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Social Work Students' Knowledge of Interventions for Homeless Female Veterans

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SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF INTERVENTIONS
FOR HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Social Work

by
Bryan Joseph Gomez

June 2017

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ABSTRACT

In this study, the focus was on Social Work students' knowledge about interventions concerning homeless female veterans. The study was conducted from a Positivist Perspective with a theoretical orientation centered on the Feminist Theory. The literature review focused on risk factors associated with homeless female veterans along with their protective factors. Issues involving homeless female veterans were explored along with possible interventions. The study was conducted through an online survey and included participants from California State University, San Bernardino.

Participants were from both the Bachelor's and Master's Social Work program and attended classes full-time on campus, part-time on campus and part-time online. The results of the study are meant to establish whether or not there is a positive correlation between social work students' knowledge and their characteristics influencing their choice of appropriate interventions concerning homeless female veterans. The study also aimed to evaluate whether the social work program is educating students on the population of homeless female veterans and the needed to support for the community.

The study found that there were some correlations between certain characteristics of the social work student body at CSUSB and their knowledge of the appropriate interventions for homeless female veterans. There were significant findings in regards to the students' level within the program and their age. They were able to identify appropriate interventions and were aware of both

harmful and protective factors affecting the homeless female veteran population. The implications of this research are to bring more awareness to the needs of female veterans in regards to homelessness and to point out the need for more emphasis on the needs of appropriate intervention strategies for female veterans in university curriculum. Continued research on female veterans is needed so that equality can be found in services such as health care, mental health and housing

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CHAPTER ONE

ASSESSMENT

Introduction

Chapter one covers the research question of the study which asked: What do social work students know about interventions concerning homelessness among female veterans? The two-part goal of the study was reviewed which was to see if there was a positive correlation relationship between knowledge and awareness and the differences in opinions between Bachelor and Master social work students. The paradigm of Positivism was discussed including the rationale for choosing this particular paradigm for the study. This chapter also presents a literature review focusing on female veteran homelessness, risk factors, interventions and the effects that it had on their psychosocial and physical well-being. The chapter also reviews on the reason for choosing the theoretical orientation of Feminist Theory for this study and how it relates to the given topic. Lastly, the chapter examines the potential contributions of this study to both macro and micro social work practice and the homeless female veteran population.

Research Focus

The research question asked was: What do social work students know about interventions concerning homelessness among female veterans? The stated hypothesis was that there is a relationship between knowledge level and

the characteristics of social work students. Therefore, the null hypothesis was that there would be no relationship between knowledge and the characteristics of the social worker students. The independent variable in this correlation study was the level of knowledge of the social work students and the dependent variable was their characteristics. The relationship being that as the knowledge level (independent variable) increased among the social work students so should their awareness of appropriate interventions (dependent variable).

The research's secondary focus was to explore the differences in opinions concerning Bachelor and Master Students. Would there even be a difference of opinion or would both groups be on the same page. The purpose of asking these questions was to obtain a better insight in the social worker students' knowledge on the population and their awareness of the factors that affect them. The goal is to increase awareness among social work students and provide a perspective that may not have been looked at before. The understated goal was to affect change in the way that social worker students approach homelessness among female veterans. The hope is that it has inspired social work students to advocate for policy and change for homeless female veterans.

Paradigm and Rationale

The paradigm that was chosen for this research study was Positivism. The rationale for choosing this paradigm is that it allowed for a collection of quantitative data that can be analyzed to hopefully establish a relationship between the two variables. Researcher Morris (2006) contended that, "positivist

researchers suppose that one can identify the laws and mechanisms of human behavior and therefore reveal cause and effect relationships” (p.3). These “laws and mechanisms” govern the basis of this study and how a relationship might be established. The logic for choosing to collect quantitative data was that it provided a non-bias statistical representation of the question being asked.

The positivist paradigm aided in the study by providing structure while scrutinizing the research in an objective setting. As Morris (2006) has noted, “data collected in the form of numbers facilitates probabilistic statements; data collected in the form of words does not facilitate statements about the precise relationship between cause and effect...” (p.6). This study is directed towards establishing that relationship so that a correlation can found. The choice of the positivist paradigm offered the researcher an opportunity to be an observer without influencing the outcome of the research or the participants. The rationale behind this choice is that it will lend validity to the research and the study.

Literature Review

This literature review included a discussion on the population itself and the risk factors effecting homeless female veterans. Military sexual trauma was reviewed including how prevalent it has become and how it affected homeless female veterans. Healthcare and Mental Health was discussed which included the barriers to access care and the role that Veterans’ Affairs plays in providing that care. The risk of suicide among female homeless veterans and substance

abuse was examined and how it relates to being a veteran. The possible interventions for homeless female veterans were discussed along with protective factors that safeguard female veterans from becoming homeless.

Homeless Female Veteran Population

The majority of literature on homelessness among female veterans indicates that it has steadily increased over the years. Female veterans make up disproportionate amounts of veterans who are homeless and their numbers continue to rise (Montgomery & Byrne, 2014). Over the next 20 years the female veterans' population is expected to double in size (Montgomery & Byrne, 2014). A previous study found that female veterans who were homeless experienced varying degrees of homelessness throughout their life (Hamilton, Washington & Zuchowski, 2013).

Risk Factors

Research has found that there was numerous risk involved with homelessness among female veterans. A previous study found that at the core of homelessness among female veterans were issues involving relationships, violence, mental illness, health issues, unemployment, substance abuse and housing issues (Hamilton, Washington and Zuchowski, 2013). Another study indicated that female veterans are at a greater risk of homelessness compared to women who do not serve, which may be due to the fact that they enlist voluntarily due to insecure housing (Gamache, Rosenheck & Tessler, 2003). The study also found that constant relocation associated with being in the military may lead

to unfamiliarity with the current location and there being a risk of homelessness due to being far from their support system (Gamache, Rosenheck & Tessler, 2003)..

Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

Homeless female veterans have also been found to be victims of sexual trauma pre and post homelessness. A study conducted by Murdoch (2006) found that, “military sexual trauma (MST) has been linked to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, alcohol and drug abuse, disrupted social networks and employment difficulties” (as cited in Hamilton, Washington & Zuchowski 2013, p.93). Research also suggested that there is an influx of reports of PTSD and sexual assaults during service among homeless female veterans (Decker et al. 2013) Military sexual assault also increases the chances that homeless female veterans will be diagnosed with a mental or substance abuse disorder (Decker et al., 2013). Another study confirmed that almost half of the participants, whom where homeless female veterans, surveyed reported military sexual trauma (Decker et al., 2013).

The trauma that homeless female veterans suffer isn't always sexually based. There are other factors that cause trauma in the lives of homeless female veterans. Research indicated that trauma among female homeless veterans is not limited to sexual assault and can include robberies, accidents, illness and loss of loved ones (Tsai et al. 2012). There is a pattern among female homeless veterans to not report victimization leading to more re-victimization (Hamilton,

Poza & Washington, 2011). A study found that women in general are more at risk of being abused and suffering from feelings of depression, low-self-esteem and fearfulness (Benda, 2015).

Healthcare

Research has indicated that female homeless veterans have issues accessing healthcare services. Female veterans tend to use outpatient services but are less likely to utilize healthcare services offered by the VA (Montgomery & Byrne, 2014). The study found that female veterans who are homeless utilize services for issues affecting their physical health compared to male veterans with issue of substance abuse (Montgomery & Byrne, 2014). Female veterans tend to seek more mental and medical services compared to non-veteran women. (Decker et al., 2013). A previous study indicated that female veterans had issues with availability of services and the barriers to receiving those services in regards to VA related care (Hamilton et al., 2012).

A study conducted by Hamilton and colleagues (2012) found that, “understanding homeless women veterans’ perceptions of and experiences with psychosocial services is critical to the development of more comprehensive care and programs that would ameliorate risk for homelessness” (p.53). Hamilton’s current study found that there were three areas of contention including lack of available knowledge of allowed services and the barriers to receiving those services including no coordination across services (Hamilton et al., 2012). Homeless female veterans felt that gender-specific services and treatments

would be more conducive to their recovery (Hamilton et al., 2012). According to a previous study the VA has specialized programs for homeless female veterans however these services are not widely available and vary by location (Harpaz-Rotem, Rosenheck & Desai, 2011). A similar study found that many resources that the VA contracts with tend to have services centered around male veterans instead of being more inclusive (Tsai, Rosenheck & McGuire, 2012).

Mental Health

Mental Health tailored to homeless female veterans is necessary to improve the outcomes of these women. Research shows that there are some services set up for female veterans unfortunately they are limited and restricted. Research indicated that there is a need for services to be directed towards increasing feelings of safety and coping (Decker et al., 2013). There is an indication that further research is needed due to the increasing numbers of women in the military and the lack of treatments available to them (Benda, 2005). Research has also indicated that the suicide rate among homeless female veterans is much higher than that of male veterans (Benda, 2005).

Suicide

Suicide appears to be an important risk according to the literature and the services associated with it. Homeless female veterans tend to think about suicide more often but tend to attempt it less (Benda, 2005). Physical and sexual abuse tends to increase the risk of suicide among homeless female veterans (Benda, 2005). Research found that residential treatments among female

homeless veterans increased their clinical outcomes (Harpaz-Rotem, Rosenheck & Desai, 2011). However, there is no evidence within the study that indicated an improvement in psychiatric outcomes (Harpaz-Rotem, Rosenheck & Desai, 2011).

