Reviewer's report

**Title:** Traumatic brain injury among people who are homeless: A systematic review

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 11 September 2012

**Reviewer:** Lisa Brenner

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Essential Revisions

1. This is an important area of research. The results highlight the lack of previous work in this area and the need for further research.

2. Throughout the document the authors use the terms “traumatic brain injury” and “head injury” interchangeably. The preferred term is “traumatic brain injury”.

3. This reviewer also wonders about the use of the word “prevalence” – it is likely that “rate” may be more appropriate for at least some of the articles reviewed.

Abstract

4. Conclusions do not seem to flow from findings – would suggest that first rates or actual prevalence/incidence using psychometrically sound measures need to be established prior to next steps. Would be helpful if authors would provide guidance re: which measures could/should be used (in conclusions).

5. Please include databases searched.

Background

6. Would suggest reorganizing first several paragraphs in order to highlight societal as well as personal cost of TBI.

7. The definition or TBI is as provided – this is more correct than saying TBI is…

8. Page 6 – chronic impairments are most often noted in those with more severe TBI

9. Cognitive impairment is a common among the homeless however it is not clear that the etiology is a history of TBI – this needs to be clarified.

10. Would suggest that more accurate measurement of rates and impairments would be necessary prior to tailoring prevention and intervention programs.

Results

11. Please further describe the measure used in citation 22.

12. Authors do not seem to sufficiently address the quality of the data presented (e.g. methodological rating of included articles).

13. Is there a reason that Embase was not searched
Conclusions

14. Some of the conclusions presented do not seem to flow from the data presented including:
   o Page 11 – TBI may be a perpetuating factor for homelessness
   o Hypofrontality hypothesis

15. Issue of multiple mild injuries and potential impact is not sufficiently addressed

Table

15. Would suggest including gender
16. Would suggest including details re: TBI
17. Can self report be further described?
18. Provide more information re: HELP

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'