

# Brain Injury and PTSD: Can Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence be Grouped Based on Symptoms ... And Does It Matter for Healthcare?



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### What We Asked:

Among survivors of IPV, do personcentered or variable-oriented methods better capture the relationship between TBI and PTSD symptoms and measures of healthcare access and engagement?

# Why We Asked:

- Traumatic Brain Injury is estimated to affect 19-75% of IPV survivors (Haag et al., 2019).
- 31-64% of women who are victimized in IPV develop PTSD (Galovski et al., 2021).
- PTSD and TBI share many overlapping symptoms, making it challenging to study them concurrently and distinguish them in medical care settings.
- Healthcare access and engagement is crucial for survivors of IPV with head injury.

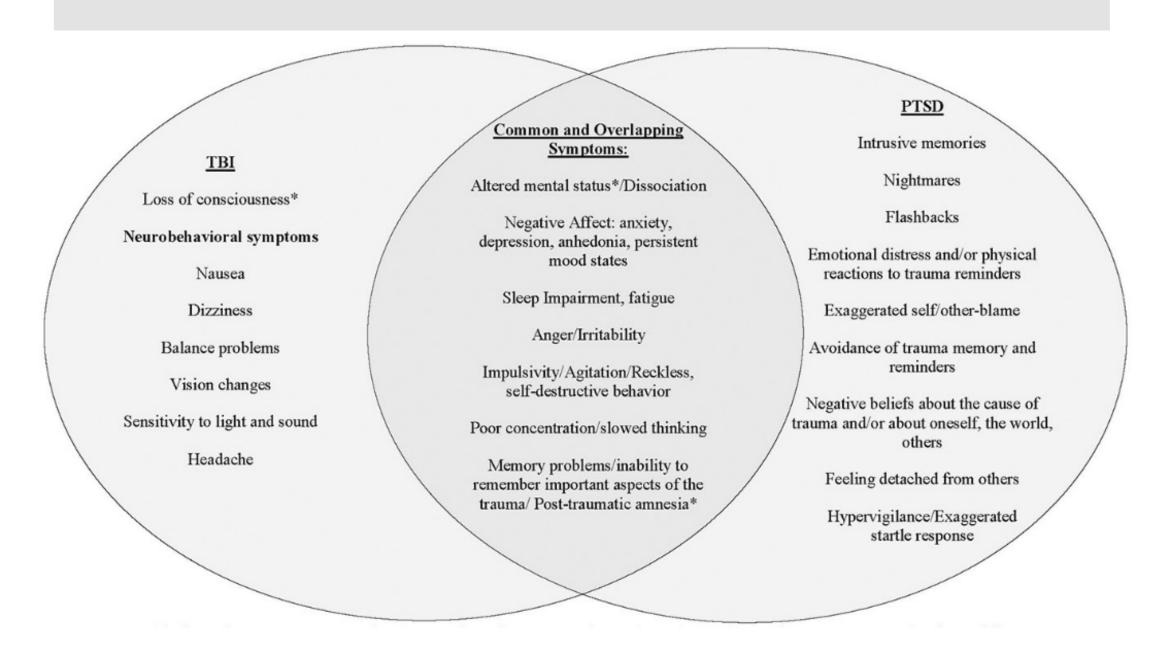


Figure from Galovski et al., 2021

# Methodology

Person-Centered Analyses: Latent Class Analysis with Probability Weighted Regression (n=177).

Variable-Oriented Analyses: Multiple Linear Regression with theory driven scales (n=86).

