Trauma Type and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder often develops after one experiences a traumatic event. This type of trauma could be either physical (i.e. a motor vehicle accident, physical abuse, rape, etc.) or emotional (i.e. witnessing violence, verbal abuse, experiencing Hurricane Katrina, etc.). I examine the current literature regarding the prevalence of PTSD after both types of trauma, in order to determine if one trauma type is more likely to leave the victim vulnerable to the development of PTSD. This presentation will discuss the literature findings, the methods of comparison between trauma type, and future directions for this line of research.