

# Project BRAIN at a Glance



## WHAT IS TBI?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act defines a traumatic brain injury (TBI) as an acquired brain injury caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial or functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Each year, approximately 40% of TBIs in the United States happen to children. (CBIRT)

## WHAT IS PROJECT BRAIN?

Through a partnership between the Tennessee Disability Coalition (TDC) and the Department of Health's statewide Program, Project BRAIN was created to improve educational outcomes for students with a TBI.

## WHY IS THIS PROGRAM SO IMPORTANT?

*Schools Are The Largest Provider Of Services For Children. Project BRAIN Follows Children, Ages 0 - 22, From Hospital To Home To School.*

Building on a successful collaboration with Tennessee Department of Education since 2000, Resource Specialists / Trainers have provided brain injury education throughout our community.

Based on feedback from families and schools, in 2010, we created a Brain Injury Transition Liaison (BITL) communication process between the hospital, home and school. The BITLs provide education and support for families and healthcare professionals. Through phone calls, BITLs connect families to resources. In hospital trainings, BITLs share the child's experiences beyond the hospital doors and how "teachable moments" with the family could benefit their patients for a lifetime.

Tennessee Disability Coalition has partnered with Comprehensive Regional Pediatric Centers in Tennessee; Monroe Carell Jr., Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis and Children's Hospital at Erlanger in Chattanooga. *This could only be the beginning.* The process was designed as a model for other healthcare systems to adapt. Since the BITL process began, we have served over 3500 children.

*THIS PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE... CHILDREN ARE OUR GREATEST ASSETS!*

## Project BRAIN Is ADDRESSING HOW BEST TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH TBI THROUGH:

**Partnering with TN hospitals** to promote effective communication between healthcare professionals, families and educators

**Reaching out to families & students** to share helpful tools and resources

**Providing training** and ongoing support to schools, families and healthcare providers in the early identification of children with TBI

**Connecting all school faculty and staff** to topical resources, information and classroom supports

**Raising awareness about TBI.**



A RESOURCE & INFORMATION NETWORK FOR EDUCATORS, FAMILIES AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WHO SUPPORT TENNESSEE STUDENTS WHO HAVE SUSTAINED A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

## TRAININGS

### Brain Injury 101: Supporting Students with TBI in the Classroom

A training created for everyone interested in TBI; educators, families, healthcare professionals.

### Partners In Communication: Supporting Student Transitions, Hospital to Home to School

Designed for healthcare professionals, learn how a student's school and home life may change following an injury. This interactive training includes a PowerPoint presentation, video stories, and TBI tools and resources to support parents & families living with concussion/ TBI.

### Concussion Within Our Sports Community

This workshop is specially geared for coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, parents and others to learn more about concussion and sports-related head injuries. Basics about brain injury and the developing brain will also be covered.

All Project BRAIN trainings are provided at no charge.

## RESOURCES

Tennessee TBI Program 800.882.0611  
[health.state.tn.us/TBI/index.htm](http://health.state.tn.us/TBI/index.htm)

Brain Injury Association of Tennessee  
[braininjurytn.org](http://braininjurytn.org)

Center on Brain Injury Research & Training  
Information and resources based on best practice recommendations for working with students and adults with brain injury [cbirt.org](http://cbirt.org)

### Project BRAIN's Newsletter "Currents"

An electronic newsletter highlighting program updates and resources  
[www.tndisability.org/gallery/currents-newsletter](http://www.tndisability.org/gallery/currents-newsletter)

### Project BRAIN

For educators, families and healthcare professionals  
[www.tndisability.org/brain](http://www.tndisability.org/brain)

## BRAIN INJURY 101: AN OVERVIEW OF TBI

Despite the high incidence of traumatic brain injury (TBI) among children and youth, it is sometimes thought to be a “**low incidence disability**” within educational settings. This often causes a lack of training and information made available to educators to prepare them for working with students with TBI.



The primary objective of “Brain Injury 101” is to help people who support students with TBI understand the nature of brain injury and the unique needs of this group of children and young adults.