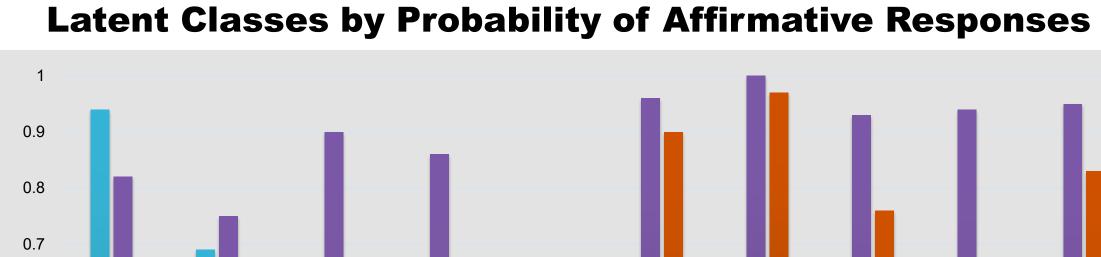
### **What We Found:**

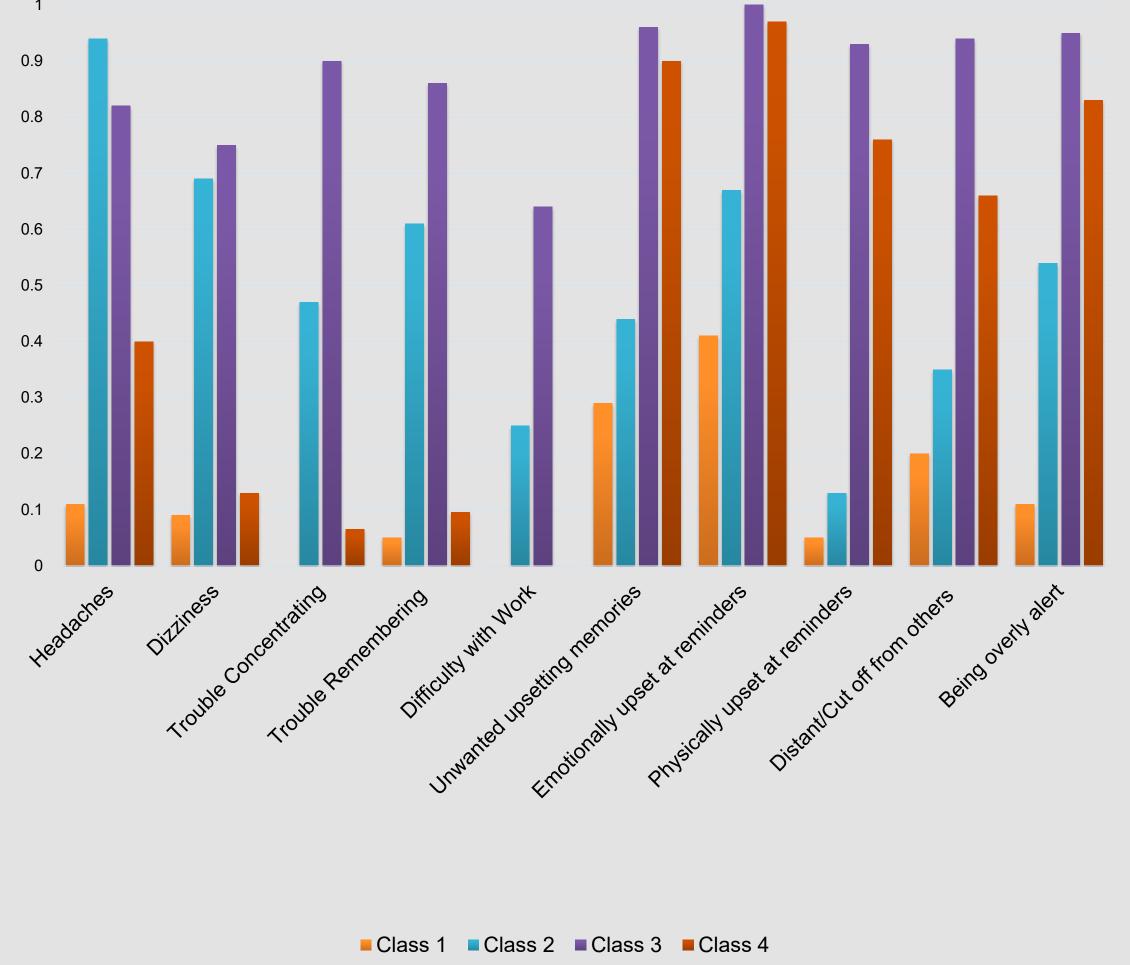
Among women who had experienced IPV, a person-centered approach revealed 4 classes of TBI and PTSD symptoms. However, neither those classes nor a variable-oriented approach were related to healthcare access and engagement.

# **Variable-Oriented Analyses**

| Cognitive Dysregulation Cronbach's Alpha: 0.840 | <ul> <li>- Headaches</li> <li>- Difficulty Concentrating</li> <li>- Difficulty Remembering</li> <li>- Difficulty reading, writing, and calculating</li> <li>- Dizziness</li> <li>- Having trouble concentrating</li> </ul>   |
|---|--|
| Higher-Order<br>Dysregulation                   | <ul><li>- Poor problem solving</li><li>- Difficulty performing job</li><li>- Poor judgement</li></ul>  |
| Cronbach's Alpha:<br>0.759                      | <ul><li>Change in relationships</li><li>Taking more risks</li><li>Avoiding thoughts or feelings related to the event</li></ul>   |
|   | - Avoiding situations/places related to the event  |
| Emotion<br>Dysregulation                        | <ul> <li>- Anxiety</li> <li>- Depression</li> <li>- Unwanted upsetting memories about the event</li> <li>- Nightmares about event</li> <li>- Emotionally upset at reminders</li> <li>- Physically reactions to reminders</li> <li>- Blaming self or others</li> <li>- Having intense negative feelings</li> </ul>  |
| Cronbach's Alpha:<br>0.866                      | <ul> <li>Feeling distant from others</li> <li>Difficulty experiencing positive feelings</li> <li>Being overly alert or on-guard</li> <li>Reliving the event</li> <li>Seeing self/others/world in a more negative way</li> <li>Acting more irritable or aggressive</li> <li>Being jumpy or easily startled</li> <li>Having trouble falling or staying asleep</li> <li>Losing interest in enjoyed activities</li> <li>No memory of important parts of the event</li> </ul> |

