

Coordinate Federal Resources



ABOUT BRAIN INJURY

An acquired brain injury (ABI) is any injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma. There are two types of ABI – non-traumatic, or those injuries caused by an internal force, and traumatic. A traumatic brain injury (TBI) 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) report that 2.8 million children and adults sustain TBIs annually and at least 5.3 million live with a TBI-related disability. The cost to society for medical care and lost wages associated with TBI is \$76.3 billion annually.

Individuals with brain injury 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 may include fatigue, headaches, difficulty with balance or motor skills, sensory loss, and seizures. Brain injury can lead to respiratory, circulatory, digestive, and neurological diseases, including epilepsy, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's disease. Poor outcomes after brain injury result from shortened lengths of stay in both inpatient and outpatient 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 advance brain injury awareness, research, treatment, and education to improve the quality of life for all people affected by brain injury. BIAA is dedicated to increasing access to high quality care and accelerating research. With a network of state affiliates, local chapters, and support groups, BIAA provides help, hope, and healing and serves as the voice of brain injury for individuals who are injured, their families, and the professionals who provide research, treatment, and services.

SUPPORT FEDERAL TBI PROGRAMS

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Community Living (ACL) funds programs impacting individuals with brain injury and families, including Aging and Disability Resource Centers; Assistive Technology; Federal TBI Program; Independent Living Centers; Lifespan Respite Care; and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).

- Support HHS in carrying out its mandate to develop a plan for coordinating Federal activities impacting TBI service delivery.

INCREASE TBI ACT FUNDING

In October 2015, the TBI State Grant program was transferred to the ACL Administration on Disabilities' Independent Living Administration, and the Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Grant Program was moved to the ACL Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Currently only 24 states receive TBI State grants, and all the P&A grants are severely under-funded.

- Appropriate \$19 million to the Federal TBI State Grant Program to increase the number of state grants and appropriate \$6 million to the P&A Grant Program.

FUND CDC TBI PROGRAM

The TBI Act of 1996, as amended, authorizes funding for the CDC for data collection, prevention, public education, and research.

- Support CDC in its mandate to review the scientific evidence related to brain injury management in children and identify opportunities for research;
- Support TBI national surveillance; and
- Appropriate \$10 million to fund CDC's TBI programs.

Sign up for BIAA's weekly e-newsletter, Policy Corner, at biausa.org.



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