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is a serious issue among homeless female veterans according to the literature. One study found that female veterans who took advantage of the VA services offered were twice as likely to have an alcohol or drug induced death compared to those who didn't (Chapman & Wu, 2014). Studies have also shown an influx of rates of homelessness among women with mental health issues that are substance related (Edens, Mares & Rosenheck, 2011). Homeless women have higher rates of addiction compared to other lower income women (Edens, Mares & Rosenheck, 2011). Female veterans' exposure to combat can increase their risk of substance use (Chapman & Wu, 2014).

Research has suggested as rates of substance use increase among female homeless veterans so should the services. One study found that homeless women need to have effective substance abuse treatment programs for those that are chronically homeless (Edens, Mares & Rosenheck, 2011). Military women are at a higher risk of excessive drinking and drug use than military men (Chapman & Wu, 2014). Homeless women were found to have almost a 50% rate of use of alcohol and drugs (Edens, Mares & Rosenheck, 2011).

Interventions and Transitional Housing

Research has indicated that there are quite a few programs dedicated to helping homeless female veterans. Research proposed that the VA should provide more comprehensive basic services for female homeless veterans including outreach and women centered services (Tsai et al., 2014). Female veterans who were homeless tended to be from more recent military service and less likely to be receiving a military pension (Montgomery & Byrne, 2014). The research also constructed that a majority of transitional housing programs were not focused on women with children (Tsai, Rosenheck & McGuire, 2012). A previous study reflects that due to VA transitional housing being male-centered it created a barrier to providing adequate housing for homeless female veterans (Tsai et al., 2014).

Homeless Shelters

Homeless female veterans tended to actively participate in treatment and housing support due to increased traumatic events (Tsai et al., 2012). Research suggested that women with children in homeless shelters be allowed to keep their lives as normal as possible despite the rules imposed (Thrasher, 1995). The study even suggested that homeless female veterans with children should help establish rules in coordination with the shelter (Thrasher, 1995). One study found that some shelters are discriminatory towards women by not offering resources to female veterans with children or providing a needed space to ensure privacy of the females housed within the shelter (Tsai, Rosenheck & McGuire, 2012).

Protective Factors

The literature has indicated that there are some factors that tend to protect female veterans from homelessness. These protective factors, through research, have been shown to be safeguard against homelessness among female veterans. Support from family and friends were viewed beneficial to protecting from homelessness. A study found that women who are married or college graduates are less likely to be homeless (Hamilton, Washington & Zuchowski, 2013). Another study found that lack of education was not a risk factor to being homeless (Hamilton, Poza & Washington, 2011).

Summary

This literature review covered information on the homeless female veteran population. It included a discussion on the risk factors that make female veterans susceptible to homelessness. Military Sexual Trauma was investigated along with how it affects homeless female veterans. Mental Health and Healthcare were explored including the barriers to access care and the role that Veterans' Affairs plays in the process. Substance abuse was also reviewed along with the risks of suicide among the homeless female population. The intervention of transitional housing and homeless shelters was covered including some of the pros and cons. Lastly, protective factors were probed along with non- risk factors.

Theoretical Orientation

The theoretical orientation of this study was Feminist Theory because it resonated with the subject matter and provided a plausible explanation and viewpoint for the study and its findings. According to Valentich (2011), "Feminist Theory includes a multi-cultural framework that views women's subordination through the lens of sex/ gender, sexuality, class and race" (p.210). Women are subjected to discrimination within many areas including housing, health care and mental health. The Feminist Theory orientation gives a frame work from which to operate by providing theoretical backing to the study and the concentration population. Feminist Theory also emphasizes the collective bias held against women and their pursuit for equality and justice. Female veterans are allowed to be homeless because judicial, military, governmental and economic systems are set up to benefit men.

The oppression of women in regards to female veterans has become so prevalent in our culture that as the population of homeless female veterans increases, the fewer resources that specifically meet the needs of these women. Liberal Feminism for example is involved in the fighting for political equality and knocking down of barriers to social services for women exclusively (Saulnier, 2000). This overall belief motivates the research and provides an overall reason for choosing homeless female veterans as the population focus in this study. Feminist Theory in general provides an explanation to the oppression of women that systematically affects the overall outcome and life span of these homeless

female veterans. Feminist Theory also elucidates on the motive and thinking behind the decisions made in divorce proceedings, employment opportunities, and allocation of resources concerning women and poverty that leave these women single with children and homeless.

Radical feminism affirms that the familial, political, and social systems are all systemized to benefit a patriarchal society that neglects the needs and wants of women (Saulnier, 2000). These women end up living on the streets or in homeless shelters with their children or alone. Homeless female veterans are the invisible victims of a male dominated society geared toward helping male veterans. The Feminist Theory orientation lends support as to why there are so many homeless female veterans. This explains that the more systems that female veterans encounter with resistance the more their issues become exacerbated.

Feminist fought to have women included in the ranks of military which in turn increased the amounts of women susceptible to homelessness after they were discharged. The difficulties involved with transitioning from military life to civilian life must be considered. There is also lack of employment for discharged military and the negative attitudes towards homeless female veterans. Another factor is mental stress that female soldiers face in the military along with the sexism that still exists. The feminist perspective views any trauma as a direct symptom of systematic and institutionalized oppression (Wilkin & Hillock, 2014).

There is trauma inflicted when there is a lack of services offered by the VA in regards to offering female-centered care and concern.

Feminist Theory as an orientation also focuses on the sexism found in many institutions. Valentich (2011) emphasized that, "Patriarchy was seen as embedded institutionally and in daily relations of women and men, with dire emotional and social consequences for women" (p.206). Female veterans are susceptible to pathology that leaves their lives unstable and unable to find a job or housing leading to their homelessness. Feminism has fought to abolish sexism and oppression of women but at the same time has left them vulnerable to new factors.

Feminist Theory as a theoretical orientation provides insight into the issues that face homeless female veterans. A study by Wilkin & Hillock (2014) asserted that, "social inequality is created and maintained through structural and interpersonal oppression that often takes the form of violence, abuse, exploitation, exclusion and humiliation" (p.184). To understand Feminist Theories and how they relate to this study we must explore the past, present and future of women in a male dominated society. An observation made by Swigonski & Raheim (2011) claimed that, "feminist theories analyze the historical conditions of women's lives, the underlying dynamics that shape and condition women's lives, and women's effects to transform these conditions and to determine the meaning and circumstances of their lives as full human beings" (p.11). Female

veterans have persevered in a misogynistic male dominated system created from the ideals of a patriarchal society.

Feminist Theory is very organic when talking about feminism and social work within this study. Feminism and social work retain a symbiotic relationship where each enriches one another through practice and activism (Swigonski & Raheim, 2011). This study's theoretical orientation wants to call attention to the fact that homeless female veterans are not only the byproduct of feminism but also the victims of its success. Women were allowed into the armed forces only to find themselves victimized and oppressed by the misogynistic views of the military. The study by Akerly & True (2010) wrote that, "Feminism as the search to render visible and to explain patterns of injustice in organizations, behavior and normative values that systematically manifest themselves in gender-differentiate ways" (As cited in Anderson-Nathe, Gringeri & Wahab, 2013, p.279). These "gender-differentiated ways" are the reason behind denial of services to homeless female veterans and the attitudes directed towards them which is at the root of this study.

Potential Contribution to Social Work

The contributions of the study were to both micro and macro social work practice. On the micro level, the study provided evidence of how students perceive interventions and factors that affect homeless female veterans. It also influenced practice among future social workers and their use of evidence-based

interventions. The study also contributed to the attitudes associated with being female and homeless which can help social workers on a micro level working on the front lines. The amount of knowledge gained from the study will hopefully influence their understanding of homelessness and help them gain the empathy needed to work with this population.

On the macro level, the study will influence policy concerning services and funding for homeless female veterans. It will hopefully inspire and empower more organizations that support veterans and advocate the creation of new ones. The study may also have an impact on social work practice as a whole which could change how programs engage with the homeless community especially homeless female veterans. It will hopefully influence the curriculum taught to social work students in the programs and influence the classes offered to students. The study may even have an impact on social work organizations and the direction they wish to take in working with the homeless in the future.

Summary

Chapter one covered the research question of the study which asked: What do social work students know about interventions concerning homelessness among female veterans? The paradigm of positivism was discussed including the rationale for choosing this particular paradigm and its benefit to the study. The chapter also expanded on a literature review focusing on homelessness and the effects and risk it has on female veterans including the

current interventions. The theoretical orientation of Feminist Theory was also explored including its importance to the study. Lastly, the chapter explored the potential contributions this study has to both micro and macro social work practice including possible implications with how future social workers are taught.

CHAPTER TWO

ENGAGEMENT

Introduction

Chapter Two describes the study site is and where it was located along with some demographical information on the student body. The chapter also discusses the services provided by the study site and who the clients were along with what types of programs they offer. The gatekeepers were identified along with how they were engaged for the study while assuring the privacy and anonymity of the participants. Self- preparation was reviewed in this chapter along with how it affected this study. There was also an introduction to ethical issues, political issues and the role of technology in the engagement phase.

