Attitudes towards disclosing a mental illness among German soldiers and their comrades

Nicolas Rüscher, Carolyn Rose, Fabian Holzhausen, Nadine Mulfinger, Silvia Krumm, Patrick W. Corrigan, Gerd-Dieter Willmund, Peter Zimmermann

PII: S0165-1781(17)30200-7
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.08.028
Reference: PSY10743

To appear in: Psychiatry Research

Received date: 3 February 2017
Revised date: 12 August 2017

Cite this article as: Nicolas Rüscher, Carolyn Rose, Fabian Holzhausen, Nadine Mulfinger, Silvia Krumm, Patrick W. Corrigan, Gerd-Dieter Willmund and Peter Zimmermann, Attitudes towards disclosing a mental illness among German soldiers and their comrades, Psychiatry Research, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.08.028

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting galley proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.
Attitudes towards disclosing a mental illness among German soldiers and their comrades

Nicolas Rüsch\textsuperscript{a}, Carolyn Rose\textsuperscript{b}, Fabian Holzhausen\textsuperscript{a}, Nadine Mulfinger\textsuperscript{a}, Silvia Krumm\textsuperscript{a}, Patrick W. Corrigan\textsuperscript{c}, Gerd-Dieter Willmund\textsuperscript{b}, Peter Zimmermann\textsuperscript{b}

\textsuperscript{a} Department of Psychiatry II, University of Ulm and BKH Günzburg, Germany
\textsuperscript{b} Center for Military Mental Health, Berlin, Germany
\textsuperscript{c} Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, USA

* Address correspondence to Nicolas Rüsch, Department of Psychiatry II, University of Ulm and BKH Günzburg, Parkstrasse 11, 89073 Ulm, Germany. Email: nicolas.ruesch@uni-ulm.de; phone +49 731 500 62301

Abstract

Many soldiers with mental illness (SWMIs) struggle with the decision whether to disclose their condition in or outside the military. This study therefore explored views on (self-)labeling as ‘mentally ill’, experiences of discrimination and coping, risks and benefits of (non-)disclosure, service use, disclosure decisions and consequences of disclosing. Active-duty SWMIs as well as soldiers without mental illness (commanding officers; enlisted ranks) and military social workers participated in focus groups. Transcripts were analyzed using qualitative content analysis. SWMIs perceived negative stereotypes about their group (weakness, incompetence, blame, malingering) and saw stigma as a barrier to help-seeking. Being labeled ‘mentally ill’ was seen as harmful for one’s career. Self-labeling led to poor self-esteem, greater need for help and feelings of weakness. Many SWMIs had experienced discrimination, such as gossip or inappropriate comments. Social isolation was a disadvantage of secrecy. Most SWMIs preferred selective disclosure and many did not disclose to their family. Military staff without mental illness expressed partly different views and described organizational challenges posed by SWMIs. Our findings suggest that disclosure decisions are personal and difficult and that stigma remains a barrier to re-integration and recovery of SWMIs in the military. Implications for interventions to support SWMIs are discussed.

Key words: stigma; discrimination; disclosure; secrecy; military
دریافت فوری متن کامل مقاله

امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات