



## Key Points Summary

Dismuke-Greer, C. E., Gebregziabher, M., Byers, A. L., Taber, D., Axon, N., Yaffe, K., & Egede, L. E. (2018). Comorbid TBI-depression costs in veterans: A Chronic Effect of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) study. *Brain Injury*, 33(2), 198-204. doi:10.1080/02699052.2018.1542508

### Primary Question this Study Addresses

What is the annual Veterans Health Administration (VHA) cost for all Veterans with comorbid traumatic brain injury (TBI) and depression based on Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) status?

### Study Findings That Add to Our Knowledge

Approximately 67% of pre-OEF/OIF and 87% of OEF/OIF veterans had depression. Depression was estimated to increase annual total, outpatient, and pharmaceutical costs by over \$3,000 combined for both groups of Veterans.

Depression was estimated to lower annual inpatient costs by about \$650 per OEF/OIF veteran, which may be attributable to depression screening and treatment.

The annual VHA cost for all veterans with comorbid TBI and depression was estimated at over \$1.1 billion.

### How Study Evidence Might Be Used in Practice

The estimated annual cost for Veterans with comorbid TBI and depression was more than \$1.1 billion.

Clinicians and VHA policymakers should consider screening for TBI and depression in pre-OEF/OIF veterans, and screening for depression in Veterans with a TBI diagnosis.

For more information on managing depression, visit:

 [Resource](#)

To access the study abstract, click here:

 [Abstract](#)

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