



Key Points Summary

Byers, A. L., Li, Y., Barnes, D. E., Seal, K. H., Boscardin, W. J., & Yaffe, K. (2019). A national study of TBI and risk of suicide and unintended death by overdose and firearms. *Brain Injury*, 34(3), 328-334. doi:10.1080/02699052.2019.1701708

Primary Question this Study Addresses

Is there an association between traumatic brain injury (TBI) severity and risk of suicide and unintended death by drug overdose and firearms among United States Veterans?

Study Findings That Add to Our Knowledge

Veterans with TBI had a higher risk of suicide and unintended death by drug overdose and firearms. Risk of overdose death due to TBI severity was mainly observed for middle and older age groups.

Most non-homicide firearm deaths were suicides across all levels of TBI severity, while overdose deaths were largely documented as unintentional.

How Study Evidence Might Be Used in Practice

Veterans with mild and moderate-to-severe TBI are at increased risk of death by drug overdose and firearms, with overdose risk heightened with age.

Intervention and prevention in this vulnerable Veteran population is critical, and clinicians should closely monitor those with TBI for suicide risk.

For more information on suicide risk in Veterans, visit....

 [Resource](#)

To access the study abstract, click here:

 [Abstract](#)

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