

Invisible Wounds of War

Psychological and Cognitive Injuries,
Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery

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Center for Military Health Policy Research

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Part VI: Conclusions and Recommendations

This monograph sought to understand the prevalence, costs, and systems of care for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), major depression, and traumatic brain injury (TBI) among servicemembers who deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Part II summarized our efforts to identify the nature and scope of the mental health and cognitive problems that OEF/OIF veterans face; we examined the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, and traumatic brain injury. Part III described the short- and long-term consequences of these problems in terms of outcomes such as suicide, homelessness, work productivity, and marital/family relations. Part IV provided results from our work to estimate the economic costs associated with these conditions, and Part V assessed the systems of care available to address these issues among military servicemembers and veterans.

In Part VI, we provide an overview of the study and describe our key findings, present general conclusions stemming from these findings, and offer recommendations for improving policy and enhancing services to meet the evolving needs of veterans with psychological and cognitive injuries.