



Brain Injury Facts

- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is any injury to the brain which occurs after birth and is not congenital or hereditary. There are over 12 million Americans living with disabilities resulting from an ABI.
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), an externally caused ABI, and is the leading cause of ABI.
- A traumatic brain injury occurs every 13 seconds in the United States.
- The diagnosis of brain injury is 11 times that of breast cancer and 53 times that of HIV/AIDS.
- Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability for young adults.



The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), through its Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP), proposed the "Improving the MA Systems of Care for Elders Sustaining a Traumatic Brain Injury" project.

This project was designed to fulfill the goals of the Traumatic Brain Injury State Implementation Partnership Program of the Health Resources Services Administration. MRC serves as the lead agency for the administration of this grant project.



BIA-MA is a private, nonprofit organization that provides: **Support** to brain injury survivors and their families; **Prevention Programs** for the public; **Education** for professionals and all affected by brain injury; and **Legislative Advocacy** for safety laws and improved community services for survivors.

BIA-MA collaborates with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), Department of Public Health (DPH), Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) and other associations to prevent brain injuries and provide services to survivors.

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Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts Programs & Services



Traumatic Brain Injury Information & Resource Line for Elders

844-839-7154 | www.biama.org/elders



Support

The professionals at the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) can help you and your family through the difficult healing process that follows a brain injury.

BIA-MA was founded by families who live with the consequences of brain injury and understand its effects first-hand. We recognize that survivors, family members, and caregivers often have many unanswered questions and unmet needs.

BIA-MA has **support groups**, located throughout the state, for survivors of all ages, including elders and young adults. Support groups provide survivors and their loved ones a forum for sharing information about brain injury and the opportunity to meet people who share similar experiences. Participants enjoy a variety of educational, recreational, and social activities. For a listing of BIA-MA Support Groups, visit www.biama.org/groups.

Prevention

Prevention is the only cure for brain injury. BIA-MA programs lead the way in teaching and encouraging safe, responsible behavior.

For more information about our prevention programs visit www.biama.org/prevention.

Information & Resources

BIA-MA can provide information and resources helpful to older survivors of brain injury, their caregivers, and family members. Some examples of resources and providers include:

- Adult Day Health Centers
- Attorneys
- Case Managers
- Counselors
- Dentists
- Domestic Violence Programs
- Educational Programs and Services
- Financial Services
- Home Health Care Providers
- Housing Resources
- Independent Living Centers
- Neurologists & Neurosurgeons
- Neuropsychiatrists & Psychiatrists
- Neuro-ophthalmologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Rehabilitation Programs (in and out-patient)
- Speech Language/Cognitive Therapists
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities
- Support Groups
- Social/Recreational Opportunities
- Resources for Veterans with Brain Injury
- Vestibular Therapy Programs
- Vocational Programs

BIA-MA connects survivors and their family members to their local Aging Services Access Point for elder services or their Independent Living Center for people with disabilities. For more information about our support services, visit www.biama.org/resources.

Education

BIA-MA is committed to educating professionals and the public about brain injury and empowering survivors and their families to live the fullest lives possible.

In addition to sponsoring the statewide **Annual Brain Injury Conference** for professionals, survivors, and their families, BIA-MA also conducts many other workshops and educational trainings throughout the year.

The **Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Clinical Continuing Education Program** is a specialized training for service providers working with brain injury survivors in day and residential programs and community mental health settings. For more information, visit www.biama.org/education.

Advocacy

BIA-MA works closely with healthcare providers, legislators, and government agencies to ensure that appropriate services are available to brain injury survivors and their families. BIA-MA advocates for legislation for the improvement of services for brain injury survivors and prevention of brain injury (seat belts, helmets, falls prevention, shaken baby syndrome).

Our advocacy website provides regular updates on pending legislation as well as ways to get involved. Visit www.biama.org/advocacy.

