



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program

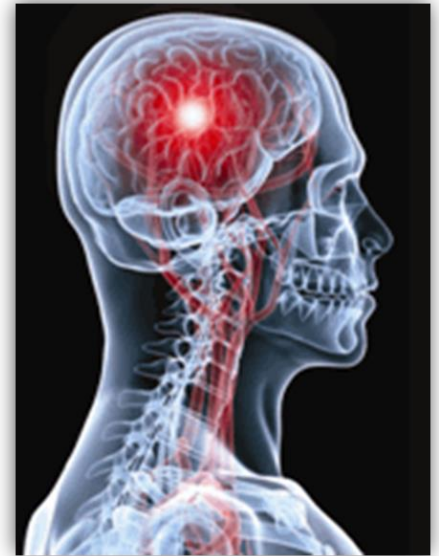
Department of Veterans Services | Program Overview

Objectives

1. Define Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
2. Review TBI Data
3. Review TBI Among Service Members and Veterans
4. Review Tennessee TBI Program Services and Resources

What is a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?

- **TBI:** is an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force resulting in a total or partial disability or impairment.
 - Bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or
 - Penetrating injury (such as a gunshot) to the head
- Three main types of TBI:
 - Mild TBI or concussion
 - Moderate TBI
 - Severe TBI



Populations Most At Risk for TBI

- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Service members and Veterans
- People who experience homelessness
- People who are in correctional and detention facilities
- Survivors of intimate partner violence
- People living in rural areas

TBI in the United States

- United States
 - TBI is a major cause of death and disability.
 - Approximately **2.8 million** people sustain a TBI each year.
 - In 2019, approximately **223,135** TBI-related hospitalizations and **64,362** TBI-related deaths in 2020.*
 - About **176** TBI-related deaths every day.*
 - People aged **75 years and older** had the highest number of rates of TBI-related hospitalizations and deaths.*
 - **Males** were nearly **two times** more likely to be hospitalized and **three times** more likely to die from a TBI than **females**.*
 - People most commonly get TBIs from falls, firearm-related injuries, motor vehicle crashes, or assaults.

***Note:** *these estimates do not include the many TBIs that are only treated in the emergency department, primary care, urgent care, or those that go untreated.*

TBI in Tennessee

- Tennessee
 - In 2020, approximately **21,399** Tennesseans had a TBI-related emergency department visit, hospitalization, or death.
 - In 2021, approximately **7,838** TBI-related hospitalizations and **935** TBI-related deaths.
 - Three leading causes of TBI include:
 - Falls
 - Motor vehicle accidents
 - Homicide and violent injuries



TBI Among Service Members and Veterans

- More than **450,000** U.S. service members were diagnosed with a TBI from 2000 to 2021.
- More than **185,000** veterans who use VA for their health care have been diagnosed with **at least one** (1) TBI.
- Majority of those TBIs were classified as mild.
- TBI and its associated co-morbidities are also a significant cause of disability outside of military settings.





Tennessee Traumatic Brain Injury Program

Traumatic Brain Injury Program Overview

- Legislatively established in 1993
 - Structure of the program
 - Duties and responsibilities of TBI Coordinator (Director)
 - Funding
- Services:
 - TBI Advisory Council
 - TBI Registry
 - Service Coordination
 - Easter Seals TN Camp/Respite
 - Brain Links
 - Information Clearing House/Annual Report





**TBI Advisory
Council**

TBI Advisory Council

- A nine-member group of individuals appointed by the governor to provide advice and guidance to the TBI program director.





TBI Registry

November 30, 2019

Jane Doe
1085 Rainbow Pike
Gallitan, TN 37066

Dear Jane Doe,

We learned of your recent hospital admission at Vanderbilt University Hospital on 1/21/2019. You may have been told you had a "head injury," "concussion," or "brain injury." These terms all refer to an injury to the brain. The Department of Health partners with hospitals to follow up within 4 to 6 months after an injury to alert you to our free service.

Sometimes after this type of injury, people can experience different kinds of symptoms.

Some symptoms are easy to detect...

- Headaches
- Changes in vision
- Sensitivity to light/sounds
- Sleep disturbance
- Fatigue

Some aren't so noticeable...

- Irritability
- Quick to anger
- Decreased motivation
- Difficulty with problem solving

If you are experiencing problems, we have a program that may be helpful. Service coordination is available at no cost to you. The service coordinator specializes in brain injury and can assist you with information and with finding and applying for services.

You can contact your local service coordinator **Holland Camara, at (615) 440-9908** or by email at hcamara@epilepsytn.org.

Keep this letter for when you might need us. Our professional staff is dedicated to helping you and your family.

Sincerely,



Ashley Bridgman,
Director, TN Traumatic Brain Injury Program

Review the enclosed brochure for more information about the Traumatic Brain Injury Program. You can call 800-882-0611 or email Ashley.N.Bridgman@tn.gov. Please also visit our website: <https://tinyurl.com/health-tbi>



**Service
Coordination**

Primary Goal

Improve the **quality** of life for persons of all ages with a brain injury and their family members.

“Fill In The Gaps”

Primary Focus Area

Traumatic Brain Injuries (External Causes)

Injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative or induced by birth trauma

Key Points

- All services provided by the Service Coordination Program are **free**.
- **Any person** can **make a referral** or ask for assistance (including self referrals, family, friends, professionals, and community members).

