

Concussions threaten youths

Study: Too many athletes are dying from head trauma

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A new study highlights the heightened danger to young athletes who suffer concussions and sustain new head blows before they've fully recovered.

The study, published today in *Pediatrics*, dug into the National Registry of Sudden Death in Young Athletes, a database maintained by the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, to focus on deaths from blunt trauma among players 21 and younger.

A key finding, author

Barry Maron said in an interview, was a worrisome number of prep football players who died of head and neck blows after they had already sustained concussions a few days to four weeks beforehand.

The registry listed 1,827 sudden deaths among young athletes from 1980-2009. Fourteen percent of them were caused by trauma-related injuries. Trauma fatalities were most frequent in football at 148, including 17 high school players who died of head or neck injuries after they had already sustained recent concussions a few days to four weeks beforehand.