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DEFENDANT AGE, PRETRIAL BIAS, AND CRIME SEVERITY INFLUENCE THE JUDGMENT OF JUVENILE WAIVER CASES

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This research examined how people with various pretrial predispositions judged defendants for crimes of differed severity. Jury eligible participants read a trial summary about a 16-year-old juvenile tried as an adult, or a 19-year-old adult defendant, charged with either first-degree murder or felony theft. The adult defendant was judged more harshly than the juvenile defendant. Compared to defense-biased participants, prosecution-biased participants rendered harsher judgment. First-degree murder elicited harsher sentencing than felony theft. Pretrial bias and crime severity also interacted. Prosecution-biased participants convicted the defendant more often and had higher confidence in the defendant's guilt when the crime was first-degree murder instead of felony theft. Study implications for juvenile justice were discussed.

SUICIDE IN U.S. VETERANS

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More than two and half million U.S. military personnel were involved in Middle East wars during last decade, and most have returned to the United States. One third returned with PTSD, and almost one half are suffering from psychiatric and substance use disorders. The number of suicides among combat veterans has substantially increased to the point where the military and civilian communities are concerned. The act of suicide may contain a message, a protest, an act of revenge, or an escape from unbearable suffering. In this article, we will focus on one of the many unfortunate consequences of war: self-destructive behavior in veterans.

PERCEPTIONS OF SEX OFFENSES: IMPACTS OF GENDER OF PERPETRATOR AND VICTIM

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The present study sought to investigate the impact of the gender of the perpetrator and victim as well as differences in wording on participant perceptions of teacher-to-student sex offenses. Participants (N = 293) were asked to judge a newspaper vignette depicting charges of sex offenses and to report their decisions for beliefs of the teacher's actions as a sex offense, beliefs that the teacher should have to register as a sex offender, and levels of victim-blame. Results indicated that same gender offenses were rated more harshly in terms of belief of the actions as a sex offense and belief that the teacher should have to register. Implications in areas of media reporting and use of wording in the courtroom are discussed.