



Brain Injury
Association of
New Jersey, Inc.

825 Georges Road • 2nd Floor
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Phone: (732) 745-0200
Website: www.bianj.org
E-mail: info@bianj.org

BRAIN INJURY

An Estimated 5.3 Million Americans - a little more than 2 percent of the U.S. population - currently live with disabilities resulting from traumatic brain injury.¹



Every 21 Seconds, One Person in the U.S. Sustains a Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) Definition:

An insult to the brain, not of degenerative or congenital nature caused by an external physical force that may produce a diminished or altered state of consciousness, which results in an impairment of cognitive abilities or physical functioning. It can also result in the disturbance of behavioral or emotional functioning.

Acquired brain injury (ABI) Definition:

Injury to the brain which is not hereditary, congenital or degenerative that has occurred after birth. (Includes anoxia, aneurysms, infections to the brain and stroke.)

- 1.4 Million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year²
- Each year, 80,000-90,000 Americans experience the onset of long-term disability following TBI.²
- More than 50,000 people die every year as a result of TBI.²
- The two age groups at highest risk for TBI are 0-4 years old and 15-19 years old.²
- After one brain injury, the risk for a second injury is three times greater; after the second injury, the risk for a third injury is eight times greater.³

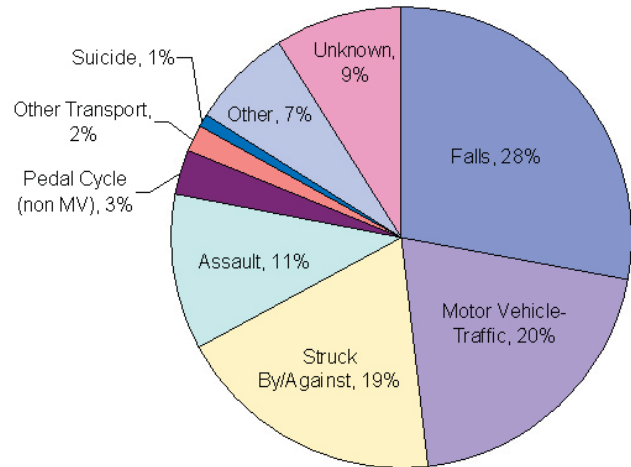
The Cost of Brain Injury



Direct medical costs and indirect costs, such as lost productivity, of TBI totaled an estimated \$56.3 billion in the United States in 1995.⁴

Percentage of TBI Causes²

Falls are the **leading cause** of brain injury, followed by motor-vehicle traffic crashes and assaults.



The Consequences of Brain Injury

Cognitive Consequences Can Include:

- Short-term memory loss; long-term memory loss
- Slowed ability to process information
- Trouble concentrating or paying attention for periods of time
- Difficulty keeping up with a conversation; other communication difficulties such as word finding problems
- Spatial disorientation
- Organizational problems and impaired judgement
- Unable to do more than one thing at a time
- A lack of initiating activities, or once started, difficulty in completing tasks without reminders

Physical Consequences Can Include:

- Seizures of all types
- Muscle spasticity
- Double vision or low vision, even blindness
- Loss of smell or taste
- Speech impairments such as slow or slurred speech
- Headaches or migraines
- Fatigue, increased need for sleep
- Balance problems

Emotional Consequences Can Include:

- Increased anxiety
- Depression and mood swings
- Impulsive behavior
- More easily agitated
- Egocentric behaviors; difficulty seeing how behaviors can affect others

Sources:

1. Centers for Disease Control. "Traumatic Brain Injury in the United States: A Report to Congress." www: Centers for Disease Control, (January 16, 2001) <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/tbicongress.htm>.
2. Centers for Disease Control. "Traumatic Brain Injury in the United States: ED visits, hospitalization, and deaths." (2004)
3. Annegers JF, Garbow JD, Kurtland LT et al. The Incidence, Causes and Secular Trends of Head Trauma in Olstead County, Minnesota 1935- 1974. Neurology. 1980; 30:912-919.
4. Thurman D. The epidemiology and economics of head trauma. In: Miller L Hayes, editors. Head Trauma: basic, preclinical, and clinical directions. New York (NY): Wile & Sons, 2001.