-informed, and recovery-oriented practices for intimate partner violence (IPV) detection, prevention, and treatment, with particular focus on IPV use (i.e., perpetration) and bidirectional IPV.



THE EXPERIENCE

- 2-year research fellowship (75% research, 25% clinical)
- Tailored research and career mentoring by IPV-CIR investigator(s)
- Building skills and experience with manuscript and grant preparation
- Advancing research, practice, and policy related to IPV and intersecting areas
- Working with stakeholders + operations partners across the healthcare system
- Developing expertise in implementation science, quantitative and qualitative methods, intervention development, program evaluation, and/or informatics.

FOCUS AREAS

- Intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Other interpersonal violence (e.g., sexual assault, MST, and harassment)
- Relationship health and safety
- Trauma / PTSD
- Disclosure and help-seeking
- Systemic and cultural factors of interpersonal violence risk and resilience
- Intervention and program development
- Implementation science

START DATE

Summer / Fall 2023

LOCATION

This position requires you to be 25% on-site in West Haven, CT to provide clinical care

SALARY

Stipends are according to fixed VA OAA rates for PhD fellows. Fellows must be U.S. citizens.

For more info, please contact Dr. Galina Portnoy (galina.portnoy@va.gov), IPV-CIR Director, or Dr. Candice Presseau (candice.presseau@va.gov), Associate Director

The IPV-CIR seeks candidates with innovative ideas on minimizing health disparities, combatting systemic oppression, and promoting social justice at individual and systemic levels. Individuals who have been historically underrepresented in contributing to research, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); Veterans; individuals with disabilities; and LGBTQIA+ and gender diverse individuals, are especially encouraged to apply.



Biomedical Informatics
& Data Science



TODAY

ForsMarsh



Christine McCall presented about her professional experiences.

Advice for Students

- Informational Interviews
- LinkedIn
- Ask, ask, ask!
- Trust and believe in yourself

Advice for Faculty

- Exposure to different career opportunities in the department / graduate training
- Support work and family goals



Dr. Meredith Farnsworth, *Prevention Evaluation Specialist*

Integrated Prevention Advisory Group

U.S. Army Reserve Command, G-1

Services and Support Division

meredith.l.farnsworth.civ@army.mil

Meredith Farnsworth presented about her professional experiences.

Q & A with our Panelists

Dr. Meredith Farnsworth, *Prevention Evaluation Specialist*

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U.S. Army Reserve Command, G-1
Services and Support Division
meredith.l.farnsworth.civ@army.mil

Dr. Elizabeth Coppola, *Biomedical Informatics and Data Science Postdoctoral Fellow*

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Dr. Christine McCall, *Senior Scientist*

Military Workplace Climate Research, Fors Marsh
Health & Resilience Research Division, Office of People Analytics
cmccall@forsmarsh.com

Panelists answered questions from members.

Looking Ahead

Any questions, concerns, or feedback for Focus Group leadership?

Looking for new Communication Specialist

Any ideas for our session at the 2024 conference?

2024 NCFR Conference — Bellevue, Washington

Wednesday, Nov. 20 – Saturday, Nov. 23

Hyatt Regency, Bellevue, Washington

Conference Program Chair: **Karina M. Shreffler, Ph.D.**

No questions or concerns or feedback for Focus Groups leadership.