

Background

- Sexual violence (SV) refers to any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act without consent.
- College students experience high rates of SV which is associated with experiencing posttraumatic stress (PTS).
- Although existing studies examine the association between PTS severity and service use, limited literature has examined how individual PTS clusters relate to service use especially in college students.

Research Aim

- The present study investigates associations between PTS clusters and service utilization among college SV survivors.

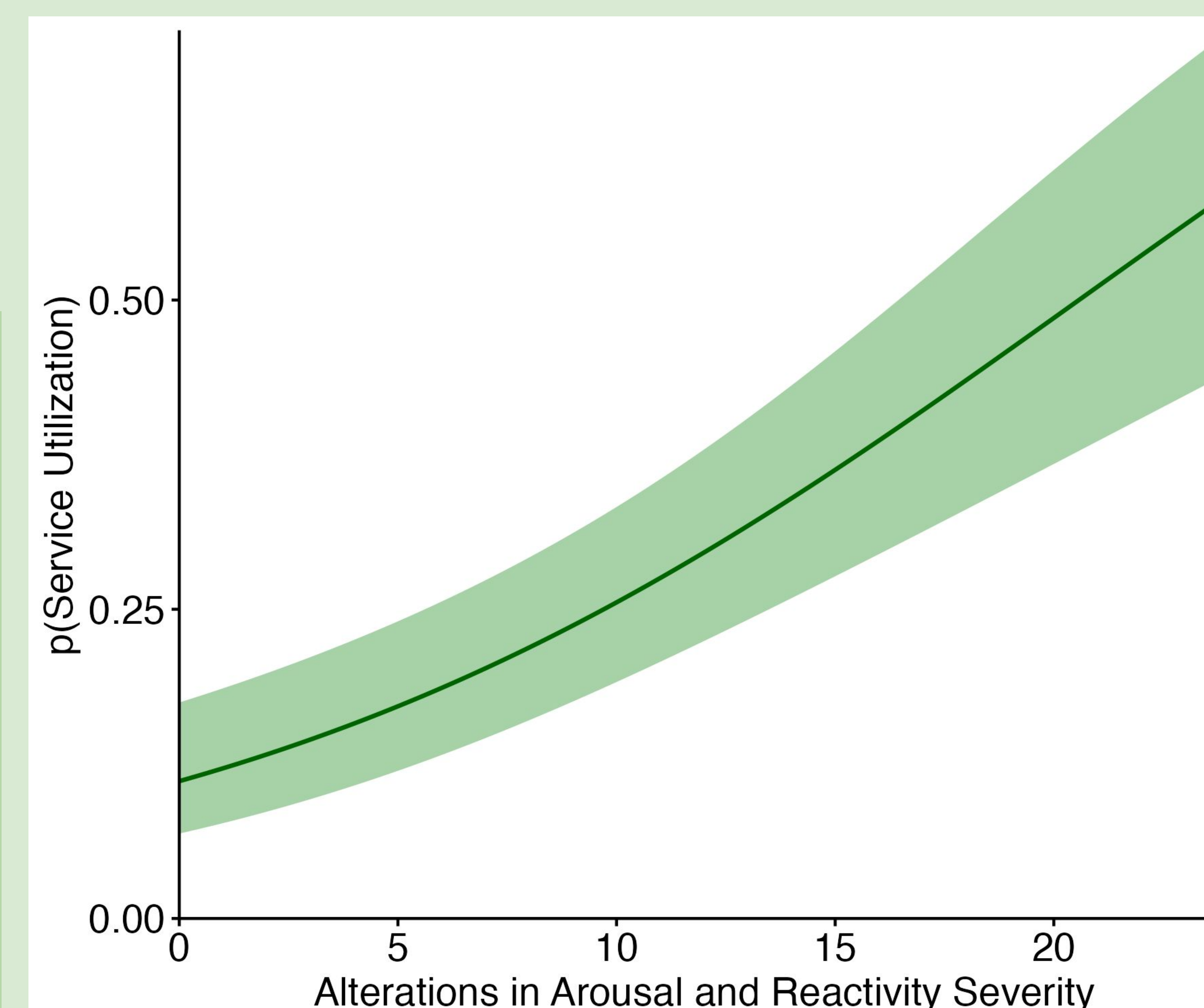
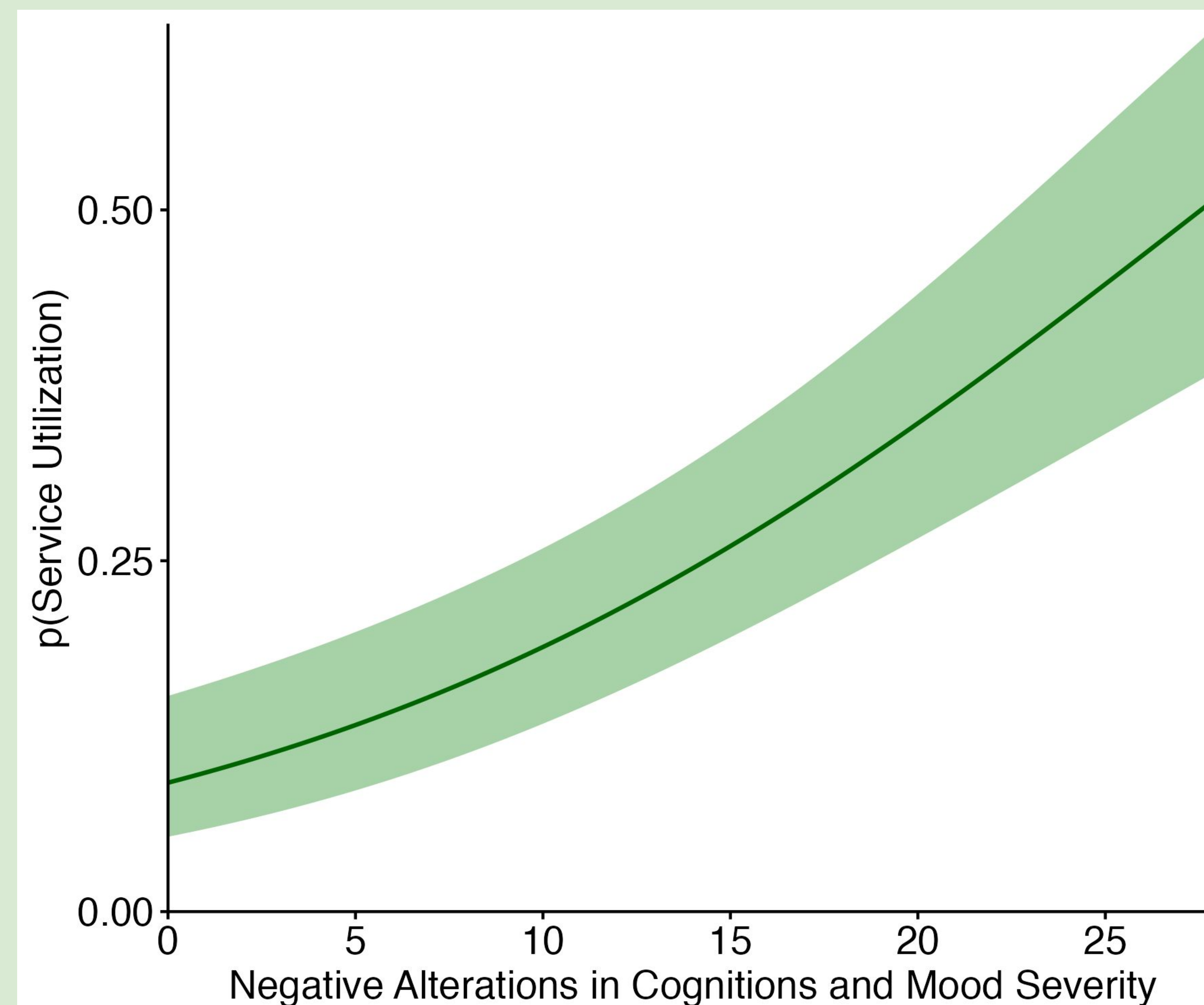
Method

Procedure:

- 3,000 undergraduate students were randomly sampled to complete a Qualtrics survey focused on sexual experiences and service utilization.

Participants:

- 167 participants who reported experiencing SV since enrolling in college (M age = 20.08; SD age = 1.43; 74.9% White; 82.0% Women) were included in the logistic regression analyses.



Results

- Greater severity of negative mood and cognition (D), ($b = 0.069$, $OR = 1.071$, $p = .033$) and alteration in arousal (E), ($b = 0.104$, $OR = 1.110$, $p = .007$) symptoms were associated with increased service utilization for college students
- Whereas intrusion (B), ($p = .075$) and avoidance (C), ($p = .094$) were not significant with service use.

Discussion

- Negative mood and arousal symptoms may create more impairing distress, increasing likelihood of help-seeking.
- Intrusion and avoidance symptoms may be less disruptive or recognized.
- PTS symptoms that interfere with daily functioning are more likely to drive service utilization.

Future Directions

- Findings highlight the need for accessible, trauma-informed campus resources.
- Outreach efforts should specifically target students experiencing negative mood and hyperarousal

References

