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Suicidality and veterans with a history of traumatic brain injury: precipitants events, protective factors, and prevention strategies.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVES: To increase understanding regarding precipitating and preventative factors of suicidal behavior and to highlight past experiences and recommendations regarding services aimed at **suicide** prevention among Veterans with a history of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

STUDY DESIGN: Qualitative.

PARTICIPANTS: Sample of 13 Veterans with a history of TBI, and a history of clinically significant suicidal ideation or behavior.

METHOD: In-person interviews were conducted and data were analyzed using a hermeneutic approach.

RESULTS: Shared precipitants noted included loss-of-self post-TBI, cognitive sequelae, and psychiatric and emotional disturbances. Common **protective** factors noted included social supports, a sense of purpose regarding the future, religion and spirituality, and mental health care. Means of improving care were also identified (e.g., increasing the availability of services and mental health professionals' knowledge regarding TBI, providing more structured treatment).

CONCLUSIONS: Findings highlight potential areas of importance in the assessment and treatment of suicidal Veterans with a history of TBI. Recommendations regarding means of improving care are also presented.

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MeSH Terms

MeSH Terms

[Adult](#)

[Affective Symptoms/psychology](#)

[Affective Symptoms/rehabilitation](#)

[Aspirations \(Psychology\)](#)

[Brain Injury, Chronic/psychology*](#)

[Brain Injury, Chronic/rehabilitation*](#)

[Female](#)

[Humans](#)

[Intention*](#)

[Interview, Psychological](#)

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[Middle Aged](#)

[Motivation*](#)

[Needs Assessment](#)

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