

Understanding Traumatic Brain Injuries



What Is a Traumatic Brain Injury?

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is damage to the brain, typically suffered through a blow or jolt to the head. Some TBIs are considered severe, while others are considered mild, such as concussions. However, even mild TBIs can have profound effects on victims' well-being and overall health.





How Common Are These Injuries?

- Each day, approximately **155 people** in the U.S. die from injuries that include TBIs.
- Every year, there are approximately **2.87 million** emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths related to TBIs.

Common Causes of TBIs

- Falls
- Being struck by or against an object
- Physical assault
- Vehicle crashes
- Sports-related injuries





If you suspect someone has suffered a brain injury, look for these symptoms:

- Dizziness and/or loss of balance
- Confusion, decreased speed of processing, and/or decreased attention
- Difficulty speaking
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Headache
- Loss of consciousness
- Blurred vision, ringing in the ears, and/or increased sensitivity to light or sound
- Fatigue

Diagnosing the Severity of a TBI:

Mild TBI:

- Loss of consciousness for several seconds or minutes
- Up to an hour of memory loss

Moderate TBI:

- Loss of consciousness for over an hour, but less than 24 hours
- Over an hour but less than 24 hours of memory loss

Severe TBI:

- Loss of consciousness for over 24 hours, up to and including coma
- Over 24 hours of memory loss





The Long-Term Impact of Brain Injuries Can Include:

- Memory loss
- Mood swings, aggression, and/or depression
- Personality changes
- Difficulty maintaining personal and professional relationships
- Coordination problems, including loss of fine motor skills and/or difficulty performing actions required to work, including walking or lifting and carrying objects
- Loss of sensation, vision, hearing, speech, smell, and/or taste
- Cognitive deficits, including difficulty thinking and remembering

The Costs of Brain Injuries

No two brain injuries will result in identical expenses. Research suggests that lifetime costs of a single brain injury can range from tens of thousands to millions of dollars in expenses.

Research also suggests that staying employed after a brain injury is difficult; the unemployment rate for the average adult with a brain injury is 60% two years after the injury.





Consequences Beyond Financial Costs

The non-economic costs of a brain injury are perhaps even greater than the costs of medical care and lost income.

Severe brain injuries can rob people of their personalities, mental capacities, and livelihoods. TBIs can also increase the risk for brain and central nervous system disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and epilepsy.

If You've Suffered a Brain Injury, You Should...

- See a doctor immediately
- Avoid activities that could result in another injury
- Avoid driving or operating heavy machinery
- Only take medications approved by your doctor
- Avoid alcohol





Legal Options for Dealing with TBI Costs

If you or a loved one suffered from a brain injury that was someone else's fault, you have the right to file a legal claim to seek compensation for the expenses you've suffered. The insurance of the at-fault party should cover all the past and future costs you face.

Finding Legal Representation for a TBI Case

If you're considering taking legal action to receive compensation for a brain injury, look for an attorney who has experience representing clients with TBIs. These cases are unlike other injury claims because the consequences and costs are so severe. When so much is on the line, take time in your search for an attorney and take full advantage of free consultations to make sure the firm you choose is the right one.





If you or a loved one suffered a traumatic brain injury in an accident caused by someone else, contact **Dudley DeBosier Injury Lawyers** to schedule a free case review with our team.

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