Study Site

This study site was a university located in the San Bernardino area that provided education to students within the region of the Inland Empire and the High Desert. This university is considered a commuter school due to the many students that commute from the Inland Empire and the High Desert area. According to CSUSB Office of Research (2015), “in fall of 2014, the total number of students attending from San Bernardino County was 10,462, Riverside County 5,693, Other California 1,324, Other U.S. 97 and Foreign 1,376” (Graph 1). The site also has students from exchange programs from other countries including Japan, Spain and England. The overall student body is made up of 61% female

and 39% male. The six -year graduation rate is at 51% and the retention rate is 87%. The site provides education for bachelor, graduate and doctoral studies. Programs offered at the site range from Business Administration, Social Work, Psychology, Health Science and Education, etc.

The study will take place with social work students from both the bachelor's and master's program from the School of Social Work located at the site. The university students come from various backgrounds and age groups. The gatekeepers at the site are the president of the institution and the Director of the School of Social Work program.

Engagement Strategies for Gatekeepers

The plan was to engage the Director of the School of Social Work program through a formal request sent through e-mail asking for their permission to survey the students within the social work program. In this request the study was described in detail including the benefits of the study and the impact it will have on social work practice. There was also a discussion on the importance of research concerning social work students and the population of homeless female veterans. The formal request also explained how the surveys would be distributed and the data collected. The protocol to assure anonymity and privacy was discussed along with informed consent.

I hoped that by stating my purpose for the research, along with my question and hypothesis that the Director of the School of Social Work program would see the importance of the research. The research topic is important to

social work because it points out the gaps in services and the results will influence policy and education. According to Hoff and Rosenheck (1998), “a number of media reports and testimony for Congressional hearings on Veterans Affairs have indicated that female veterans are frequently dissatisfied with the care they have received at VA and find the male-dominated culture of VA inhospitable” (p.1117). Pointing out their need for services may influence the survey takers to advocate on this population’s behalf and work for programs that will help them. My goal was to show the Director that this was viable research that could only increase our understanding of homeless female veterans and social work students’ understanding of what services they need. It could also change curriculum taught within social work programs to include more of an emphasis on both homelessness and veterans.

Self-Preparation

The plan was to prepare for the study by researching the best possible way to engage the students in the study. An online anonymous survey was the best way to gain access to the participants needed for this study. The informed consent form was prepared so that it is was accessible to the participants. A survey was developed that eliminated any confusion for the students that are participating. The questions were formulated to eliminate any redundancy. The focus of the questions was to measure both their knowledge and awareness in regards to homeless female veterans.

Preparation was also taken to mentally prepare myself for the commitment it was going to take to accomplish this research project. The tasks involved were organized and structured so that there would be no last minute surprises. All forms needed for approval were done in a timely matter as to not waste time and energy. Time was also set aside to focus on this project so that the best effort would be given to its completion. Contemplation of the subject of the study and how it would affect the future of social work also provided motivation to make the study as in depth as possible giving my full effort.

The topic of homeless female veterans as a research project deserves the utmost respect and care when writing and planning. The point was not to paint the homeless female veterans as victims but instead inspire others to see their resilience through research. Preparation was made for possible resistance and doubt about the validity and reliability of the research topic and its importance. There was a probability that the study itself could stir up emotions of pain, remorse or regret in the participants who may have loved ones who served in the military so that was a situation that I prepared myself for. This period of self - preparation gave me any opportunity to examine my own biases within this study so that they would not affect this study.

Diversity Issues

The diversity issues that exist within the research population include race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender. The CSUSB Office of Research (2015), declared that

The racial make-up of the students in the Bachelor's program within the School of Social Work was 10.9% Caucasian, 5.4% African-American, 1.8% Asian, 2.7% Two or more races, non-Hispanic, 68.1% Hispanic, 7.2% Unknown and 3.6% Non-Resident. The racial make-up of the students within the Master's program within the School of Social Work was 21.4% Caucasian, 1.1% African -American, 1.1% Alaskan Indians or Alaskan Natives, 1.1% Asian, 1.7% Two or more races, Non-Hispanic, 45.2% Hispanic and 16.6% Unknown (Graph 5).

The student body at the university is diverse and there is a chance that their backgrounds may influence their responses and understanding of the survey and study. There was also issues with socioeconomic backgrounds of the students that may influence the results of the research responses. An additional diversity issue is the location of the population being surveyed due to the fact that the student body commutes from multiple areas. There may be certain community standards and cultures that may influence their response to the survey. There is also the issue that some students may have family members who are veterans or homeless and vice versa they may not.

These diversity issues may skew their responses to the survey questions. There is also the issue of those students who may have served in the military versus those who have not. Their experiences will more than likely influence their responses. Another diversity issue to take into account is the fact that there are a lot of men and women from the LGBTQA community that have served and they

may have had traumatizing experiences that may impact their responses also. There is also the diversity issue of age within the student body because older students may have a different perspective on veterans and the homeless compared to younger students due to exposure and experience.

Ethical Issues

First of all, all required modules for the IRB Training were completed, including Human Subjects training. There is an awareness of the ethical issues that may come up during the research process. An important ethical issue is to maintain the privacy and anonymity of the participants in this study. The plan is to maintain anonymity and confidentiality by not recording the IP addresses and instead just assigning a number to each survey for tracking. Therefore, there is no way to track the identity of the participant and their anonymity is protected.

There was no data collection of identifying information other than demographic data. All surveys were held within the secured electronic survey database until they were entered into SPSS. A dollar was donated for every completed survey to a local charity benefiting female veterans. There may be conflict of interest concerning using this incentive to raise money for charity. Others within the community may feel that homeless female veterans are being exploited for the purpose of research.

Also students may not support the charity and therefore refuse to participate. Due to this issue, the plan is to disclose within the informed consent and the debriefing statement that a donation will be made on their behalf to the

specific charity. Another ethical issue is that we assume all students have a positive perception of veterans but that is not always the true. We would not want to alienate any student or make them feel persecuted for their beliefs especially if it went against mainstream American beliefs about veterans and the military. Therefore, within the informed consent and the debriefing statement it will be reiterated that this is voluntary and anonymous.

This measure will ensure that there are no repercussions for expressing their opinion. The other ethical issue is that there may be a conflict of interest because the study will be basing data on surveyed students at a university that the researcher is currently attending. The identity of the university and its students will be protected. However, there is the risk of bias on my part in formulating questions for those students who choose to participate in the survey. I have examined any bias I may have prior to writing the questions so that they are not skewed in one direction or the other.

There were no potential conflicts of commitment due to the fact that I committed 20 hours a week during Fall, Winter and Spring of 2017 to my internship. I made time for my research, studying and my internship by managing my time and working on the project during the winter break. Adjustments were made by reviewing time managing tools to help manage my time .All commitments were prioritized and given an appropriate amount of allotted time for completion.

Political Issues

The political issues are that some participants may have an aversion to military and what they stand for. This can become a political issue especially if they have negative political views about soldiers and their job. The plan was to address this by explicitly making the basis of the study known so that participants can make an educated choice about participating in the survey. Another political issue is that this research may increase other's awareness of the debates that go on about homeless female veterans and the services that are provided to them. The plan was to address this by stating that there is no political agenda attached to this study.

There may be political issues within the university system that may be an issue concerning veteran students and services that they may be receiving at the university. There is a chance that homeless female veteran students may be attending the university that may feel oppressed and identify with the study. This study may encourage veteran students to become inspired to advocate for services for themselves and others. The plan was to make sure that the participants are aware that this study does not support or oppose any programs currently offered to veteran students at this university. Currently the political environment concerning veterans and the military appears to be positive

The Role of Technology in Engagement

The role of technology in engagement is very important. Gatekeepers were engaged by a formal request through e-mail and future communications

would more than likely be the same. Solicitation of participants would also be through e-mail. Technology was involved with the software to create and analyze the data from the surveys. Surveys were sent by way of an anonymous link as part of an e-mail, along with an explanation of the research to the potential participant.

The survey itself would be hosted online as well as the informed consent and the debriefing statement. Consent forms are found at the beginning of the survey and acknowledged through an x as their signature giving consent. Technology also contributed to the study by allowing the researcher to survey more participants in a shorter period of time providing a larger pool of participants. Technology contributed to the formulation of the literature review for the study by providing a database with access to thousands of journal articles. Technology also contributed to the storing and sharing of the results of this study for future use.

Summary

Chapter Two provided what the study site is and where it was located along with regional statistics. The chapter discussed the services provided by the university and who the clients were. The gatekeepers were discussed along with how they were engaged and permission was obtained. Self-preparation was also examined along with how it affects this study. Included in self-preparation was personal tasks and thoughts about my own influence on the study.

The chapter introduced some of the diversity issues based on the racial make-up of the student body. Diversity issues concerning the LGBTQA community was also outlined in the chapter. The chapter also explored ethical issues including possible conflict of commitment and ensuring privacy and anonymity. Political issues were reviewed along with possible consequences for the study and the university. The chapter elucidated on the role of technology in the engagement phase including after the research and study is finished.

CHAPTER THREE

IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

Chapter Three addresses who the participants were in the study including their characteristics, how they were selected and why this approach is being used. The methods of gathering data are explained and the phases of data collection. The data analysis was discussed which included power analysis, null hypothesis and the type of tests that were conducted with the data. The communication of findings was explored which included both the study site and the study participants. Finally, the termination and follow-up was discussed along with the communication of findings and the dissemination plan.

