

Name of Measure: Race-Related Stressor Scale (RRSS) (Loo, Fairbank, Scurfield, Ruch, King, Adams, & Chemtob, 2001)

Purpose of Measure: To assess exposure to race-related stressors experienced by veterans.

Reference: Loo, C.M, Fairbank, J.A., Scurfield, R.M, Ruch, L.O., King, D.W., Adams, L.J., & Chemtob, C.M. (2001). Measuring exposure to racism: Development and validation of a race-related stressor scale (RRSS) for Asian American Vietnam veterans. *Psychological Assessment*, 13 (4), 503-520.

Description of Measure: The RRSS is a 33 item self-report questionnaire. The development of the item pool originated from a review of the literature, clinician and veteran interviews, and focus groups regarding negative race-related experiences of minority veterans who served in the Vietnam War. Each item has a 5-point, Likert response scale ranging from 0 to 5 ("never" to "very frequently"). High scores indicate stronger endorsement of the negative race-related experience (e.g. "How often, if ever were you resented because you were Asian?"). A factorial analysis revealed 3 sub-scales: Racial Prejudice and Stigmatization, Bicultural Identification and Conflict, and Racist Environment.

Language: English

Translation Comments: NA

Description of Populations: A total of 300 Asian American veterans participated in the research. These individuals identified as Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Japanese, Okinawan, Chamorro, or Asian mixed race. The mean age was 55.07 years (SD=6.53)

Norms: The mean RRSS total score was 56.5 (SD = 29.9). For the Combat Exposure Scale, the mean score was 17.5 (SD = 12.1) with a range of 0-41. For the Mississippi Scale for PTSD was 92.9 (SD = 32.2) with a range of 39-171.

Reliability: The Cronbach alpha for the full RRSS scale was .97 and for the sub-scales was .97 Racial Prejudice and Stigmatization, .93 Bicultural Identification and Conflict, and .93 Racist Environment. The test-retest co-efficient was .85 for the entire scale, and .84 for the Racial Prejudice and Stigmatization sub-scale, .84 for the Bicultural Identification and Conflict sub-scale, and .69 for the Racist Environment sub-scale. Test-retest coefficients ($r = .85$) were based on a sample of 61 male veterans drawn from the full sample of 300.

Validity: Construct validity was assessed. The RRSS total score was positively and significantly associated with the Combat Exposure Scale score ($r = .40, p < .001$) and the negatively correlated with military rank ($r = -.37, p < .001$). Additionally, a positive and significant correlation was found between the RRSS total score and the Global Severity Index score of the Brief Symptom Inventory ($r = .67, P < .001$) and the Mississippi Scale for Combat-Related PTSD scores was .68 ($p < .001$). Mississippi Scale scores were also positively correlated with each of the 3 RRSS sub-scales. Hierarchical regression analyses revealed that exposure to race-related stressors accounted for a significant proportion of the variance in PTSD symptoms and general psychiatric symptoms, over and above (by 20% and 19% respectively) that accounted for by combat

exposure and military rank. The RRSS appears to be a psychometrically sound measure of exposure to racer-related stressors for this population. Race-related stressors as measured by the RRSS appear to contribute uniquely and substantially to PTSD symptoms and generalized psychiatric distress..

How to obtain a copy of this instrument: The full instrument is printed in the article. For further information about the research, please contact Dr. Chalsa Loo, National Center for PTSD, 1132 Bishop Street, #307, Honolulu Hawaii 96813 chalsa.loo@med.va.gov.