



The Facts...

BRAIN INJURY - THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

Brain injury has been called the “silent epidemic” because public recognition of brain injury is extremely low despite the staggering number of people who are injured each year. The effects of brain injury are often invisible to an unknowing observer. Likewise, the visible effects of brain injury - such as physical impairment, behavior issues, and even cognitive deficits - are often not properly attributed to brain injury.

DID YOU KNOW

- **Over 1.7 million people in the United States sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year**, but only one sixth of them are admitted to hospitals. This number does not include people with acquired brain injuries (ABI).
- Of the 1.7 million who sustain a TBI each year in the United States:
 - 52,000 die
 - 275,000 are hospitalized
 - 1.4 million are treated and released from an emergency department
- The number of people with TBI who are not seen in an emergency department or who receive no care is unknown.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Injury Prevention, the leading causes of TBI are:
 - Falls (35.2%)
 - Motor vehicle-traffic crashes (17.3%)
 - Struck by/against events (16.5%)
 - Assaults (10%)
- Almost half a million (473,947) emergency department visits for TBI are made annually by children aged 0 to 14 years.
- TBI is a contributing factor to a third (30.5%) of all injury-related deaths in the United States.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Injury Prevention, the costs and indirect costs of TBI in the U.S., such as loss of productivity totaled an estimated \$76.5 billion.

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