Study Participants

The participants in the study were students in the Bachelor's and Master's Social Work program at a university in Southern California. The Director of Social Work was contacted by e-mail and provided a letter of approval for conducting the research within the university. Research showed that the total number of student's in the Bachelor's social work program was 109. The total number of male students enrolled was 12, while the number of female students enrolled was 98. There were also 97 full-time students enrolled in the Bachelor's Social Work Program while 13 students were part-time. The median age of the student body was 29 years old (CSUSB Office of Research, 2015).

Research showed that the total number of students in the Master's social work program was 187. The total number of male students enrolled was 31, while the number of female students enrolled was 156. There were also 156 full-time students enrolled in the Bachelor's Social Work Program while 31 students were part-time. The median age of the student body was 30 years old (CSUSB Office of Research, 2015).

The racial breakdown of the total student body including bachelor and master social work students was 55 Caucasian, 25 African -American, 2 Alaskan Indians or Alaskan Native, 1 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 6 Asians, 8 Two or more Races- Non Hispanic, 163 Hispanics and 32 Unknown. The combined student body consists of 296 Californian residents and 1 Non Resident. Enrollment for Bachelor's and Master's social work program made up 5.8% of the total number of students within the Social and Behavioral Science college. Class enrollment for social work programs increased from 199 in April 2010 to 297 in January 2015 (CSUSB Office of Research, 2015).

Selection of Participants

The students were selected from the Bachelor and Master full-time program on campus, the part-time program on campus and the part-time program online. A power analysis was conducted analyzing the power, effective size, statistical significance level, sample size, degrees freedom of independent variable, degrees freedom of error. These calculations determined that sample size that will be analyzed. The power analysis indicated that the sample size

should be at least 80 participants respectively. Initially the plan was to conduct a random sample selection process to select the participants that would receive the survey.

Unfortunately, due to privacy and confidentiality issues the rosters of student emails were unobtainable from the Director of Social Work. Therefore, a sample of the entire bachelor's and master's social work program at CSUSB was used. A number was assigned to all the surveys for tracking purposes only. The choice to use this was due to time constraints and issues with maintaining the privacy of the participants.

Data Gathering

The data was gathered through an online survey that was sent to all students in the social work program at the university. The student's university e-mails are accessed through permission from the Director of Social Work and sent out by a third party staffed within the social work program. The e-mail sent out on the study's behalf stated the purpose of the study, the length of time it will take, the amount of survey questions and thanked them for their time and participation. The informed consent and debriefing statement were included in the actual survey. The e-mail also included an incentive so that they would be more willing to take the survey. The plan was to donate a \$1 to a veteran or homeless charity of the researcher's choosing for every completed survey.

The survey itself consisted of 15 questions created and hosted on Qualtrics, an electronic survey program that the participants would answer.

Demographics information was requested including gender, age, race, level within the program and what type of program (BASW or MSW, full-time on campus, part-time on campus or part-time online) enrolled in. The majority of the other questions within the survey would measure the student's knowledge about homelessness among female veterans and awareness of their needs for service. For example: Do you feel that female homeless veterans are over represented with the homeless population? Do you feel transitional housing is an adequate intervention for homelessness among female veterans? The questions will be close-ended and set up in a Likert Scale to measure dimensionality. The participants would have the option to strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree or disagree, agree or strongly agree.

Phases of Data Collection

The data collection began early April of 2016. Both researchers began contacting parents via telephone at the research site. Data gathering took place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 8:00 and 4:30 PM. The surveys were conducted in both English and Spanish, and each interview took roughly 5 to 10 minutes. Three attempts were made to contact each participant when not available at the initial call. The information collected was then recorded and later inputted into SPSS to be statically analyzed. The data collection process took 3 months to get all interviews completed

Phases of Data Collection

As stated earlier, due to privacy and confidentiality issues a random sample of participants will not be possible. Therefore, surveys will be given to the

university to be sent out to all the social work students through their university e-mails. Once all the surveys are completed the data would be collected between April 2016 to October 2016 respectively depending on IRB approval and participation of students. Once all the surveys are completed and collected they will be given a number for tracking purposes only, no other identification will be attached to them. The total number of surveys collected will then be analyzed as a total sample of all CSUSB social work students.

Data Recording

The researcher recorded data/responses from the surveys total sample of CSUSB Social Work students. The data was recorded based on demographic data collected and then the responses to the questions based on knowledge and awareness for the need of interventions for homeless female veterans. The data was loaded into a SPSS program for analysis. There were no other modes for recording data in this study.

Data Analysis

Data from surveys were uploaded to SPSS from a secure database on Qualtrics. A descriptive qualitative data analysis was conducted to ascertain the frequencies of each question including the minimum, mean, maximum and median. T-Tests were also conducted comparing characteristics of respondents and their responses to each question. A Crosstabs test was also conducted comparing the number of responses to questions in regards to age range

including a Somers D. test. The data was then analyzed using a P-Variance of .05 or less.

Termination and Follow-up

Due to the fact that this is a positivist research project there was no termination with participants other than the debriefing statement at the end of the survey. The confidentiality and privacy of the participants must be respected. The study was presented at the annual poster day at the university as a way to terminate with the university and the School of Social Work. Follow-up with the participants was impossible due to privacy and confidentiality issues and the need to respect their anonymity. A donation was made to the Victor Valley Rescue Mission in the amount of \$133.00 as promised at the beginning of the survey.

Communication of Findings and Dissemination Plan

The findings were reported to the university and the social work program through this project. The dissemination plan consisted of publishing the research findings and presenting the findings for public scrutiny at the poster day exhibit. This gave faculty and other students an opportunity to question the methods and results of the project. There was a visual display to aid in the explanation of the research so that the faculty and visitors may be able to visualize the process.

Summary

Chapter Three addresses who the participants were in the study including their characteristics, how they were selected and why this approach was being used. The methods of gathering data were explained and the phases of data collection were explored. The data analysis was discussed which included power analysis, null hypothesis and the type of tests that were conducted with the data. The communication of findings was examined which included both the study site and study participants. Finally, the termination and follow-up was discussed along with the communication of findings and the dissemination plan

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CHAPTER FOUR

EVALUATION

This chapter will cover demographics and the key variables of the study. The demographics of the participants will be presented along with their responses to the survey questions. The characteristics of the participants will be analyzed for relevance to the study. Graphs will be presented to visually represent the statistical data. The key findings will be presented.

Demographics

The study consisted of 133 participants in which there were 16 males (12.0%) and 117 females (88.0%). (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Comparison of Gender

Percent Variable	Frequency	
	(N)	(%)
Gender		
Male	16	12.0
Female	117	88.0
Total	133	100.0

There were 45 participants aged 18 years to 25 years old (33.8%), 38 participants aged 26 years to 30 years old (28.6%), 30 participants were aged 31 years to 40 years old (22.6%) and 20 participants aged 41 years old and up (15.0%). (See Table 2.)

Table 2. Comparison of Age

	Frequency	Percent
Variable	(N)	(%)
<hr/>		
Age		
18 years to 25 years	45	33.8
26 years to 30 years	38	28.6
31 years to 40 years	30	22.6
41 years and up	20	15.0
<hr/>		
Total	133	100.0
<hr/>		

The level within the social work program was 42 participants were Bachelor's level (31.6%) and 91 participants were Master's level (68.4%). (See Table 3).

Table 3. Comparison in Level in Social Work Program

Variable	Frequency (N)	Percent (%)
Level in Social Work Program		
Bachelor's	42	31.6
Master's	91	68.4
Total	133	100.0

There were 84 participants on campus full-time (63,2%), 23 participants on campus part-time (17.3%) and 25 participants part-time online (19.5%). (See Table 4.)

Table 4. Comparison of Type of Program

Variable	Frequency (N)	Percent (%)
Type of Program		
Full-time on campus	84	63.2
Part-time on campus	23	17.3
Part-time online	26	19.5
Total	133	100.0

The racial diversity among the participants was 52 Caucasians (39.1%), 10 African -Americans (7.5%), 56 Hispanic (42,1%), 1 Alaskan Native or Alaskan

Indian (.8%), 6 of two or more races/non-Hispanic (4.5%) and 6 preferred not to say (4.5%). (See Table 5.)

Table 5. Comparison of Race

Variable	Frequency (N)	Percent (%)
Race		
Prefer not to say	6	4.5
Caucasian	52	39.1
African-American	10	7.5
Hispanic	56	42.1
Alaskan Native or Alaskan Indian	1	.8
Two or more races/ Non-Hispanic	6	4.5
Total	133	100.0

Knowledge of Risk and Protective Factors

The survey had a total of 5 questions that assessed whether social work students has an understanding of risk factors and protective factors affecting homeless female veterans. 24.1% of those surveyed strongly agree that homeless female veterans have higher rates of sexual trauma compared to non-military female counterparts (See Appendix C, Table 6). 3.0% of those surveyed strongly agree that female homeless veterans are over represented within the

homeless population (See Appendix C, Table 8). 13.5% of those surveyed strongly agree that unemployment is high among female veterans than male veterans (See Appendix C, Table 10). 10.5% of those surveyed strongly agree that female veterans represent one of the fastest growing groups of new VA (Veteran Affairs) health care users (See Appendix C, Table 12). 11.3% of those surveyed strongly agree that protective factors against homelessness among female veterans include being a college graduate or married (See Appendix C, Table 14.).

