



# Traumatic Brain Injury

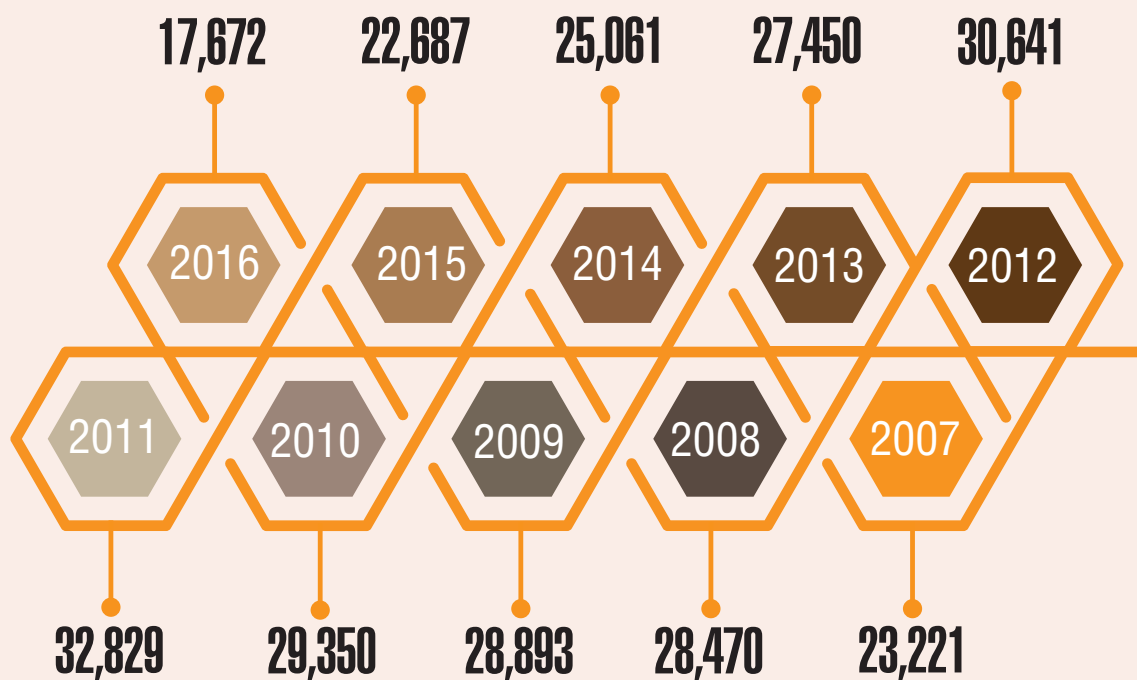
Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is now recognized as a significant health issue that impacts both active-duty service members and veterans. Blast injuries sustained in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have led to a rising incidence of TBI in the DoD and VA patient populations.

A TBI can result from a significant injury or even during day-to-day activities. Mild TBIs, also known as a concussion, typically result in short-term impacts. However, increasing evidence suggests that multiple mild TBIs can have a cumulative effect and longer term impact on patients. Moderate, severe, and penetrating TBIs can have a more serious impact on the patient.

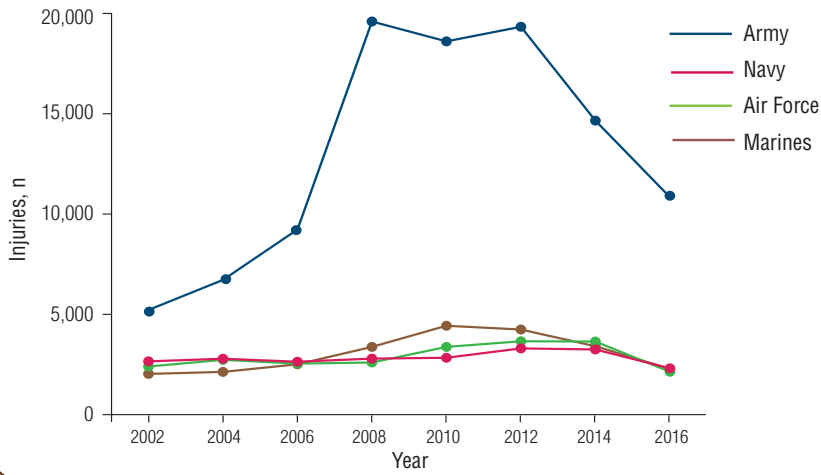
Active-duty and reserve service members are at increased risk for TBI compared with civilians. Not only do combat operations increase the chance of blast-related injuries, but active-duty service members are often drawn from at-risk populations: men between the ages of 18 to 24 years are at greatest risk for TBI. Studies have suggested that between 10% and 20% of post-9/11 veterans experienced a mild-to-moderate TBI.

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and TBI are closely linked. Nearly half of the active-duty service members with mild TBI also screen positive for PTSD. For clinicians, diagnosis remains a challenge because of an overlap in symptoms.

## Service Members Diagnosed With Traumatic Brain Injury<sup>1</sup>



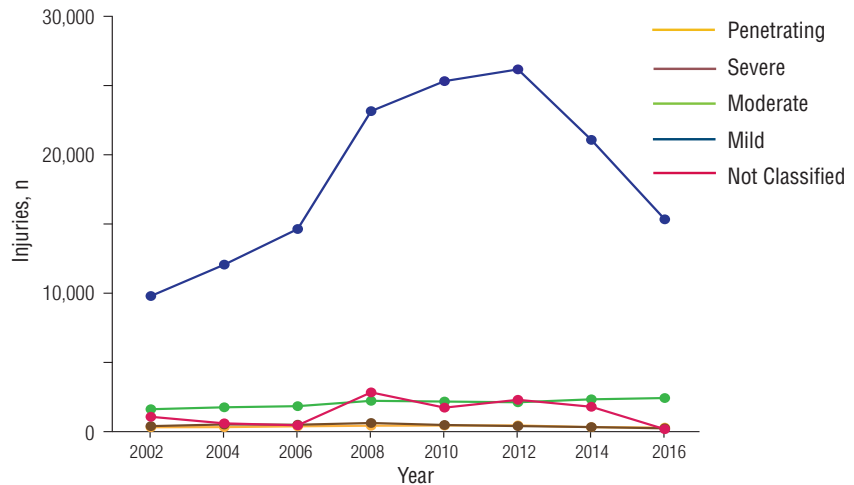
## DoD Traumatic Brain Injuries by Branch of Service<sup>1</sup>



**44%**  
of troops with mild  
TBI screened  
positive for PTSD<sup>2</sup>

Most service  
members  
who sustain a mild  
TBI return  
to full duty within  
**7 to  
10 days<sup>1</sup>**

## DoD Traumatic Brain Injuries by Severity<sup>1</sup>



## Classification of TBI<sup>3</sup>

	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Loss of consciousness	< 30 min	30 min–24 h	> 24 h
Posttraumatic amnesia	< 1 d	1-7 d	> 7 d
Glasgow Coma Scale score	13-15 points	8-12 points	3-8 points