

# Traumatic Brain Injury

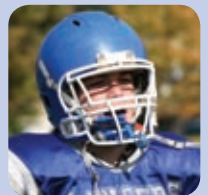
A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating injury that disrupts brain function.

## What We Know

- Each year, an estimated 1.7 million people sustain a TBI, resulting in 52,000 deaths, 275,000 hospitalizations, and 1.4 million emergency department visits.
- Annually, an estimated 125,000 United States civilians are hospitalized with TBIs expected to result in lifelong disability.
- Military personnel in combat and noncombat situations are at high risk for TBI. As many as one in five service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan have screened positive for TBI.
- In 2000, the direct and indirect costs of TBI totaled an estimated \$60 billion—equal to 200 times the population of the United States.

*More effective treatment of TBI by 80 percent of hospitals and physicians would generate a yearly savings of \$262 million in medical costs.*

Research Focus	What We Want to Know	How This Research Will Help
Diagnosis and Treatment	How can we improve TBI identification, assessment, and management?	We can improve systems for identifying and assessing mild TBI among high-risk groups, ensure accurate diagnosis, and reduce the risk for reinjury and long-term consequences.
Surveillance	What are the best estimates of the number of TBI cases treated in outpatient settings and among those who do not seek medical evaluation? What do we know about long-term outcomes and disability, especially among military personnel?	This will improve TBI surveillance accuracy and completeness to determine the effect of TBI on the nation's population and healthcare systems. It will also help guide resource allocation.
Service Needs/ Access	What do persons with TBI need by way of services, and what barriers restrict access to such services and programs?	This will help insure that persons with TBI are successfully reintegrated into the community and have the opportunity for the best possible recovery.
Reducing Disability	Which interventions are effective in reducing disability from TBI and eliminating post-injury symptoms and long-term effects?	This will help reduce post-injury symptoms among both children and adults and identify strategies to influence mild TBI cases.



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