Knowledge of Interventions

The survey had a total of 5 questions that assessed the social work students' knowledge about interventions with homeless female veterans. 20.3% strongly disagree that there are adequate services for homeless female veterans (See Appendix C, Table 7). 3.0% strongly disagree that transitional housing is an adequate intervention for homelessness among female veterans (See Appendix C, Table 9). 18.0% strongly disagree that there are adequate resources available for homeless female veterans (See Appendix C, Table 11). 4.5% strongly disagree that substance abuse programs provide safe and stable housing for homeless female veterans (See Appendix C, Table 13). 7.5% strongly disagree that services offered by the VA (Veteran Affairs) are sensitive to gender differences among veterans (See Appendix C, Table 15).

Key Variables

A t-test was run to establish any significance between the dependent variable of gender and the independent variable of knowledge. It was found that there was zero significance between gender and student's knowledge of appropriate interventions. A Somers D test was run to establish significance between age and knowledge. It was found that there was significance between the two variables ($t(133) = 2.54, p = .01$). The question was: There are adequate services for homeless female veterans. The majority of the respondents answered disagree which was the correct answer.

A t-test was run to establish any significance between the dependent variable of level in the program and independent variable of knowledge. It was found that there was significance between the dependent and independent variables ($t(130) = 2.37, p = .019$). The respondents agreed with the question: Protective factors against homelessness among female veterans includes being a college graduate or married. There was also significance found in regards to level of the program and knowledge ($t(130) = -2.16, p = .032$) with the question: Services offered by the VA are sensitive to gender differences among veterans. The respondents answered disagree which was the correct response.

Summary

The data was reviewed along with the individual variables. The key factors of assessment were explained. The key variables were analyzed and

significance was the tests were discussed. There was an establishment of significance with some of the variables but not everyone. The variable of gender was unable to establish any significance partly due to the low participation of males

CHAPTER FIVE

TERMINATION AND FOLLOW UP

Introduction

This chapter provides a discussion on the findings of the study and the implications it has on future social work students. Some of the limitations of the study will also be discussed. There will also be a brief discussion on termination and follow-up. Communication of findings will also be covered along with a dissemination plan for the study. Lastly this chapter will discuss future implications for the social work program at CSUSB.

Termination of Study

The participants were thanked ahead of time within the solicitation for the study. The debriefing statement to inform the participants as to where they would be able to view the study once published and to thank them again for participating was located at the end of the survey. Termination with the participants is unnecessary due to the survey being sent through e-mail and the need to ensure the privacy of the participants.

Communicating the Findings and Dissemination Plan

The purpose of this study was not only bringing awareness to the social work students of the needs of homeless female veterans but also to point out the need for more research and curriculum center around the topic. There was some significant data found that supported that both age and level within the program

influenced the participant's knowledge of appropriate interventions. The findings will be communicated through the publication of this study and made available to all students on Scholar Works. The dissemination plan is to participate in the poster day at CSUSB so that the study may be scrutinized and questions may be answered.

Limitations of the Study

One major limitation of the study was that it was specific to the CSUSB campus social work program. These results can't be applied to the entire Cal-State system. Another limitation is that not all student participated in the survey. A majority of students in the online program did not respond. Another limitation was that the program is majority of females so it was difficult to find significance in that variable. There was also the possibility of bias in the writing of the survey questions and interpretation of the survey questions. There was also the fact that the surveys were sent through e-mail there was no way to assure that the respondent understood all the questions and secondly, completed the entire survey on their own.

Future Implications

As stated earlier the main reason for choosing this topic was to bring awareness to the population and their need for more services and appropriate interventions. The hope is that the social work program will be able to see that students are not a 100% prepared to handle the homeless female veteran population. Homeless female veterans have previous experiences and needs

different from non-military female homeless or male veterans. The study points out the need for further research and curriculum based on the needs of female veterans with an emphasis on homelessness. This study is also important to the university because there may be a time when there will be more homeless female veterans attending the university and it would be important to understand their needs

Summary

This study was able to bring awareness to the need for more research and more emphasis on homeless female veterans in the social work curriculum. Despite the variables measured there were still social work students unfamiliar with the protective and risk factors that affect homeless female veterans and the need for appropriate interventions and services. This chapter discussed the process of termination, communication of findings and dissemination plan. The limitations to the study were also discussed. Lastly, the implications for both the university, social work students and social work as a profession were discussed.

APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRE

Survey

Question # 1) Gender

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Question # 2) Age

- ☐ 18 years to 25 years
- ☐ 26 years to 30 years
- ☐ 31 years to 40 years
- ☐ 41 years and up

Question# 3) Level in Social Work Program

- ☐ Bachelor's
- ☐ Master's

Question # 4) Type of program

- ☐ Full-time on campus
- ☐ Part-time on campus
- ☐ Part-time online

Question # 5) Race

- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Caucasian
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ African-American
- ☐ Hispanic
- ☐ Alaskan Native or Alaskan Indian
- ☐ Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Two or more races/ Non-Hispanic

Question # 6) Homeless female veterans have higher rates of sexual trauma compared to non-military female counter parts.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree

- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 7) There are adequate services for homeless female veterans.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 8) Female homeless veterans are over represented within the homeless population.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 9) Transitional housing is an adequate intervention for homelessness among female veterans.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question# 10) Unemployment is higher among female veterans than male veterans.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 11) There are adequate resources available to homeless female veterans.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 12) Female veterans represent one of the fastest growing groups of new VA (Veteran

Affairs) health care users.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 13) Substance abuse programs provide safe and stable housing for homeless female veterans.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agreeing
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree

- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 14) Protective factors against homelessness among female veterans include being a college graduate or married.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Question # 15) Services offered by the VA (Veteran Affairs) are sensitive to gender differences among veterans.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Created by: Bryan Joseph Gomez

APPENDIX B

INFORMED CONSENT AND DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

Informed Consent

The study which you are asked to participate is designed to examine Social Work students' knowledge of homeless female veterans and their awareness of their need for services. The study is being conducted by Bryan Gomez, a graduate student, under the supervision of Associate Professor Carolyn McAllister, Professor of Social Work, California State University, San Bernardino. This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board Social Work Sub-Committee, California State University, San Bernardino.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the study is to examine Social Work students' knowledge of homeless female veterans and their awareness of their need for services.

DESCRIPTION: Participants will be asked a few questions on their knowledge of issues pertaining to homeless female veterans, how they should intervene and what type of services are needed.

PARTICIPATION: Your participation in this study is totally voluntary. You can refuse to participate in this study or discontinue your participation at any time without any consequences.

CONFIDENTIALITY OR ANONYMITY: Your responses will remain anonymous and data will be reported in group form only.

DURATION: It will take approximately 5 to 10 minutes to complete the survey.

RISKS: There are no foreseeable risks to the participants.

BENEFITS: There will not be any direct benefits to the participants.

CONTACT: If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Associate Professor Carolyn McAllister at (909) 537-5559.

RESULTS: If you would like to obtain of the group results of this study, please contact the Scholar Works database at the Pfau Library at CSUSB after July 2017.

This is to certify that I read the above and I am 18 years or older.

Place an X mark here

Date

Debriefing Statement

This study you have just completed was designed to investigate Social Work students' knowledge of homeless female veterans and their awareness of their need for services. We are interested in assessing students' knowledge of homeless female veteran issues and types of interventions needed to support this community. This study is also assessing to see if there is a positive correlation between knowledge and awareness among Social Work students. We are also interested in students' perceptions on services needed for this community. This is to inform you that no deception is involved in this study.

Thank you for your participation. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Associate Professor Carolyn McAllister at (909) 537-5559. If you would like to obtain of the group results of this study, please contact the Scholar Works database at the Pfau Library at CSUSB after July 2017.

E-mail Solicitation for Participants

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF Bryan Gomez.

PLEASE SEND QUESTIONS TO Bryan at gomeb302@coyote.csusb.edu REGARDING THIS RESEARCH PROJECT.

Dear Social Work Students,

My name is Bryan Gomez and I am doing a research project on Social Work students' knowledge of homeless female veterans and awareness of their need for services. I would greatly appreciate your participation in this study by taking the survey provided. This survey aims to assess student's knowledge about homeless female veteran issues and types of interventions needed to support this community. This survey is anonymous and your participation in this study is totally voluntary. You can refuse to participate at any time without any consequences. The survey should not take longer than 10 minutes and a donation to a veteran charity will be made for each completed survey. If you would like to participate in the study, please click the link below.

http://csusb.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9vLqAaDsRJaw4BL

Thank you in advance!

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT: The information in this e-mail inclusive of any attachment(s) is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC SS 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. It is intended only for the attention and use of the named recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, you are not authorized to retain, disclose, copy or distribute the message and/or any of its attachments. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify me by return email and delete this message.

