

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ABUSE OF WAR VETERANS DURING AND AFTER THE BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA 1992-1995 WAR

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Aim: To assess alcohol abuse severity of soldiers who suffer from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during the Bosnia-Herzegovina 1992-1995 war.

Methods: A stratified sample was composed of 4 war veterans groups: (A- who asked for psychiatry help during the war, n = 51; B- who continued psychiatry treatment and after the war, n = 51; C- who did not ask for psychiatry help at all, n = 62; D- industry workers who were not involved in war activities, n = 50). We used DSM IV trauma questionnaire; questionnaire for alcohol dependency self-assessment.

Results: During the war, 45.4% participants in A, 40.0% in B, 32.8% in C and 14.0% in D group, drunk alcohol more often than before war, while 20.8% of participants in A, 25.5% in B, 27.9% in C and 54.1% in D group drunk alcohol less than before war. Ten months after the war, 58.0% of participants in A, 31.6% in B, 20.0% in C and 20.0% in D group drunk alcohol more than usual, while 18.0% of veterans in A, 36.8% in B, 38.3% in C group and 37.8% workers in D group drunk alcohol less than usual. Upon departure to execute of combat missions to front lines war veterans from A group and B group drunk alcohol beverages significantly more than usual (51.7% and 40.5% respectively).

Conclusion: War veterans who bear traumatic experiences with difficulties, with more severe symptoms of PTSD were significantly more consumed alcoholic beverages during the war and the execution of combat missions.