



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COORDINATING OFFICE

Quality of Life

Long-term Quality of Life Outcomes in Injured Tri-service US Military Personnel: The Wounded Warrior Recovery Project (WWRP)

Conducted by NHRC, with funding from BUMED under the WII program and EACE, WWRP is the first and only initiative to longitudinally study injured Service Members and examine their long-term physical health, mental health, and quality of life outcomes after combat injury. The goal of the project is to discover the long-term effects of combat injury on the health and quality of life of Service Members. Participants from all branches of the US military who have been injured during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan beginning in October 2001 are currently being contacted and invited to fill out an online survey every six months, and will be followed for 15 years after enrollment. The survey collects data about the recovery process, physical and mental health, and quality of life. These data can be used to develop evidence-based solutions to many types of injury-related problems. To date, 3,600 injured Service Members have provided informed consent and enrolled in the study and over 571,000 survey responses have been collected. By assessing long-term quality of life outcomes, DoD and VA can evaluate those clinical treatments, rehabilitative programs, and prosthetics/orthotics that are actually moving the quality of life meter for injured Service Members and those that are not. This results in not only an immediate and real improvement in the quality of care delivered, but also in immense cost savings now and throughout the lifetime that many of these members will be requiring care. WWRP was recently been invited to discuss the progress of the program by IOM, which endorsed WWRP and indicated that it fills a long standing gap in casualty care. Preliminary results, in this as yet relatively small sample size, suggest that long term quality of life outcomes for injured US Service Members is lower than their civilian trauma injured counterparts, controlling for injury severity. Again, controlling for injury severity, the incidence of moderate to severe depression and PTSD were higher than expected. The public facing web site can be viewed at: www.wwrecoveryproject.org.