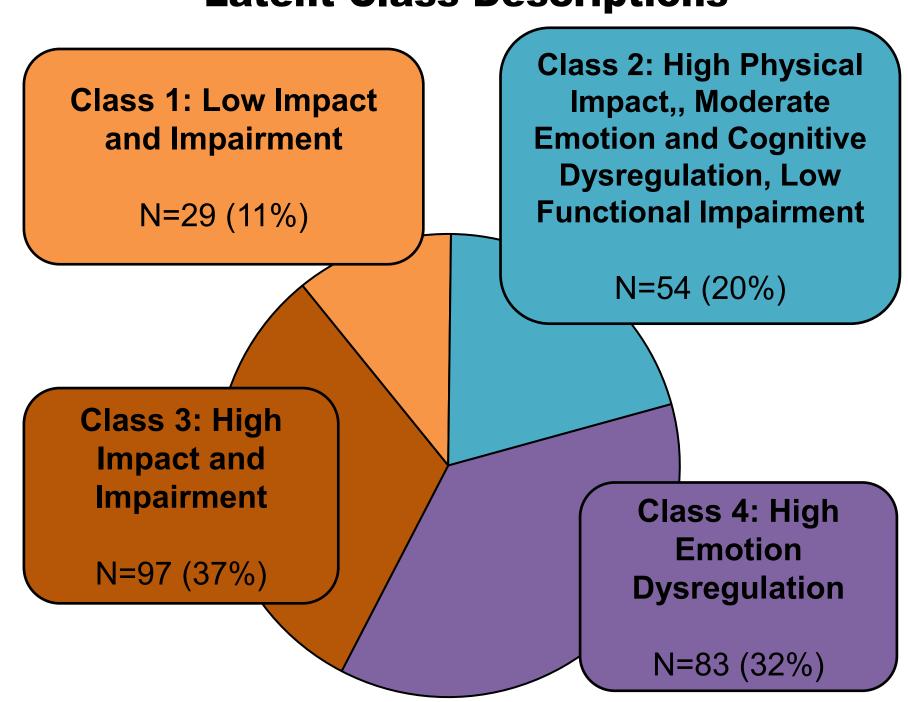
# **Person-Centered Analyses**





Based on AIC, BIC, aBIC, and a likelihood ratio test, a 4-class solution was found to best represent PTSD and TBI symptoms in survivors of IPV with head injury.

#### **Latent Class Descriptions**



# Relationship to Healthcare Outcomes

- Using probability-weighted regression analysis, when compared to Class One, latent classes Two, Three, and Four showed no significant relationship to measures of healthcare access and engagement.
- Composite scales of Cognitive Dysregulation, Higher-Order Dysregulation, and Emotion Dysregulation showed no significant relationship to measures of healthcare access and engagement.

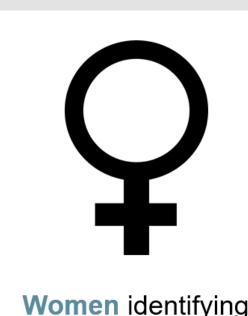
## **Limitations & Future Directions**

- Participants were recruited from a Family Justice Center and may have received more robust support accessing services.
- We plan to investigate relationships among latent classes in addition to using Class One as a reference group.
- Future work should investigate the role of neurodivergence in symptom presentation and engage LGBTQIA+ survivors of IPV.

#### Measures

Measure Construct Post-Traumatic Diagnostic Scale PTSD (Foa et al., 1997 & 2016) Symptoms TBI **HELPS Brain Injury Screener Symptoms** 3 items from the Brief Health Health Literacy Screener (Chew et al., 2004) Literacy Trust in Physician Scale Trust in (Anderson & Dedrick, 1990) **Physicians** 'Quick Care' subscale of the Access to Timely Medical Expenditure Survey – Household Component (Cohen, 2000)

### **Participants**



survivors of IPV

**54.4%** Did not receive a paycheck







• 38% Latina • 27.6% Black

• 14.4% Native American or 35.4 (± 11.3) years Alaskan Native

8.4% Multiracial

3.4% Asian or Pacific Islander

# Acknowledgements

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## References

