



Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon

*Improving lives through awareness, advocacy,  
support, research, and community engagement.*

[www.biaoregon.org](http://www.biaoregon.org)



## *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 (21,000 Oregonians):
    - 52,000 die (641 Oregonians)
    - 280,000 are hospitalized (3441 Oregonians)
    - 2.2 million are treated and released from an emergency department (27,041 Oregonians)
- 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 (40.5%)
  - Motor vehicle-traffic crashes (14.3%)
  - Struck by/against events (15.5%)
  - Assaults (10.7%)
- Almost half a million (473,947; 5850 Oregonians) 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.
- TBI is the Signature Injury for Iraq and Afghanistan, with over 3,000,000 troops served; over 1 million TBI and over 700,000 cases of PTSD-the tip of the iceberg
- **BIAOR services per year:** Calls: 7200; Emails: 32,000; Packets Mailed: 1520; Trainings and Presentations: 375; Support Groups: 85; Newsletters sent/downloaded quarterly: 16000; Annual Conference: 350-600 attendees; Website: over 1,200,000 unique visitors

**For more information and resources, please visit BIAOR on the web at:  
[www.biaoregon.org](http://www.biaoregon.org)**