



## Utah Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund SFY 2015 Report (7/1/14 to 6/30/15)

### Traumatic Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund UCA 26-54 Legislative Report

The Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) and Brain Injury (BI) Rehabilitation Fund was established during the 2012 Utah Legislative Session (Section 26-54 ). Funds may be used to assist qualified IRC 501(c)(3) charitable clinics to provide Utahns:

- physical, occupational, and speech therapy; and
- equipment necessary for daily living activities for people with spinal cord and brain injuries.

The Fund may only be billed when other funding options have been exhausted (i.e., insurance benefits) or are not available to provide the services.

#### The Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund has made a positive impact on clients' lives.

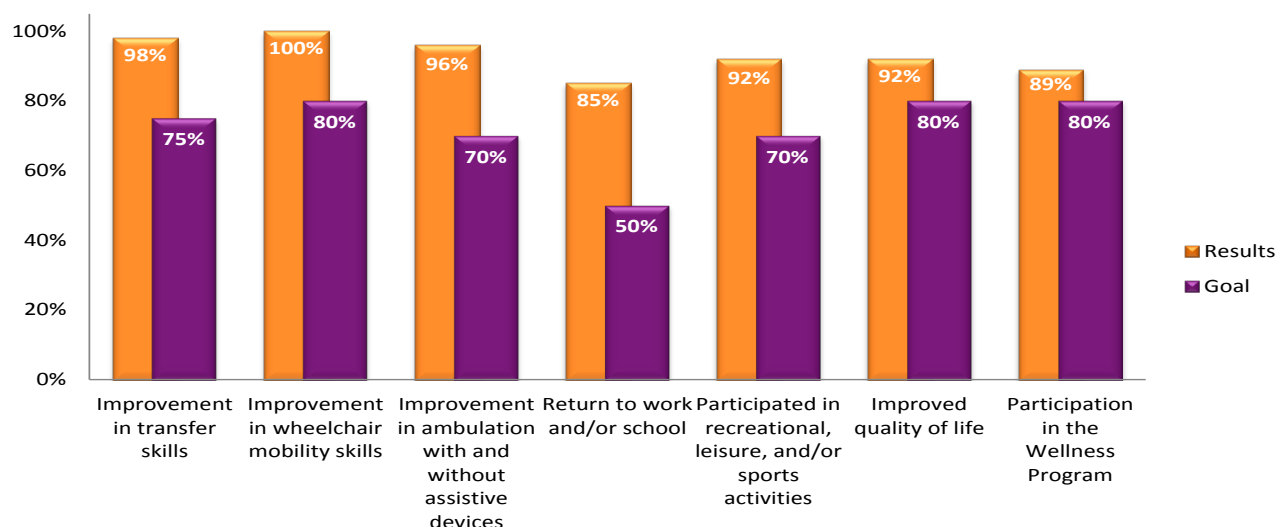
A total of 52 TBI and SCI clients received 1,219 physical, occupational, or speech therapy visits during SFY 2015, resulting in the following outcomes for clients:

- 85% returned to work and/or school.
- 90% reported improved quality of life.
- 96% demonstrated improvement in ambulation with or without assistive devices.
- As a whole, the client group exceeded 7 of the 7 preset goals for the group.



“ Isaiah, age 25, was involved in a motor vehicle crash in July 2014, resulting in a SCI and a mild TBI. Isaiah’s insurance only paid for 20 visits per year of therapy and he needed much more to increase his independence. Because of the Fund, Isaiah was able to receive the needed therapy. He is now moving about independently at home and in the community. He is able to jog with the benefit of equipment purchased from the Fund. Isaiah is now able to drive and has a goal of returning to work and attending college. ”

### Percentage of Patients Achieving Goal SFY 2015 Traumatic SCI and BI Rehabilitation Fund



### Accomplishments

Neuroworx and the University of Utah Sugarhouse Clinic received their second year of funding for their five year contract. Each contractor received \$100,000 for services and \$50,000 for approved equipment purchases in SFY 2015. In SFY 2015, a total of \$199,186 was expended with 69% of the funds going to services and 31% to equipment. Standardized outcome measures were agreed upon with both contractors.

In addition to the accomplishments listed on the front page, in SFY 2015:

- 100% of eligible clients received a 90-day evaluation.
- 92% of clients participated in recreational, leisure, and/or sports activities.
- 11 presentations were held, reaching 637 professionals and members of the community to educate and train on SCI, TBI, and the Traumatic SCI and BI Rehabilitation Fund.

“After my operation I lost 40 lbs. and all my strength. Since I started therapy and the Wellness Program I have gained 45 lbs. and my balance is much, much, better. My lower back and neck pain have both been alleviated a great deal! My walking is much better and in general I feel like my quality of life has improved immensely.

-Marc, age 75, SCI survivor from Salt Lake County, UT



## Needs and Concerns Documented by Contractors

- Outreach efforts continue to be limited to local organizations and referral sources.
- More education and awareness about the Fund services among providers outside the Wasatch Front continues to be a need.
- Much time is spent to identify other potential funding sources and assure that the Fund is the payor of last resort.
- Many individuals with a TBI or SCI may already live at home and do not have regular or specific contact with the medical community.
- Regular and persistent outreach to medical professionals and facilities is needed so more are aware of the Fund services.
- The ability to provide individual, specific equipment is needed as this would have great therapeutic benefit for the client's functional ability and safety.

