

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER FOLLOWING MURDERS, DRUNK DRIVING CRASHES, SUICIDES, WAR

First criteria for PTSD exposure to a traumatic event outside the range of normal human experience which would be expected to cause stress.

To be classified as having PTSD, one must have experienced:

- flashbacks,
- distressing dreams,
- recurrent distressing recollections of the event.

Also at least three of the following symptoms had to be present:

- efforts to avoid thoughts or feelings associated with the event,
- marked decrease in interest in significant activities,
- feeling of detachment from others,
- restricted range of affect.

Two of the following had to be present:

- sleep disturbance,
- irritability,
- difficulty concentrating,
- hypervigilance,
- startle response,
- physiologic symptoms of anxiety when exposed to reminders of the event.

Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina