

## Legislative Report SFY 2016

The Utah TBI Fund is used to contract for resource facilitation services; neuro-psychological assessments; education of professionals and the public regarding understanding, treatment, and prevention of TBI; and to support an information and referral system for persons with a TBI and their families. For every \$1 spent of the TBI Fund, clients were able to obtain \$1.42 in much needed services that would not have been received otherwise. The TBI Fund cannot be used for medical treatment or rehabilitation care for those recovering from a TBI. To qualify for the Fund, a person must have a diagnosed TBI, be a resident of Utah, and have exhausted other financial options (e.g., insurance benefits, etc.).

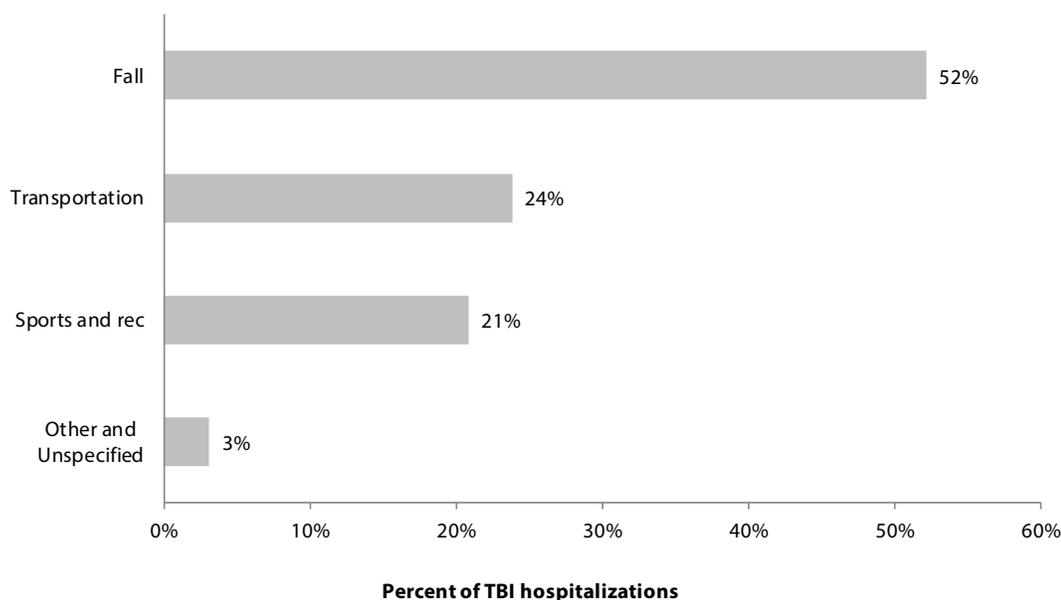
Resource facilitation is a process that helps individuals and families by providing short term support with problem solving and linking people in need with available and appropriate resources to assist with a successful return to school, work, or community reintegration.

### TBIs in Utah

- Every day in Utah, 68 people are treated in an emergency department for a TBI: six people are hospitalized, and one person dies from a TBI.
- Falls (52%) were the leading cause of TBI hospitalizations, followed by transportation (24%) and sports or recreation(21%).
- TBI hospitalization rates increase with age; older adults aged 75+ have the highest rates of TBIs.
- TBIs resulted in nearly \$95 million in hospitalization charges in 2013; a 10.5% increase from \$86 million in 2011. This does not include costs for disability and long-term care, nor lost wages.
- The age-adjusted rate of TBI hospitalizations had a statistically significant increase from 2011 (816 per 100,000 population) to 2013 (826 per 100,000 population).

**Figure 1** shows the percentage of TBI hospitalizations caused by falls, transportation, sports and recreations, other and unspecified events.

**Figure 1: Percentage of TBI Hospitalizations by Etiology, Utah, 2013**



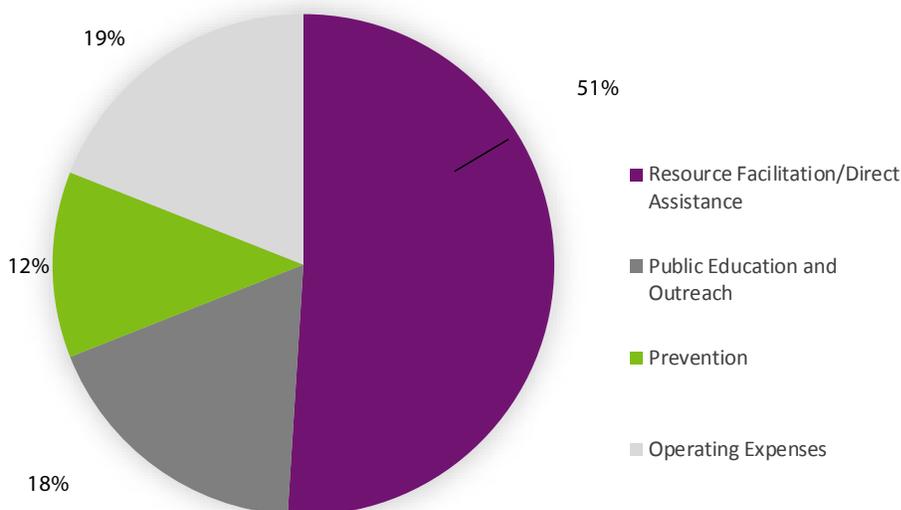
## TBI Fund Accomplishments

- 232 clients received intake assessments with 130 qualifying for TBI resource facilitation services.
- 130 clients with a TBI received one-to-one resource facilitation services at an average cost to the TBI Fund of \$461 per person. The contracting agencies provided matching funds, so the actual cost of the services was higher.
- 40 clients received a neuro-psychological assessment to clarify the needed services that would be most beneficial.
- 121 of the 130 participants who received resource facilitation services were in need of and have been connected to ongoing services.
- 25 additional people received an intake assessment and did not qualify for services through the TBI Fund because they did not have a 'traumatic' brain injury but an 'acquired' brain injury (e.g., as a result of stroke, encephalitis, or anoxia, etc.).

