



8201 Greensboro Drive
Suite 611
McLean, VA 22102
1-800-444-6443
www.biausa.org

Each year in the United States, an estimated 1.4 million people sustain a TBI.

Each year in the United States, an estimated 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 \$60 billion in the United States in 2000.

Traumatic Brain Injury Act Reauthorization

History of the TBI Act

Originally passed in 1996 (P.L. 104-166) and reauthorized in 2000 as part of the Children's Health Act (P.L. 106-310), the Traumatic Brain Injury Act is **the only federal legislation specifically addressing issues faced by 5.3 million American children and adults** who live with a long-term disability as a result of traumatic brain injury.

The TBI Act offers balanced and coordinated public policy in brain injury **prevention, research, education, and community-based services and supports** for individuals living with traumatic brain injury and their families.

The law directs the:

- * Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify strategies to **prevent traumatic brain injury**; to increase **awareness** and understanding of TBI by implementing public information and education programs; report the **incidence of TBI** and the **prevalence of TBI-disability** including rates **among special populations**, people in institutional settings, and individuals with mild traumatic brain injury by developing a **uniform system for States** to report population-based TBIs.
- * Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to make grants to States to **coordinate, expand and enhance service delivery systems** to improve access to services and supports and to make grants to state-based Protection and Advocacy organizations to provide **information, referral, and self-advocacy** to individuals and families.
- * National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct **basic and applied research** in traumatic brain injury.

TBI Act Reauthorization

The reauthorization of the **Traumatic Brain Injury Act** allows Congress to **preserve and strengthen families**, foster **community living**, and minimize the **unfunded burden to States** caused by **(1) preventing traumatic brain injury**, **(2) improving rehabilitation outcomes** through research, **(3) strengthening and improving State systems** to better serve individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families, and **(4) advocating for and protecting the rights** of individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families.

In 2006, Congress has an opportunity to strengthen the TBI Act by authorizing:

- * CDC to determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury in the general population of the United States, including **all age groups** and persons in institutional settings such as nursing homes, correctional facilities, psychiatric hospitals, child care facilities, and residential institutes for people with developmental disabilities
- * HRSA to **include the American Indian Consortium** as an eligible recipient of competitive grants awarded to States, Territories, and the District of Columbia to develop comprehensive system of services and supports nationwide.
- * HRSA and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to **coordinate data collection** regarding protection and advocacy services.
- * HRSA to make grants for **projects of national significance** that improve individual and family access to service systems; assist states in developing service capacity; improve monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation services and supports; and **address emerging needs** of servicemen and women, veterans, an individuals and families who have experienced brain injury through service delivery demonstration projects.
- * the law until 2010.

Recommendations

The Brain Injury Association of America and its nationwide network of state affiliates, their chapters and support groups urge Congress to amend and reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury Act.

For more information about brain injury rehabilitation, treatment, community and support services, visit the Brain Injury Association of America's website at www.biausa.org or call 1-800-444-6443.

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