

Brain Injury: Get the Facts

What you should know –
Why you should care



Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

www.ood.ohio.gov

800. 282. 4536

What is the Ohio Brain Injury Advisory Committee (BIAC)?

The mission of the Ohio Brain Injury Advisory Committee is to reduce the incidence of brain injury and to influence public policy on behalf of persons with brain injury and their families; to promote a system of services and supports which facilitates healthy, personally productive and satisfying lifestyles within their communities for persons with brain injury and their families.

The BIAC was created by the Ohio Legislature to advise the executive director of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) on meeting the needs of individuals with brain injury; to develop programs, recommend services and supports for survivors and their families; establishing training programs for health care professionals; and other matters within the province of the Brain Injury Program.

OOD is the state vocational rehabilitation agency which partners with individuals with disabilities to achieve high quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes.

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Every 21 seconds
someone in the United
States sustains a brain
injury.

Brain injury is unpredictable

Brain injury can change everything about us in a matter of seconds. It can affect who we are and the way we think, act and feel. Brain injury is complex and can vary greatly from person to person. The effects of a brain injury depend on many factors including cause, location, severity and age of the individual at the time of injury.

Brain injury facts

- Brain injury is the leading cause of death or disability among children and young adults.
- More than 2% of the U.S. population lives with disabilities resulting from a brain injury.
- The most common causes of brain injury are falls (28%), motor vehicle accidents (20%), and assaults (11%).
- Concussions are the most common form of brain injury, and may not show up on medical tests. It may take months or years for the brain to heal from a concussion.

- Blast areas are a leading cause of TBI (traumatic brain injury) for active duty military personnel in war zones.

What are the risks?

All of us must understand that disability can enter our life at any time. Infants, teens, young adults and elders have an especially high risk of brain injury.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that at least 5.3 million Americans currently have a long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result of a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

According to one study, about 40 percent of those hospitalized with a TBI had at least one unmet need for services one year after their injury. The most frequent unmet needs were:

- Improving memory and problem solving;
- Managing stress and emotional upsets;
- Controlling one's temper; and
- Improving one's job skills.

Brain injury can cause a wide range of functional changes affecting thinking, sensation, language and/or emotions. It can also cause epilepsy and increase the risk for conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and other brain disorders that become prevalent with age.

What can I do?

Buckle your seatbelt while driving a car, wear a helmet while riding a bicycle or motorcycle and learn more about brain injury prevention. Share information about brain injury and encourage others to take these precautions.

It is important to seek medical attention immediately if a brain injury is suspected. Contact a physician, go to an emergency department or call 911.

Where can I find help?

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) serves as Ohio's lead agency on Brain Injury. OOD provides information and referral through the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program Specialist (RPS). The RPS can be reached at 614. 781. 8740 or toll free at 800. 282. 4536. Additional resources and information can be found on OOD's website at <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/index/services/ohio's-brain-injury-program>.



At this time, Ohio does not have dedicated funding for serving individuals with brain injury. The Ohio Brain Injury Advisory Committee (BIAC) is actively seeking long term support through legislation and Medicaid waiver services for individuals with brain injury and their families.

What does the BIAC do?

The Brain Injury Advisory Committee does not provide direct services to individuals with brain injury. The role of the Committee is advisory and geared toward the development of public policy in Ohio.

Who is on the BIAC?

The membership of the BIAC includes survivors of brain injury, family members of survivors of brain injury, a physician representing the Ohio State Medical Association and the American College of Emergency Physicians, a rehabilitation professional, a health care professional, and a representative of the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. In addition, the Committee includes directors and designees of the state departments of Health, Aging, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Dept. of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Job and Family Services, Public Safety, Education, Bureau of Workers' Compensation and OOD. Five individuals represent the Public.