

CDC Uses Data and Research to Save Lives

Preventing Traumatic Brain Injury

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) affects how the brain works. TBI is a major cause of death and disability in the United States:

More than **64,000** TBI-related deaths per year—or 176 deaths each day

More than **223,000** TBI-related hospitalizations annually

Each year, children suffer more than

16,000


TBI-related hospitalizations and more than

2,400

children die from TBIs

Common causes of TBI-related deaths and hospitalizations include falls, firearm-related injuries, motor vehicle crashes, and assaults

The full public health burden of TBI is unknown. 

Current data systems don't include people that seek care for TBIs outside of emergency departments or people who don't seek any medical care at all 

Our Mission

Reduce the burden of TBI through prevention and improve health outcomes for TBI survivors by bridging the strengths and capacities of the public health and healthcare delivery systems

Groups at greater risk of dying or experiencing long-term health problems from a TBI include:

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



CDC Supports Communities By



Tracking TBI trends and conducting research aimed at preventing TBI



Educating healthcare providers, coaches, parents, and athletes through HEADS UP about preventing, recognizing, and responding to TBIs



Piloting a National Concussion Surveillance System to provide the first comprehensive estimates of TBI in the U.S.



Developing resources for healthcare providers to improve TBI care, including the first evidence-based clinical guideline on pediatric mild TBI

CDC Advances Health Equity By



Collaborating with partners to develop programs for service members and veterans living with TBI



Promoting CDC's Roadway to Safer Tribal Communities Toolkit to help prevent motor vehicle crashes, which account for the highest number of TBI-related deaths among American Indian and Alaska Native people



Creating telehealth initiatives to train rural primary care providers and school professionals to improve TBI care for children