

## **PTSD Outcomes Within Each Treatment Arm Readme Explanations**

I am interested in PTSD treatment so I did the research using the PTSD Outcomes data to do an analysis before, but at that time, I didn't think too much about the README to formalize that project. Now, it is very beneficial to write a README for it, even though it has its own data landing page and details since the dataset is published by government.

The title is pretty straightforward and shows the dataset contents as recommended in the Cornell Readme Guide (Cornell Research Data Management Service Group, n.d.) which names the readme so that it is easily associated with the data file it describes. - PTSD Outcomes Within Each Treatment Arm. The dataset includes information on how PTSD was measured and at which time point. Descriptive information is provided on which measure was used, the statistical approach to measuring the change in PTSD, how PTSD was defined, and the definitions of loss of diagnosis and clinically meaningful change if these variables were included in the study. There is no specific author who collected the dataset and I put the organization name - National Center for PTSD, because the data may come from various sources. The data landing page was established on March 21, 2021, but the dataset was published on August 12, 2021. On the description page, it did not mention the data geographic location, but it is obviously conducted domestically.

Then for the sharing/access information part, the most important element is licensing. As in Nine Simple Ways to Make It Easier to Reuse Your Data (White et al., 2013), it mentioned the recommended ways to use license, however, since this work was prepared by an officer or employee of the United States government as part of that person's official duties it is considered the U.S. Government Work, it did not have any specific license. The National Center for PTSD

published the dataset so I put the catalog.data.gov website where the data comes from, also the dataset has its own web page to access. The dataset is originally made by The National Center for PTSD and not derived from other sources. From the class, I acknowledged that we could use APA format to cite the dataset, so I put the citation in APA format.

There are several files offered on the website, and they have all same content but in different formats. It did update once per year but the website only published the latest updated version. For the methods to process the data, results in this dataset are provided for each treatment arm and do not include comparisons across the arms (which can be found in the PTSD Outcome Comparisons Between Treatment Arms dataset described below). PTSD baseline mean score and standard deviation are provided as well as the within-treatment change from baseline. Within-group effect size is also included. The percent of participants who achieve a loss of PTSD diagnosis and the percent who achieve clinically meaningful response is included for studies that reported these outcomes. The standards and calibration information and environmental conditions, it did not mention in the dataset and I assume it is meaningful for medical use. The dataset does have some quality-assurance procedures during the data collections because we can tell by looking through the dataset. It is very clean and organized, also by the reputations of the U.S. government.

This dataset has 77 variables and 3741 rows, I listed all the variables and descriptions!! Even though during my data analysis project, I did not use all of them. I picked up some key elements and tried to find the relations between them. The good practice I learned from this dataset is the way they deal with missing data by Values abstracted as not applicable ("NA") or not reported ("NR") by the study are null values (empty cells).

## References

- Broman, K. W., & Woo, K. H. (2018). Data Organization in Spreadsheets. *The American Statistician*, 72(1), 2–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00031305.2017.1375989>
- Cornell Research Data Management Service Group. (n.d.). Guide to writing “readme” style metadata. Retrieved January 10, 2021, from <https://data.research.cornell.edu/content/readme>