Created by: Bryan Joseph Gomez

APPENDIX C
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD OF APPROVAL FORM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Institutional Review Board Sub-Committee

Researcher(s) Bryan Gomez
Proposal Title MSW students' Knowledge of Interventions
with Female Veterans
SW1651

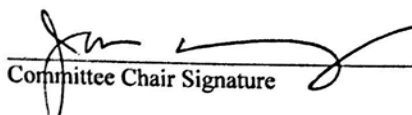
Your proposal has been reviewed by the School of Social Work Sub-Committee of the Institutional Review Board. The decisions and advice of those faculty are given below.

Proposal is:

- ☒ approved
☐ to be resubmitted with revisions listed below
☐ to be forwarded to the campus IRB for review

Revisions that must be made before proposal can be approved:

- ☐ faculty signature missing
☐ missing informed consent ☐ debriefing statement
☐ revisions needed in informed consent ☐ debriefing
☐ data collection instruments missing
☐ agency approval letter missing
☐ CITI missing
☐ revisions in design needed (specified below)
- _____


Committee Chair Signature

6/1/2016
Date

Distribution: White-Coordinator; Yellow-Supervisor; Pink-Student

APPENDIX D

DATA TABLES AND CHARTS

Table 6. Responses to survey question # 6

Homeless female veterans have higher rates of sexual trauma compared to non-military female counter parts.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	32	24.1	24.1	24.1
	Agree	41	30.8	30.8	54.9
	Somewhat agree	30	22.6	22.6	77.4
	Neither agree nor disagree	23	17.3	17.3	94.7
	Somewhat disagree	3	2.3	2.3	97.0
	Disagree	4	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	133	100.0	100.0	

Bar Chart 6. Responses to survey question # 6

Homeless female veterans have higher rates of sexual trauma compared to non-military female counter parts.

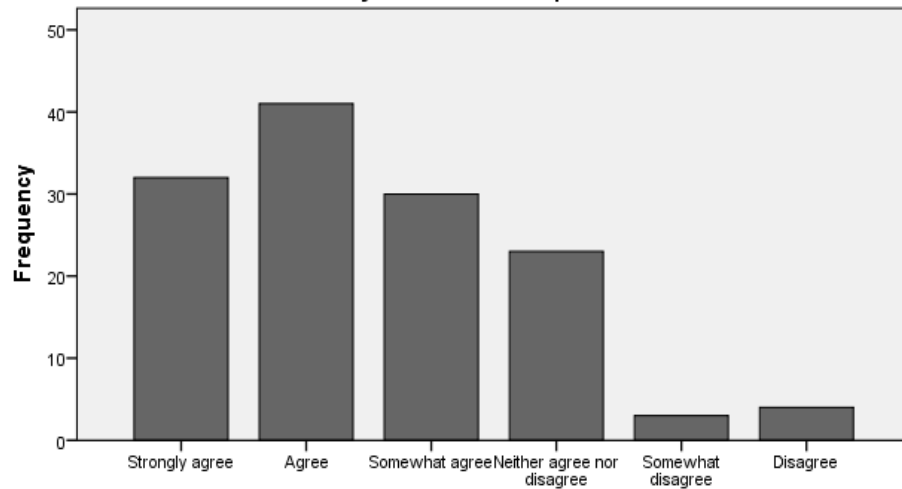


Table 7. Responses to survey question # 7

There are adequate services for homeless female veterans.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	5	3.8	3.8	3.8
	Somewhat agree	12	9.0	9.0	12.8
	Neither agree nor disagree	17	12.8	12.8	25.6
	Somewhat disagree	30	22.6	22.6	48.1
	Disagree	42	31.6	31.6	79.7
	Strongly disagree	27	20.3	20.3	100.0
	Total	133	100.0	100.0	

Bar Chart 7. Responses to survey question # 7

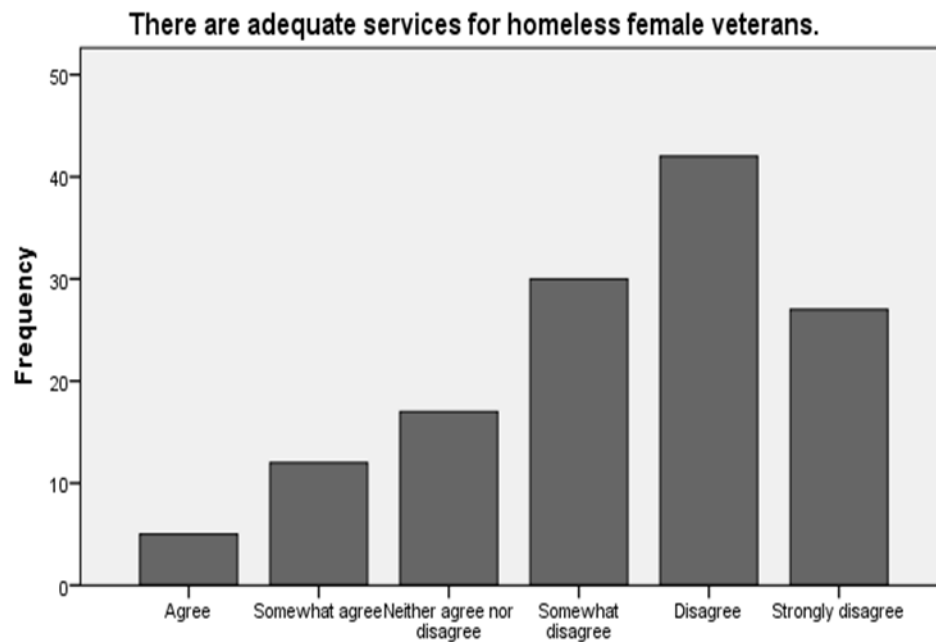


Table 8. Responses to survey question # 8

Female homeless veterans are over represented within the homeless population.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	4	3.0	3.0	3.0
	Agree	15	11.3	11.3	14.3
	Somewhat agree	13	9.8	9.8	24.1
	Neither agree nor disagree	45	33.8	33.8	57.9
	Somewhat disagree	14	10.5	10.5	68.4
	Disagree	19	14.3	14.3	82.7
	Strongly disagree	23	17.3	17.3	100.0
	Total	133	100.0	100.0	

Bar Chart 8. Responses to survey question # 8

Female homeless veterans are over represented within the homeless population.

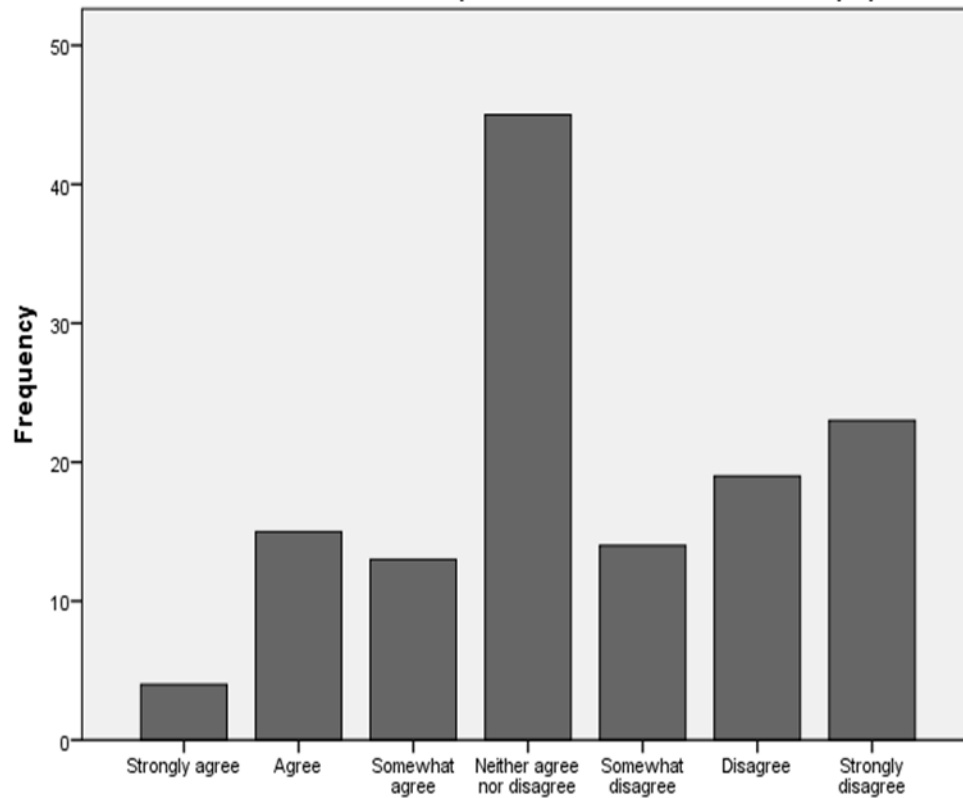


Table 9. Responses to survey question # 9

Transitional housing is an adequate intervention for homelessness among female veterans.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	5	3.8	3.8	3.8
	Agree	30	22.6	22.7	26.5
	Somewhat agree	46	34.6	34.8	61.4
	Neither agree nor disagree	27	20.3	20.5	81.8
	Somewhat disagree	10	7.5	7.6	89.4
	Disagree	10	7.5	7.6	97.0
	Strongly disagree	4	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	132	99.2	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.8		
Total		133	100.0		

