



8201 Greensboro Drive
Suite 611
McLean, VA 22102
1.800.444.6443
www.biausa.org
familyhelpline@biausa.org

A blow or jolt to the head can result in a traumatic brain Injury (TBI), which can disrupt the function of the brain.

Each year in the United States, an estimated 1.4 million people sustain a TBI, and 80,000 to 90,000 people experience the onset of long-term disability associated with a TBI.

Direct medical costs and indirect costs (such as lost productivity) of TBI totaled an estimated \$56.3 billion in the United States in 1995.

Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Program

History of Accomplishment

The U.S. Department of Education National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) began the TBI Model Systems program in 1987. Currently 16 regionally distributed centers and a centralized data repository are supported. The Centers develop and validate treatment interventions, conduct innovative research, and contribute to a national, longitudinal study that currently extends to 15 years post-injury.

The TBI Model Systems program has played a pivotal role in building a national capacity for high quality treatment and research serving persons with TBI and their communities. In less than two decades, the TBI Model Systems has recorded an impressive list of accomplishments:

- ◆ Development of practice parameters in important areas of medical care (e.g., management of post-traumatic seizures, spasticity, and post-traumatic agitation);
- ◆ Development of innovative interventions for the acute phase of brain injury recovery;
- ◆ Creation of novel diagnostic procedures and instruments for previously undiagnosed conditions;
- ◆ Identification of adverse rehabilitation outcomes common to TBI and associated risk factors;
- ◆ Development and validation of new technologies used as compensatory devices for persons with cognitive impairments;
- ◆ Characterization of the recovery trajectory in the first 5 years following injury;
- ◆ Creation of well utilized, web-based information dissemination resources for professionals and consumers (i.e., www.tbincd.org, www.tbims.org/combi, www.biausa.org/Pages/tbi_model_systems.html).

TBI Model System Poised to Expand Contributions to Medical Rehabilitation

The TBI Model Systems Program is ideally positioned to enhance and extend its significant contributions to medical rehabilitation of younger Americans and individuals whose social and behavioral challenges prevent return to home and work life.

Because so many young people incur TBI, there are important healthcare and public policy questions related to long-term effects and the interaction with normal aging. Sufficiency in funding is critical in order to identify how young people age with a TBI and then to disseminate this information to clinicians and consumers for improved treatment and outcome.

Current centers are exploring interventions for social and behavioral problems that are common in the first five years after injury - fatigue, depression, impulsive behavior, unemployment, and family disintegration. These new treatments must be tested for their validity in everyday use, and then the information disseminated to clinicians and consumers for improved treatment and outcome.

Recommendations

Advocates urge Congress to increase NIDRR's FY 2006 appropriation to \$117 and to allocate \$15 million to support the TBI Model Systems program as follows:

- ♦ \$10.4 million to support the 16 regional centers
- ♦ \$1.3 million for centralized data compilation, follow-up and dissemination
- ♦ \$3.3 million for collaborative, multi-center intervention studies

This represents a doubling of the annual amount that NIDRR spends on the TBI Model Systems program.