## Advisory Committee

The Traumatic SCI and BI Rehabilitation Fund Advisory Committee is comprised of one legislator from both the Utah House of Representatives and Utah Senate, a survivor or family member of a TBI, a survivor or family member of a SCI appointed by the governor, and the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health. Members of the advisory committee met three times during SFY 2015 and conducted business according to the Open and Public Meetings Act. Minutes are posted at <http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. Reports from the contractors were received and reviewed by the Committee.

### SCIs in Utah

- 120 Utah residents are hospitalized for or die from a spinal cord injury (SCI) each year.
- The age-adjusted rate of SCI hospitalizations and deaths decreased from 5.1 per 100,000 residents in 2010, to 4.2 per 100,000 residents in 2013. This was not a statistically significant change in rate.
- Older adults aged 75 + had the highest rate of SCI, at 13.4 per 100,000, followed by adults aged 65-74 (10.6 per 100,000).
- The leading causes of SCI during 2010-2012 were falls (33.4%), motor vehicle traffic crashes (24.6%), and sports and recreation (22.5%).
- The majority of SCI were unintentional; only 2.8% were due to assaults and 1% were due to suicide or suicide attempt. Six percent of SCIs were work-related.

### TBIs in Utah

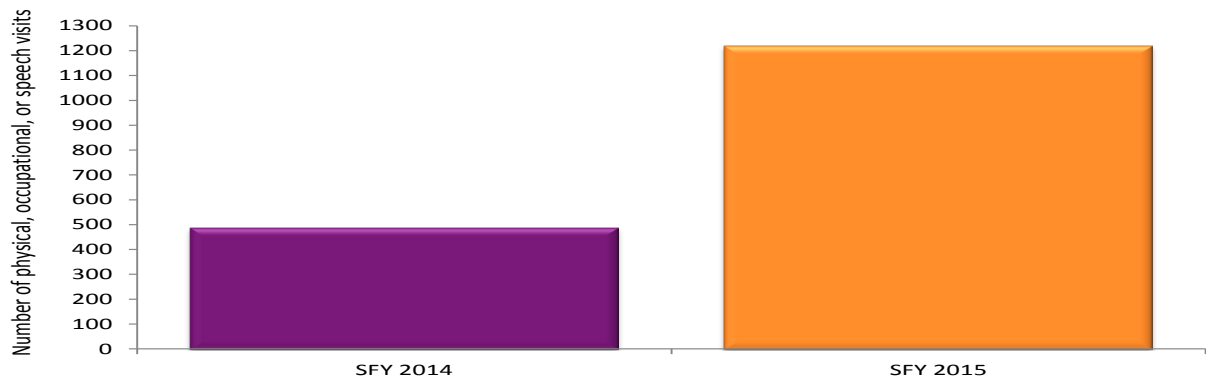
- 58 people visit an emergency room and eight people are hospitalized or die from a TBI every day.
- Nearly half (45%) of TBI hospitalizations and deaths are the result of falls. Motor vehicle traffic crashes, bicycle crashes, and recreational activities are also leading causes of TBIs.
- Older adults aged 75+ have the highest rates (2,070 per 100,000 in 2013) of TBIs.
- TBIs cost nearly \$95 million in hospitalization charges in 2013. This does not include costs for disability and long-term care.
- The age-adjusted rate of TBIs increased significantly from 2010 (783 per 100,000) to 2013 (849 per 100,000).

## Overview

The Traumatic SCI and BI Rehabilitation Fund was established during the 2012 Utah Legislative Session (Section 26-54) as a restricted special revenue fund that consists of gifts, grants, donations, etc. that may be made to the fund from private sources; a portion (\$20) of the impound fee as designated in Section 41-6a-1406; and amounts as appropriated by the Legislature. The fund shall be administered by the executive director of the Department of Health in consultation with the advisory committee. Funds shall be used to assist “qualified IRC 501(c)(3) charitable clinics” to provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy; and equipment necessary for daily living activities for people with spinal cord and brain injuries.

*Last updated: November 30, 2015*

**Services received SFY 2014 vs. SFY 2015  
Traumatic SCI and BI Rehabilitation Fund**



“ Troy, a 26-year-old father of two small children, sustained a traumatic brain injury in 2013 when a horse tripped and rolled over the top of him. When evaluated in January of 2015, he was in a wheelchair and unable to transfer or stand due to the injuries he sustained. Through the Fund, he received physical therapy before and after a surgery to correct his ankle deformity. He is now able to sit unsupported, stand with minimal assistance, and transfer to and from his wheelchair. He has had great improvement in his mobility, allowing him to participate in his daily living skills and other activities he loves. ”

“ I started out in a wheelchair but with a combination of Functional Electrical Stimulation and other therapies I got my strength back and got out of my wheelchair. Coming to The Wellness Program has helped me continue to gain strength and improve my walking.

-Sheri, age 53,  
SCI Survivor from Kearns, UT ”

### Our Mission...

VIPP is a trusted and comprehensive resource for data and technical assistance related to violence and injury. This information helps promote partnerships and programs to prevent injuries and improve public health.

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