Bar Chart 9. Responses to survey question # 9

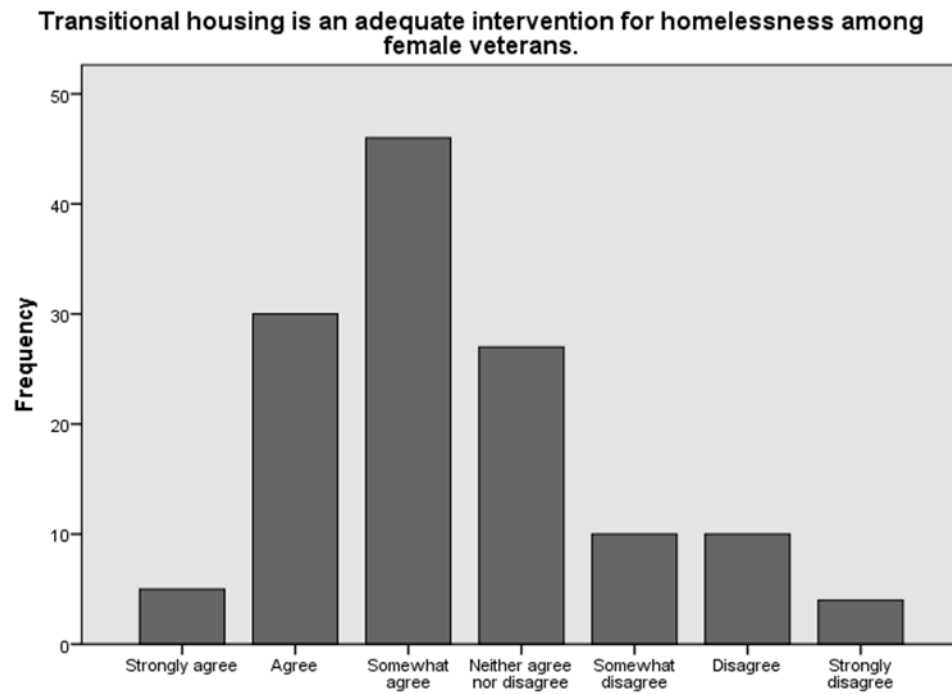


Table 10. Responses to survey question # 10

Unemployment is higher among female veterans than male veterans.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	18	13.5	13.5	13.5
	Agree	32	24.1	24.1	37.6
	Somewhat agree	20	15.0	15.0	52.6
	Neither agree nor disagree	49	36.8	36.8	89.5
	Somewhat disagree	5	3.8	3.8	93.2
	Disagree	6	4.5	4.5	97.7
	Strongly disagree	3	2.3	2.3	100.0
	Total	133	100.0	100.0	

Bar Chart 10. Responses to survey question # 10

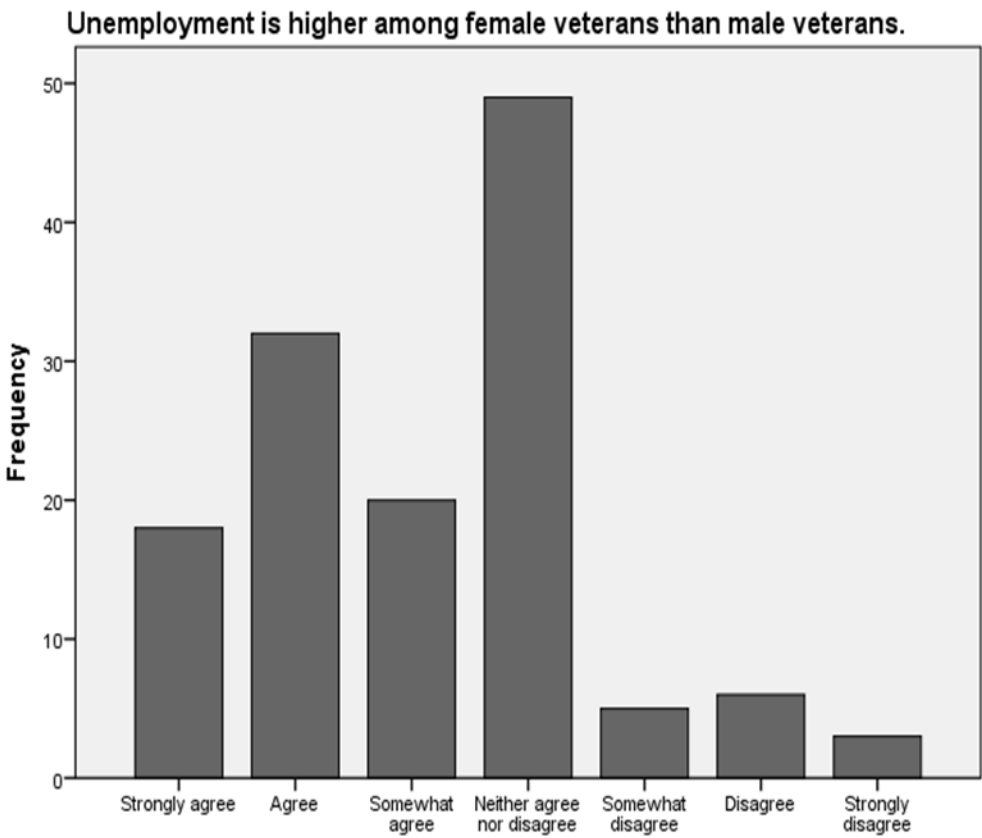


Table 11. Responses to survey question # 11

There are adequate resources available to homeless female veterans.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	7	5.3	5.3	5.3
	Somewhat agree	12	9.0	9.0	14.3
	Neither agree nor disagree	23	17.3	17.3	31.6
	Somewhat disagree	31	23.3	23.3	54.9
	Disagree	36	27.1	27.1	82.0
	Strongly disagree	24	18.0	18.0	100.0
	Total	133	100.0	100.0	

Bar Chart 11. Responses to survey question # 11

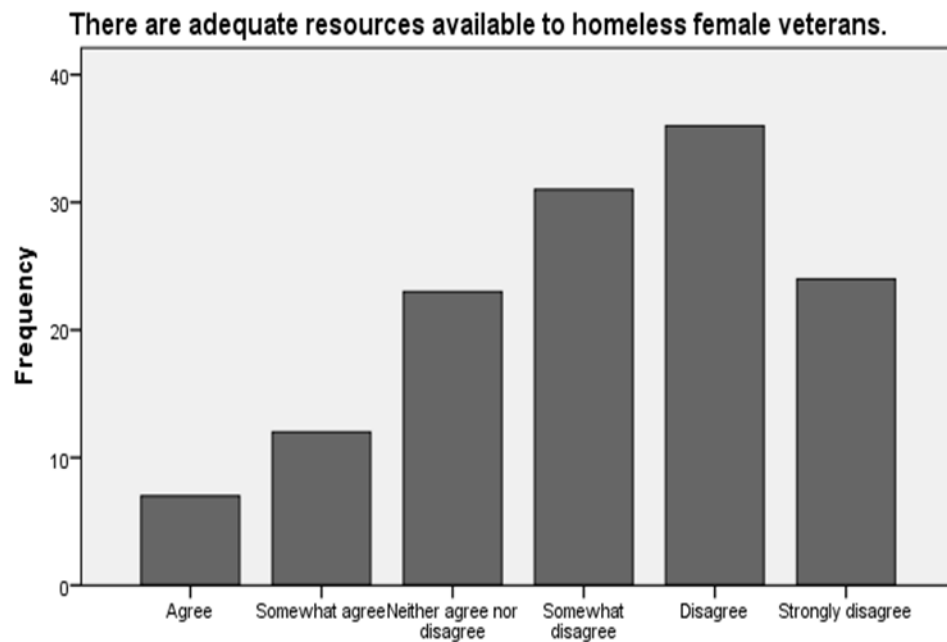


Table 12. Responses to survey question # 12

Female veterans represent one of the fastest growing groups of new VA(Veteran Affairs) health care users.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	14	10.5	10.5	10.5
	Agree	39	29.3	29.3	39.8
	Somewhat agree	17	12.8	12.8	52.6
	Neither agree nor disagree	55	41.4	41.4	94.0
	Somewhat disagree	5	3.8	3.8	97.7
	Disagree	2	1.5	1.5	99.2
	Strongly disagree	1	.8	.8	100.0
	Total	133	100.0	100.0	

Bar Chart 12. Responses to survey question # 12

Female veterans represent one of the fastest growing groups of new VA(Veteran Affairs) health care users.

