



Project BRAIN Currents

A Quarterly Newsletter of Project BRAIN

Volume Two, Issue I, January 2002

The Traumatic Brain Injury Registry: A Look at the Numbers In Tennessee

Since 1996, we have developed a better understanding of Tennessee's public health epidemic of traumatic brain injury (TBI). In that year, hospitals began reporting each Tennessean hospitalized for treatment of a brain injury to the TBI Registry, a legislatively mandated service of the Department of Health. The TBI Registry tracks the age, gender, race, county of residence, diagnosis code, cause and severity of injury, length of stay, and discharge status for each individual kept in the hospital for 24 or more hours. This information is published in a quarterly newsletter, the *Tennessee Traumatic Brain Injury Newsletter*.

Each individual who is reported to the Registry receives a confidential letter from the Traumatic Brain Injury Program of the Department of Health. This letter describes the resources and services available at no charge to Tennesseans with brain injuries through the TBI Program.

Many benefits have resulted from the services of the TBI Registry. The data collected has helped the TBI program to establish the need for a variety of programs, including prevention programs, service coordination for survivors and their caregivers, and Project BRAIN. For example, registry information on the discharge status of patients indicates that most patients return home to "self care" with no plans for additional services. For children and young adults, schools are ultimately the largest provider of rehabilitation and support services after injury. In turn, this data has allowed us to demonstrate the importance and need for supporting schools as they serve students with TBI.

For more information on the TBI registry, or the Department of Health's TBI Program, call 1-800-882-0611.

Around 6,000 Tennesseans are hospitalized for treatment of a brain injury each year – almost 17 people each day.

**Tennessee's TBI Registry:
Recorded TBIs for ages
3-21**

THINK ABOUT IT

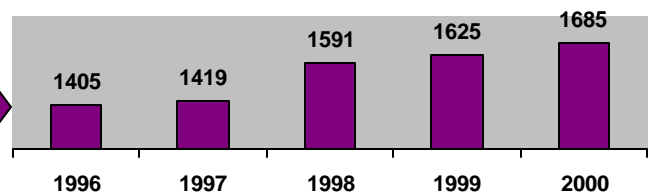
Sports-Related Injuries: More Common than We Think.

As was highlighted in the Brain Injury Association of America's month-long campaign (Oct. 2001), concussion, or mild TBI, is the most common type of brain injury. Included among the various causes of concussion are those sustained during sports-related events. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), sports-related concussions account for roughly 300,000 incidents of concussion in the United States every year. In fact, brain injuries cause more deaths than any other sports-related injury.

In any given season, 10% of all college players and 20% of all high school players sustain brain injuries.

To address the prevalence, cause and treatment of sports-related brain injuries, the Brain Injury Services Program at the Memphis Regional Medical Center and Timber Ridge Neurorehabilitation Center will present a one-day conference on "Sports-Related Brain Injuries". The conference is scheduled for March 7, 2002, at the Desoto Civic Center in Southaven, MS (15 miles south of Memphis). Speakers will provide training that is critical to the recognition and immediate management of concussion, as well as techniques to prevent further brain injuries. The target audience is athletes, athletic directors and trainers, coaches, case managers, educators, and other healthcare professionals who treat persons with brain injury.

The conference is funded in part by a grant from the TBI Program of the Tennessee Department of Health. CEU's will be offered to qualified participants. Registration is \$85 per person (or \$65/ for groups of 5 or more), and exhibit space will be available. For more information, call (901) 545-8487.



Building Local, Lasting Supports for Tennessee Students with TBI

Despite the high incidence of traumatic brain injury among children and youth, it is still considered a "low incidence disability" within educational settings. In turn, there is often a lack of training and information made available to education professionals to prepare them for supporting students with TBI.

Project BRAIN currently provides free "Brain Injury 101" training to school systems around the state. This training session provides educators with basic information about the disability of brain injury, considerations for planning of services, and information about local and national resources. To build on the capacity of school systems to serve students with brain injuries, Project BRAIN is now embarking on the second phase of our project.

Beginning in June 2002 with the *Project BRAIN Summer Symposium*, a series of intensive training sessions on supporting students with TBI will be offered to interested school professionals and family members who have agreed to act as local TBI consultants for their respective school district. These consultants will serve on a multidisciplinary "BRAIN Resource Team" for their school system upon completion of required training.

Fifteen counties across the state have so far been identified to develop a Brain Resource Team. These counties were chosen based on the high incidence of TBI recorded for their county in the TBI Registry. Project BRAIN will provide ongoing support and training to the school systems within these counties, while recruiting more interested school systems as the project progresses.

CHECK IT OUT

For Project BRAIN updates, go to:
www.tndisability.org/brain

F.Y.I. On March 7, 2002, the East Tennessee Technology Access Center will present a TBI workshop in Jonesborough, TN. Speakers will address the impact of TBI on learning, as well as strategies for coping with TBI using assistive technology. The use of cognitive retraining and accommodations for home, work, and school will also be discussed. Cost: \$5. Deadline to register: 2/28/02. Call ETTAC at (865)219-0130 for info.

Featured Speakers:

- Dr. Timothy Feeney of the Wildwood Institute, Schenectady, NY
- Linda Wilkerson, MS of the Kansas TBI Project
- Beth Urbanczyk, SLP ABI Consultant
- Cecilia Franklin, MEd TBI Itinerant Teacher for Metro Nashville Schools
- Family panel featuring TBI survivors and family members
- Hospital/ Rehabilitation panel featuring discussions on the hospital-to-school transitions

Project BRAIN
Summer Symposium

June 10-12, 2002

Scarritt-Bennett Center
Nashville

The Project BRAIN Summer Institute is the first of several training sessions on brain injury that will be offered to team members at no charge. CEU's will also be available to interested participants. Some of the required trainings for resource team members may be open to the general public for a nominal fee depending upon availability.

To learn more about joining a BRAIN Resource Team in your region of the state, contact one of the following:

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