In addition to the current TBI Fund Contractors, three additional Independent Living Centers across Utah have signed provider agreements to provide TBI Fund services. These centers are in rural areas across the state and have been trained to provide resource facilitation services to Utah residents living outside of the Wasatch front.

The TBI Fund received and expended \$200,000 in legislative appropriation in SFY16. **Table 1** shows the expenditures by category. An additional \$56,649 was contributed in matching funds that is not reflected in the chart.

**Table 1: Breakdown of SFY 2016 TBI Fund Expenditures**



## Success Stories

Doug was a successful teacher and had recently retired when he fell while working on the siding of his house and sustained a TBI. Doug struggled with his speech and a very unsteady gait due to his TBI. Doug and his wife were connected to the TBI Fund. Doug has since made great progress. He is back to riding his bike, playing frisbee golf and enjoying his retirement. He continues with his therapy and is making progress every day.

-Doug, age 65 from Weber County

After Cori sustained a TBI from a car crash, she and her husband were at risk of losing their home. Because of the resource facilitation that Cori received from the TBI fund, they have been able to stay in their home. They also received some one-time respite care so that Cori's husband could get a break from being a full-time caregiver.

Cori - Salt Lake County

"Because of the services received from the TBI Fund and resource facilitation, I was able to get the assistance needed to remain in my home and live an independent life, safely and free of restrictions."

- Tammy, age 32, Utah County

## Needs and Concerns Documented by Contractors

- There are limited resources for TBI survivors living outside of the Wasatch Front.
- Intact and supportive families help services to work best but not all clients have this.
- Publicizing of the resources available and funding to cover outreach costs are needed.
- TBI survivors are overwhelmed with needs and underserved with resources.
- Insurance and Medicaid barriers include: limited benefits, high co-pays, uninsured, unaffordable, and providers who are not willing to serve individuals with a TBI due to low reimbursement levels from Medicaid.
- Isolation and lack of support among TBI survivors, combined with impulsivity, increases the risk of suicide.
- There is a reluctance to ask for help among TBI survivors due to fear of being told “no again.”
- Funding to increase awareness of the Fund across the state is needed.
- There is little or no awareness about TBI and the Fund among people experiencing domestic violence.
- There continues to be a great need for similar services for acquired brain injury.

## Public Education and Outreach

The following activities were completed to promote the TBI Fund and increase awareness of signs and symptoms of TBIs:

- A pay-per-click digital media campaign was implemented.
- A BrandView article was published on KSL.com about celebrities who have sustained a TBI and to promote the TBI Fund.
- A 30-second radio ad campaign was aired on Pandora.
- A new website, [health.utah.gov/tbi](http://health.utah.gov/tbi), was created for TBI survivors and caregivers to explain what the TBI Fund is and what services are available to individuals and families.

## Older Adult Falls Prevention

Because older adult falls are the leading cause of TBI hospitalizations and deaths in Utah, the TBI Advisory Committee continued to allocate funding to five local health departments to implement the evidence-based Stepping On falls prevention program. Stepping On is a 7-week program that teaches older adults how to reduce their risk of falling and how to do simple exercise to increase their strength and balance. The program was implemented in Davis, Tooele, Salt Lake, Utah, and Wasatch counties. Eight workshops were held; reaching 108 people. Outcomes from the Stepping On program indicated older adults reduced their fear of falling (89%), increased activity (97%), and were more comfortable talking with their healthcare provider about falls. Participants reported the following changes to reduce their fall risk: talking to family or friends about falls (57%), planning to continue exercising (99%); and making changes in the home (69%).

## Professional Training

A total of 63 training events were held during SFY16 by the TBI Fund contractors, reaching approximately 5,030 individuals. Specifically, Phoenix Services provided three Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) trainings for 12 professionals.

## Overview of the TBI Fund

The TBI Fund was established in 2008 by the Utah Legislature as a restricted special revenue to:

- Educate the general public and professionals on treatment and prevention of TBI;
- Provide access to evaluations and coordinate short-term care to assist an individual in identifying services or support needs, resources, and benefits for which the individual may be eligible; and
- Develop and support an information referral system for persons with a TBI and their families.

The fund is administered under the direction of the executive director of the Utah Department of Health through the Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP). The fund received ongoing appropriation of \$200,000 per year during the 2015 General Legislative Session.

The fund contracts with four non-profit agencies and has provider agreements with three independent living centers to provide resources facilitation and education.

## TBI Fund Advisory Committee

TBI Fund Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Utah Department of Health executive director annually and represent individuals who are familiar with TBI, its causes, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and support services, including individuals who have sustained a TBI and their family members.

## Success Stories

“Thanks to the TBI fund, I was able to get one-time services to provide my family with some respite services. It has been a relief to be connected to a service that has given us as caregivers some much needed rest. We would not have known about this if it wasn’t for the resource facilitation that the TBI Fund provided our family.”  
-Richard, age 69, Davis County

“I received a neuro-psych test through the TBI Fund that helped me to obtain my driver license.”  
-David, Weber County