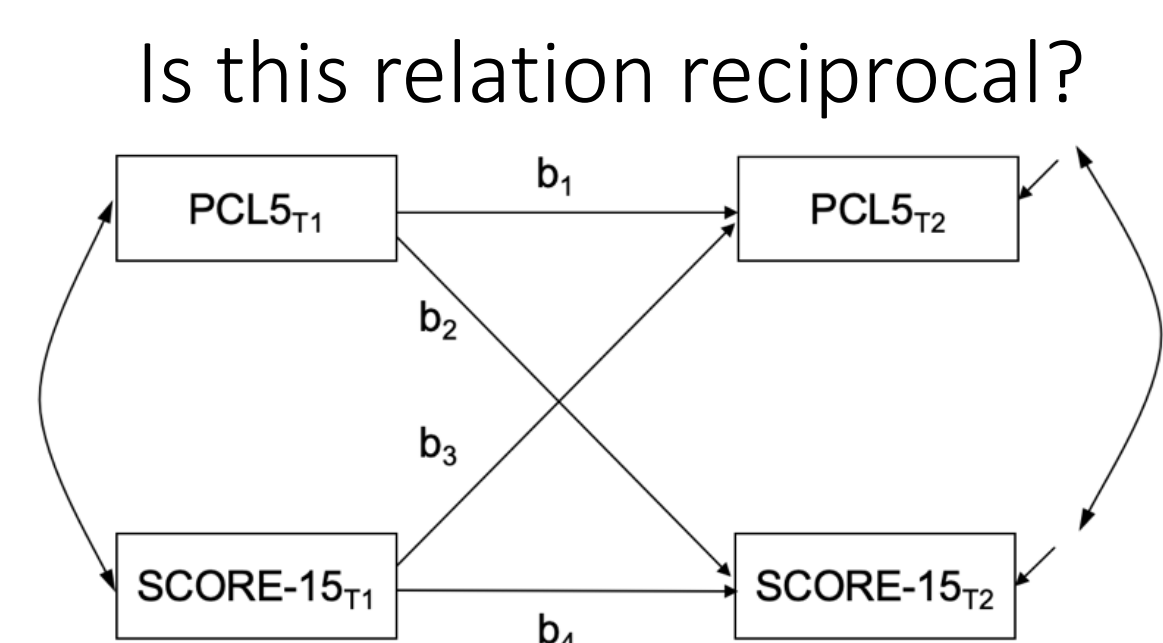


A Test of the Reciprocal Relation Between Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Family Functioning in Veterans and Civilians

INTRODUCTION

- The negative relation between PTSD and family functioning has been consistently found in the literature
- Family functioning serves as a risk/protective factor in the development of PTSD



METHODS

Patients in **treatment** at the Psychotraumacentre Zuid-Nederland were asked to participate

→ **veterans** and **civilians** were included

Data was obtained through the Routine Outcome Measurement.

- PTSD symptoms ← PCL-5
- Family functioning ← SCORE-15

A **cross-lagged panel model** was used to analyze the data

RESULTS

262 participants, of which 149 veterans

- Significant correlations between PTSD symptoms and family functioning for the whole sample
- The correlations between PTSD symptoms and family functioning in each group are stronger at T2 than at T1
- There is no reciprocal relation, results were non-significant

DISCUSSION

Finding only significant correlations and no cross-lagged effects could imply that **another variable causes the correlation** between PTSD and family functioning (e.g., self-isolation, mentalization)

There is a significant correlation between PTSD and family functioning that becomes stronger over time though, there is no reciprocal effect



Pearson correlations between the PCL-5 and SCORE-15, measured at T1 and T2

PCL-5	SCORE15	Total	Veterans	Civilians
T1	T1	.20*	.03	.39*
T1	T2	.19*	.09	.30*
T2	T1	.16*	.05	.32*
T2	T2	.44*	.36*	.54*

* p < .01

Standardized estimates of the stability and cross-lagged effects

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3		
	Total	Veterans	Civilians	Systemic	Not Systemic
b ₁	.49**	.52**	.44**	.47**	.49**
b ₂	.06	.07	.06	.06	.05
b ₃	.07	.08	.11	.06	.08
b ₄	.66**	.71**	.60**	.64**	.67**

** p < .001

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