TBI Service Coordinators Of Tennessee

WEST TENNESSEE REGION

Memphis

Carolyn Chambers
Regional Medical Center
Traumatic Brain Injury Services
Memphis, TN 38103
(901)545-8487
cchambers@regionalonehealth.com

Fayette, Haywood, Lauderdale, Shelby, Tipton

MIDDLE TENNESSEE REGION

Nashville

Angela Pearson
Brain Injury Association of TN
P.O. Box 280364
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 955-0673
apearson.biat@gmail.com

*Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Montgomery,
Robertson, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, Wilson*

CENTRAL TENNESSEE REGION

Cookeville

Rick Hall
Disability Rights TN
118 S. Dixie Ave. Suite 8
Cookeville, TN 38501
(931) 373-8900
harlanhall@yahoo.com

*Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress,
Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Roane,
Smith, Van Buren, Warren, White*

EAST TENNESSEE REGION

Knoxville

Patricia Cruze
Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center
1901 Clinch Avenue, 5th Floor East
Knoxville, TN 37916
(865) 331-1499
pcruze@covhlth.com

*Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Cocke, Grainger,
Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe,
Morgan, Sevier, Scott, Union*

Jackson

Jimmie Morris
West TN Rehabilitation Center
1804 US Hwy 45 Bypass
Jackson, TN 38305
(731) 541-4941
jimmie.morris@wth.org

*Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer,
Gibson, Hardin, Hardeman, Henderson, Henry,
Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Madison, McNairy,
Obion, Perry, Stewart, Weakley*

Murfreesboro

Holland Camara
Disability Rights TN
107 W. Lytle Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615) 440-9908
hcamara@epilepsytn.org

*Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman,
Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore,
Rutherford, Wayne*

Chattanooga

Lisa Morgan
Chattanooga Area Brain Injury Assoc.
6319 East Brainerd Rd.
Chattanooga, TN 37421
(423) 602-7246
chattanoogabraininjury@gmail.com

*Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion,
McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie*

Johnson City

Fredda Roberts
Crumley House
300 Urbana Road
Limestone, TN 37681
(423) 257-3644 x6
fredda@crumleyhouse.com

*Carter, Claiborne, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins,
Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington*

Service Coordinator's Role

- Work with **survivors** and **their families** to assess their current resources and needs.
- Develop a **comprehensive** plan of care.
- Provide **referrals** to **available** resources.
- **Coordinate services** for individual client advocacy.
- **Bridge the gaps in the service delivery system.**

Survivors and family members are assisted with:

Locating information and services

&

Are guided in securing these services.

Core Scope of Services

- Provide information on traumatic brain injury
- Refer clients to qualified services
- Assist clients in applying for and accessing services
- Advocate in the area of individual/client rights and benefits
- Develop Support Groups (in person and virtual)
- Assist or consult in the development of new programs and services

Traumatic Brain Injuries (External)

- Falls
- Assaults
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Sports/Recreation Injuries
- Abusive Head Trauma (Shaken Baby Syndrome)
 - Gunshot Wounds
 - Workplace Injuries
 - Child Abuse
 - Domestic Violence
- Military Actions (Blast Injuries)
 - Anoxia

Non-Traumatic Brain Injuries

- Stroke
- Infectious Disease
 - Meningitis
 - Encephalitis
 - Seizure
- Electric Shock
 - Tumors
- Metabolic Disorders
- Neurotoxic Poisoning
 - Drug Overdose

Medical Needs

Housing

Natural
Supports

Work

School

Transportation

Food

Community
Engagement

Recreation and
Leisure



Easter Seals

Camp

- TBI Program partners with Easter Seals Tennessee to sponsor weekend and weeklong camps for adult and youth persons with brain injury.
- Camps focus on providing a unique social and recreational opportunity in a beautiful and accessible setting.
- Camp activities include:
 - Arts and crafts
 - Swimming
 - Hiking
 - Games
 - Boats
- Contact Information
 - (615) 292-6640 or visit <https://www.easterseals.com/tennessee/>





Brain Links

What is Brain Links?

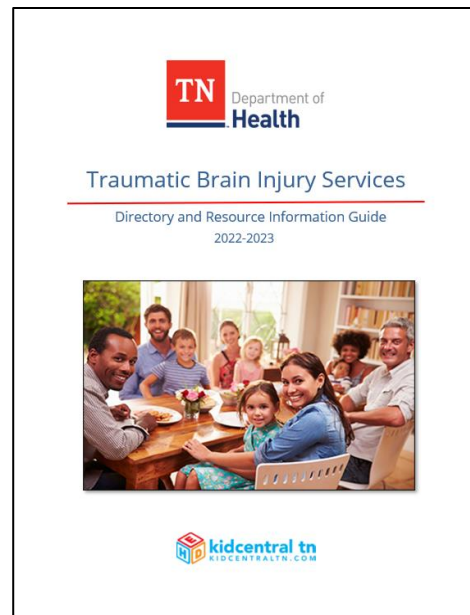
- Funding through Administration of Community Living
- **Mission:** Enriching the lives of Tennesseans with traumatic brain injury (TBI) by training and empowering the professionals serving them.
- Website
 - <https://www.tndisability.org/brain>
- Contact: 615-515-8616 or tbi@tndisability.org





**Information
Clearinghouse/Annual
Report**

- **TBI Information Hotline:** 800-882-0611
- **TBI Email:** tbi.health@tn.gov
- **TBI Website:** <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/vipp/tbi.html>
- **TBI Listserv**





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Questions

Contact Information

Ashley Bridgman, MPH, MS, NPAS

Program Director 2

Traumatic Brain Injury Program

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710 James Robertson Parkway

Nashville, TN 37243

p. 615-741-1230

Email: Ashley.N.Bridgman@tn.gov