

Brain Injury Facts

What is brain injury?

Brain injury, also called acquired brain injury, is any damage to the brain affecting a person physically, emotionally or behaviorally. Brain injuries can happen at birth, or later from an illness or a trauma, and are called either traumatic or non-traumatic, depending on the specific cause. Acquired brain injuries are not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), 2022

- An estimated 2.8 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year.
- From 2006 to 2014, the number of TBI-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths increased by 53%.
- In 2014, an average of 155 people in the United States died each day from injuries that include a TBI.
- More than 56,000 people die every year as a result of TBI.
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI) disables SIX times more people each year than spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS, and breast cancer combined.
- About 5.3 million Americans are currently living with a TBI-related disability.
- From 2001 to 2009, the rate of ED visits for sports and recreation-related injuries with a diagnosis of concussion or TBI, alone or in combinations with other injuries, rose 57% among children (age 20 or younger).
- 300,000 sport and recreation-related concussions are diagnosed nationwide each year with a possible seven times more going undiagnosed.
- From 2006 to 2010, falls were the leading cause of TBI, accounting for 40% of all TBI's in the United States that resulted in an ED visit, hospitalization or death. Falls disproportionately affect the youngest and oldest age groups.
- About 10% of all TBI's are due to assaults.
- Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of TBI-related death for children and young adults ages 5-24 years.
- Young children, teenagers and seniors are most likely to sustain a TBI.
- Although everyone is at risk, males are approx. 1.5 times more likely than females to sustain a TBI and 3 times as likely to die.
- The average high school lineman takes the equivalent of a 25-mile an hour car crash in hits to the head each season

