

SPINAL CORD INJURY

IN US ARMY SPECIAL FORCES

A GBF & SFNC Joint Study | sfneurosurgery.org

KEY FINDINGS

19%

of Green Berets reported a spinal cord injury (SCI) diagnosis

87%

of Green Berets reported wearing headgear at the time of injury

37%

of Green Berets reported wearing body armor at the time of injury

ASSOCIATIONS

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

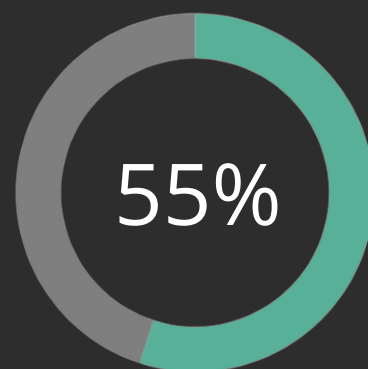
Sustaining an SCI was significantly associated with sustaining a mild TBI as well as sustaining a moderate/severe TBI

Comorbid conditions

SCI was associated with arthritis, low sperm count, low testosterone, erectile dysfunction, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), hyperacusis (increased sensitivity to sound), and sleep apnea

Mental Illness

SCI was associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), and Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)



More than half of SCI in US Army SF were attributed to Airborne Operations

TREATMENT & COMPENSATION

Only 17% of Green Berets reporting an SCI diagnosis reported being Medevac rescued at the time injury*

*(medical rescue may not have been attainable at the time or certain SCIs may have been deemed minor).

Sustaining a SCI was associated with receiving compensation for brain and spine injury, but not for mental illness*

- BRAIN INJURY COMPENSATION
- SPINE INJURY COMPENSATION
- MENTAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION

*possibly due to Green Berets "maxing out" their VA disability compensation.