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## Science

### Study looks at brain changes from stress

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BUFFALO, N.Y., Dec. 7 (UPI) -- Researchers in Buffalo, N.Y., are trying to determine whether post-traumatic stress disorder is

John Violanti -- associate professor of social and preventive medicine in the University at Buffalo's School

of Public Health and Health Professions -- said chronic and severe stress is thought to decrease blood flow between emotional memories and thoughts of stressful experiences.

"This can, in turn, lead to shrinkage of the hippocampus, an area of the brain that involves memory and extinction of fear," Violanti

Violanti, a former member of the New York Police Department, is principal investigator on a pilot study of PTSD in police officers. Occupational Safety and Health.

"Our aim is to assess the association of PTSD symptoms and changes in brain function and structure in police officers, a group

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