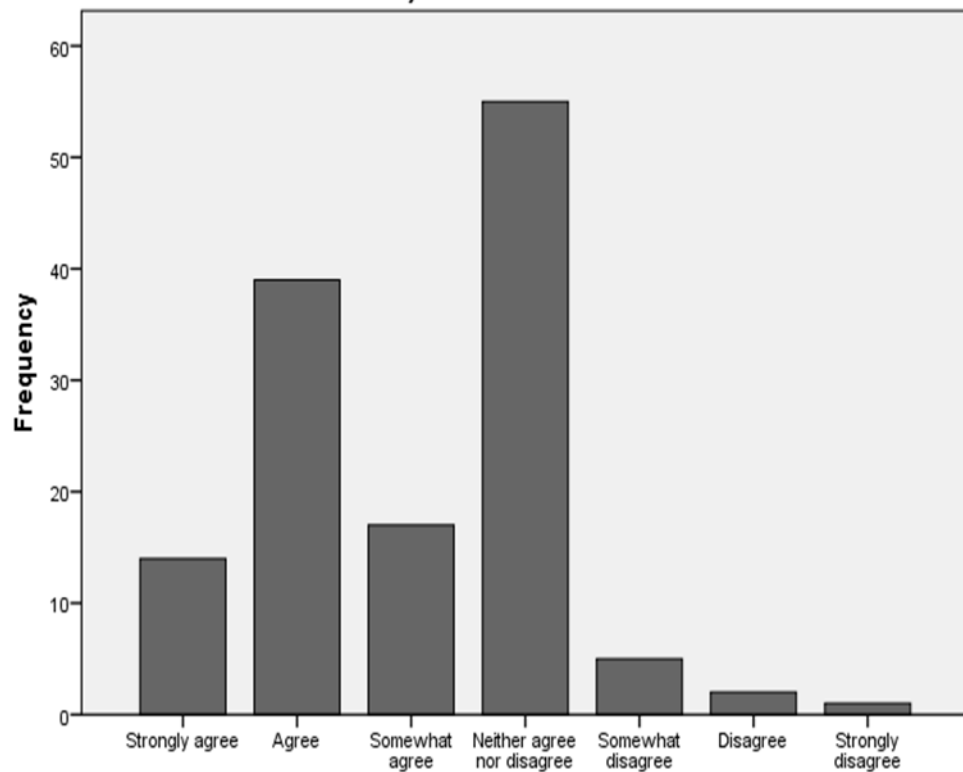


Table 13. Responses to survey question # 13

Substance abuse programs provide safe and stable housing for homeless female veterans.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	4	3.0	3.0	3.0
	Agree	13	9.8	9.8	12.8
	Somewhat agree	28	21.1	21.1	33.8
	Neither agree nor disagree	32	24.1	24.1	57.9
	Somewhat disagree	25	18.8	18.8	76.7
	Disagree	25	18.8	18.8	95.5
	Strongly disagree	6	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	133	100.0	100.0	

Bar Chart 13. Responses to survey question # 13

Substance abuse programs provide safe and stable housing for homeless female veterans.

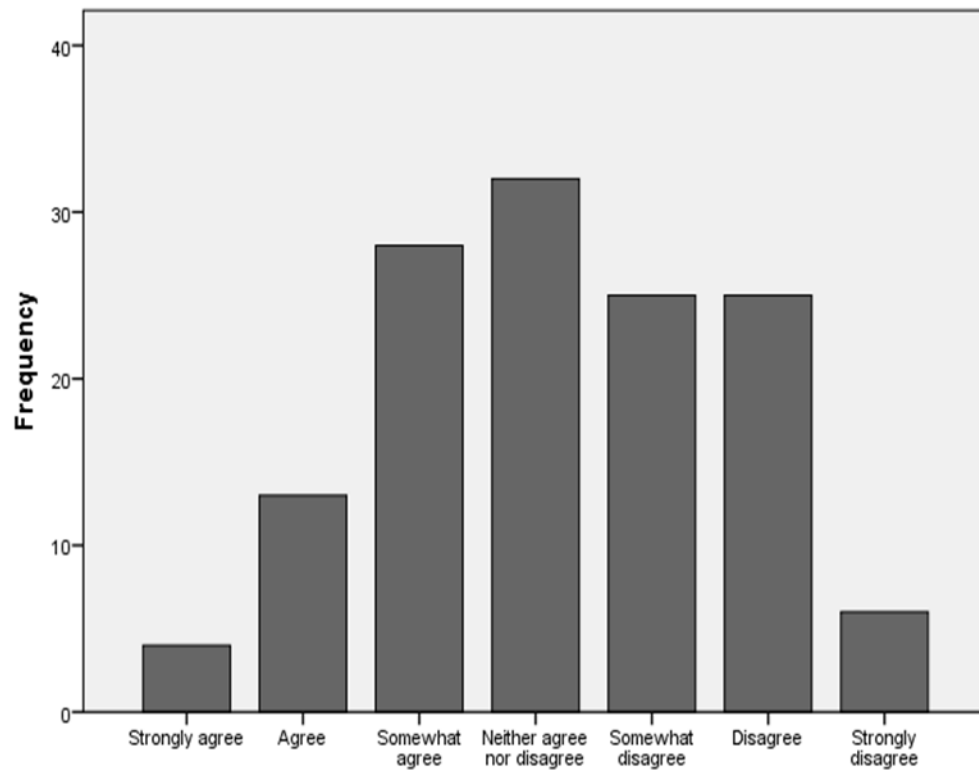


Table 14. Responses to survey question # 14

Services offered by the VA (Veteran Affairs) are sensitive to gender differences among veterans.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	6	4.5	4.5	4.5
	Somewhat agree	18	13.5	13.6	18.2
	Neither agree nor disagree	41	30.8	31.1	49.2
	Somewhat disagree	32	24.1	24.2	73.5
	Disagree	25	18.8	18.9	92.4
	Strongly disagree	10	7.5	7.6	100.0
	Total	132	99.2	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.8		
Total		133	100.0		

Protective factors against homelessness among female veterans include being a college graduate or married.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	15	11.3	11.4	11.4
	Agree	52	39.1	39.4	50.8
	Somewhat agree	27	20.3	20.5	71.2
	Neither agree nor disagree	21	15.8	15.9	87.1
	Somewhat disagree	6	4.5	4.5	91.7
	Disagree	6	4.5	4.5	96.2
	Strongly disagree	5	3.8	3.8	100.0
	Total	132	99.2	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.8		
Total		133	100.0		

Bar Chart 14. Responses to survey question # 14

Protective factors against homelessness among female veterans include being a college graduate or married.

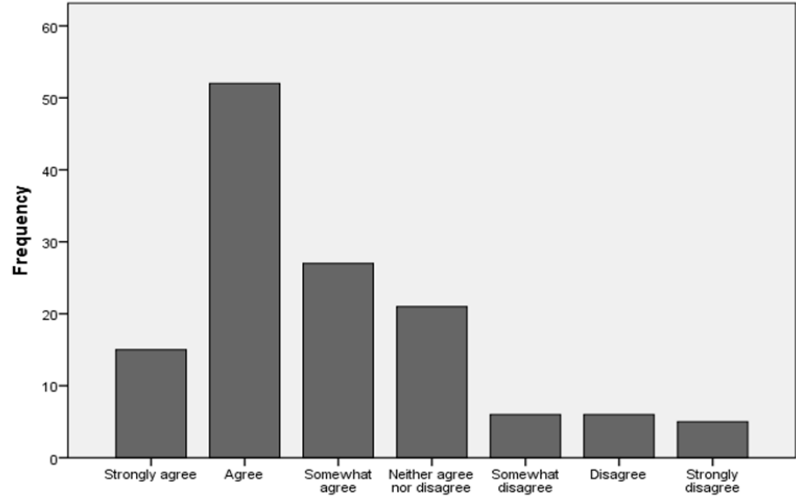
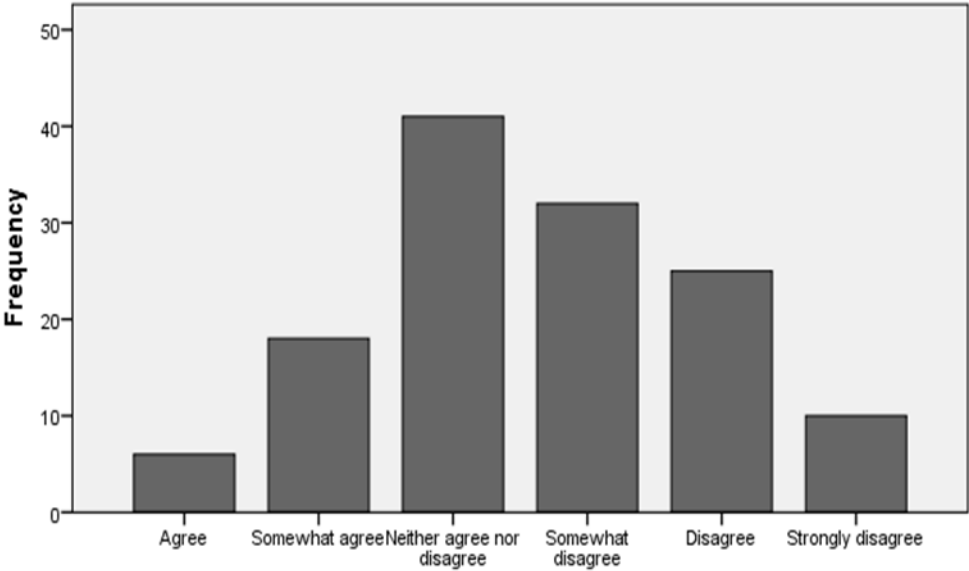


Table 15. Responses to survey question # 15

Services offered by the VA (Veteran Affairs) are sensitive to gender differences among veterans.				
		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	6	4.5	4.5
	Somewhat agree	18	13.5	18.2
	Neither agree nor disagree	41	30.8	49.2
	Somewhat disagree	32	24.1	73.5
	Disagree	25	18.8	92.4
	Strongly disagree	10	7.5	100.0
	Total	132	99.2	100.0
Missing	System	1	.8	
Total		133	100.0	

Bar Chart 15. Responses to survey question # 15

Services offered by the VA (Veteran Affairs) are sensitive to gender differences among veterans.



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