Designed by experts in pediatric brain injury, “Brain Injury 101” includes basic information about the following:

- Brain injury
- The potential impact of brain injury on physical, psychosocial, and cognitive skills
- Considerations for planning of educational services, including information about local and national resources

During this interactive session, the incidence and characteristics of TBI are given faces and names with the program video, “Take Two: After Traumatic Brain Injury.” The video includes a collection of interviews with Tennessee students who have sustained brain injuries, their families, and the professionals who work with them.

Participants are given educational materials which serve as a useful resource long after they attend “Brain Injury 101.”



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TENNESSEE DISABILITY COALITION

## INCIDENCE OF BRAIN INJURY: NATIONAL DATA

- More than 60,000 children and adolescents are hospitalized annually with moderate to severe brain injuries.
- More than 630,000 children are seen for TBIs in hospital emergency rooms and released.
- Approximately 145,000 children aged 0–19 are currently living with long-lasting, significant alterations in social, behavioral, physical, and cognitive functioning following a TBI.

[cbirt.org/nccbi](http://cbirt.org/nccbi)

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that there are **5.3 million Americans** living with disabilities from traumatic brain injuries.

### HOW DO THESE NUMBERS TRANSLATE IN TENNESSEE?

Statewide legislation mandates that hospitals report the number of individuals admitted for treatment of a brain injury to a TBI Registry.

**Including all ages, an average of 8,000 people in Tennessee have been recorded in the registry each year since 1996.**

**TBI is the primary cause of disability and death for children in the U.S. (CDC)**

The TN Department of Health estimates that from 2004 - 2013, children between ages 3 - 21 years, the number of TBI Related nonfatal Hospitalizations, nonfatal Emergency Department Visits and Related Deaths:

- 7774** Number of TBI Related Nonfatal Hospitalizations by Year of Discharge
- 121763** Number of TBI Related Nonfatal Emergency Dept. Visits by Year of Release
- 933** Number of TBI Related Deaths by Year of Death

## "ALL CONCUSSIONS ARE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES. ALL CONCUSSIONS ARE SERIOUS."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): A Comprehensive HEADS UP Concussion site for Parents, Coaches, Medical Professionals, Schools and Students, including free, robust online training courses: [cdc.gov/headsup/index.html](http://cdc.gov/headsup/index.html)

Returning to School After a Concussion: A Fact Sheet for School Professionals [cdc.gov/concussion/pdf/TBI\\_Returning\\_to\\_School-a.pdf](http://cdc.gov/concussion/pdf/TBI_Returning_to_School-a.pdf)

School-wide Concussion Management: Interactive site with downloadable resources for Coaches, Teachers, Parents, and Students: [brain101.orcasinc.com](http://brain101.orcasinc.com)

Get Schooled On Concussion: Written BY Educators FOR Educators focusing on one page fact sheets for teachers, administrators, school nurses, school mental health, counselors and parents: [www.getschooledonconcussions.com](http://www.getschooledonconcussions.com)

Tennessee Sports Concussion Law: TN Department of Health Concussion site with online training links, forms for coaches and parents/student athletes and link to the exact wording of the law: [health.state.tn.us/tbi/concussion.htm](http://health.state.tn.us/tbi/concussion.htm)

### TENNESSEE TBI PROGRAM, TBI REGISTRY AND SERVICES

CALL TOLL FREE: 800.882.0611

**TO LEARN MORE OR SCHEDULE A TRAINING FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR GROUP**

CALL PROJECT BRAIN TOLL FREE: 888.643.7811

**NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?** EMAIL US: [tbi@tndisability.org](mailto:tbi@tndisability.org)

TO SCHEDULE A TIME TO CONNECT VIA PHONE, A SKYPE CALL OR SKYPE VIDEO



Project BRAIN is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant No. H21MCO26923, Traumatic Brain Injury Implementation Partnership Grants for \$241,630, and in part by TN Departments of Health and Education. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.