

Research Team

DENVER

Principal Investigator:

Lisa Brenner, PhD

Co-Investigators:

Jennifer Olson-Madden, PhD

Marie Devore, MS

Leah Russell, MA

Sean Barnes, PhD

PHILADELPHIA

Principal Investigator:

Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, PhD

TAMPA

Investigators:

Roger Casey, PhD

John Schinka, PhD

Resources

The National Center on
Homelessness Among Veterans
<http://www1.va.gov/homeless/NationalCenter.asp>



VISN 19 MIRECC
1055 Clermont St.
Denver, CO 80220

CONTACT PERSON:

Marie Devore

CONTACT PHONE:
303.399.8020 x 5611

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visin19>

VA Clinics: To obtain more copies of this publication,
please download them from the webpage.
The contents of this brochure do not necessarily
represent the views of the Department of Veterans
Affairs or the United States Government.

Current as of June 2012

Traumatic Brain Injury Among Homeless Veterans

COMIRB # 10-0170



CURRENT RESEARCH: TBI and Homelessness

Veterans Integrated Service
Network (VISN) 19 Mental Illness
Research, Education, and Clinical
Center (MIRECC)

*Funding for this study is provided by
The National Center on
Homelessness Among Veterans.
Additional support is provided by the
VISN 19 MIRECC.*



Study Description and Short-term Goals

The National Center on Homelessness among Veterans was established, in part, to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in programming efforts to provide care for Veterans who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness. An immediate goal of the Center is to enlist research and clinical expertise to increase understanding regarding traumatic brain injury (TBI) among the homeless Veteran population.

Towards this end, a multi-site study with the following short-term objectives has been initiated:

1: Establish the criterion-related validity of the Traumatic Brain Injury-4 (TBI-4) questionnaire in the Veteran homeless population using the Ohio State University TBI-Identification Method (OSU TBI-ID) as the gold standard for establishing TBI diagnosis.

2: Using the TBI-4 screening questions, identify the prevalence of those homeless Veterans that screen positive for a lifetime history of TBI.

3: Compare psychosocial and psychiatric outcomes (psychiatric hospitalizations, suicide attempts and deaths, and clinical contacts) between those with and without a lifetime history of TBI as determined by Veterans' response to the TBI-4 and/or the OSU TBI-ID.

Collaborators

This multi-site study is being conducted at the following locations:

- Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, in Philadelphia, PA, under the supervision of Dr. Ann Elizabeth Montgomery
- James A. Haley Veterans Affairs Medical Center, in Tampa, FL, under the supervision of Dr. Roger Casey and Dr. John Schinka

Study Aims

This research initiative is intended to identify:

- 1) A feasible and psychometrically sound screening measure to be used by VA providers working with homeless Veterans
- 2) The prevalence of TBI among homeless Veterans; and
- 3) Potential differences in psychiatric and psychosocial outcomes between Veterans with and without a history of TBI



Progress Report

We are currently in the data analysis phase of this research study.

Long-term Goals: Putting Research into Practice

This research protocol may provide clinically relevant information aimed at identifying of lifetime exposure to TBI among homeless Veterans, and evidence (e.g., psychiatric and psychosocial outcome data) aimed at encouraging increased TBI screening throughout the VA system.

Findings regarding lifetime exposure to TBI and psychiatric/psychosocial outcomes might provide justification for screening all Veterans who present for treatment, which could impact current VA policy and practice.

We hope that psychiatric and psychosocial outcome findings will support further investigation into interventions for homeless Veterans with TBI.

