



The Voice of Brain Injury
Providing Help, Hope and Healing to over
3 Million Americans Living with Brain Injury

Elevate Awareness and Increase Funding for the TBI Model Systems of Care

About Brain Injury

A traumatic brain injury is an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 1.7 million people in the U.S. sustain traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) annually and at least 3.17 million children and adults live with a permanent disability as a result of a TBI. The cost to society for medical care and lost wages associated with TBI is \$60 billion annually.

Individuals with TBI may experience memory loss; concentration or attention problems; slowed learning; and difficulty with planning, reasoning or judgment. Emotional and behavioral consequences include depression, anxiety, impulsivity, aggression and thoughts of suicide.

Physical challenges of TBI may include fatigue, headaches, problems with balance or motor skills, sensory losses and seizures. TBI can lead to respiratory, circulatory, digestive and neurological diseases, including epilepsy, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

Poor outcomes after TBI result from shortened length of stays in both inpatient and outpatient medical treatment settings. Payers point to a lack of sufficient evidence-based research as a primary reason for coverage denial of medically-necessary treatment. This occurs particularly when behavioral health services and cognitive rehabilitation are needed.

About BIAA

Founded in 1980, the mission of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is to provide help, hope and healing to the millions of Americans who sustain brain injuries each year. BIAA is dedicated to increasing access to quality health care and raising awareness and understanding of brain injury through advocacy, education and research. Together with its nationwide network of chartered state affiliates, as well as hundreds of local chapters and support groups across the country, BIAA is the Voice of Brain Injury for individuals, their families and the professionals who serve them.

Take Action Now!

Fully Fund TBI Model Systems of Care

The TBI Model Systems are a collection of 16 research centers located across the United States that conduct disability and rehabilitation research under grants administered by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education.

The TBI Model Systems are the only source of non-proprietary longitudinal data on what happens to people with brain injury. They are a key source of evidence-based medicine, and serve as a "proving ground" for future researchers. TBI Model Systems sites work closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs on research to improve the treatment of returning service members with brain injuries.

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) calls on Congress to provide \$1.5 million in additional funds in FY2012 bringing all components of the TBI Model Systems of care appropriations to just over \$11 million in order to add one new Collaborative Research Grant.

Over the next 5 years, funding for TBI Model Systems research should be increased by \$9M in order to maintain quality and expand the impact of this program. Specific needs are highly interdependent but can be delineated as follows:

- Increase funding for centers by \$125,000 annually.
- Increase the number of competitively funded centers to 18.
- Increase the number of multicenter TBI Model Systems Collaborative Research projects to 5.
- Increase the annual budget for multicenter TBI Model Systems Collaborative Research projects to \$1.5 million.
- Increase funding for the National Data and Statistical Center to \$1 million annually.

BIAA also urges that the TBI Model Systems receive "line-item" status within the broader NIDRR budget.

Increases in basic and applied research are needed to eradicate barriers to brain injury care.

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