


Idaho State University

A National Model for TBI Screening



Idaho ranks seventh lowest in the nation for per capita hospitalization and disability rate due to traumatic brain injury (TBI). In 2016, Idahoans experienced:

 1,653 Head Injuries


 141 TBI Fatalities

Idaho's TBI registry reports the number of people who go to an emergency room with a head injury, but still more people sustain a brain injury without knowing it. Idaho State University (ISU) Institute of Rural Health is screening for TBI so people who have sustained a TBI can understand related symptoms and access the care they need. ISU is working with medical screening services, health care education, government agencies and community partners to provide free screening for people who do not have easy access to care. Idaho's screening efforts maximize the well-being of people who have sustained a TBI by making them aware of their health status and connecting them to appropriate services and supports.

2017 TBI Needs & Resources Assessment

ISU collected information about people's needs and their experiences with TBI-related resources in 2017 to estimate the current use and need for TBI services as well as the demand for different types of services. The top three needs identified by respondents were:

 **Social relationships and support: 29.1%**

 **Financial assistance: 26.9%**

 **TBI ombudsman services: 26.5%**

ISU also observed that over a quarter of respondents reported their TBI occurred over ten years ago. This means people are often unaware that brain injury could be the cause of their symptoms and they need timely access to screening and follow-up care to make sure they understand their injury. ISU addresses this need by providing screenings at Community Health Screening (CHS) and Homeless Stand Down events. CHS events also include a physical exam, dental, hearing and point of care testing. These services are free, which is important because the needs assessment found that **49.1%** of respondents are not able to afford the health care services they want/need.

Community Health Screenings and Homeless Stand Down Screenings

ISU screens people for free at CHS events using the Ohio State University TBI Identification Method and the Quality of Life After Brain Injury questionnaire. Screeners make low- to no-cost referrals for people who screen "likely" for a history of TBI. **Notably, 55.2% of CHS participants said they currently lack medical insurance, compared to 15.5% of Idahoans reporting not having insurance (CDC).** Unity Health and Health West offer primary care services, and ISU offers access to speech and language and its counseling clinic. The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation assists with co-pays. ISU also screens people experiencing homelessness. Sustaining a TBI increases the risk of becoming homeless (Lafferty 2010), and people experiencing homelessness are more likely to sustain a TBI. ISU hosted the annual Southeast Homeless Stand Down events between 2015 and 2019 and referred all people who screened "likely" for a TBI to primary care. ISU's screening events connect underserved populations to the TBI services and supports they need.



9 university courses
118 students

ISU's elective teaches students to screen for TBI. Students practice screening at CHS and Homeless Stand Down Events, gaining valuable experience while providing a free service to the community.



Screened **993** people for TBI (2015-2019)

ISU screened **993** people for a TBI during CHS events between 2015 and 2019. ISU made **54** specialty referrals for speech, language and counseling services, thus increasing access to appropriate services and supports.



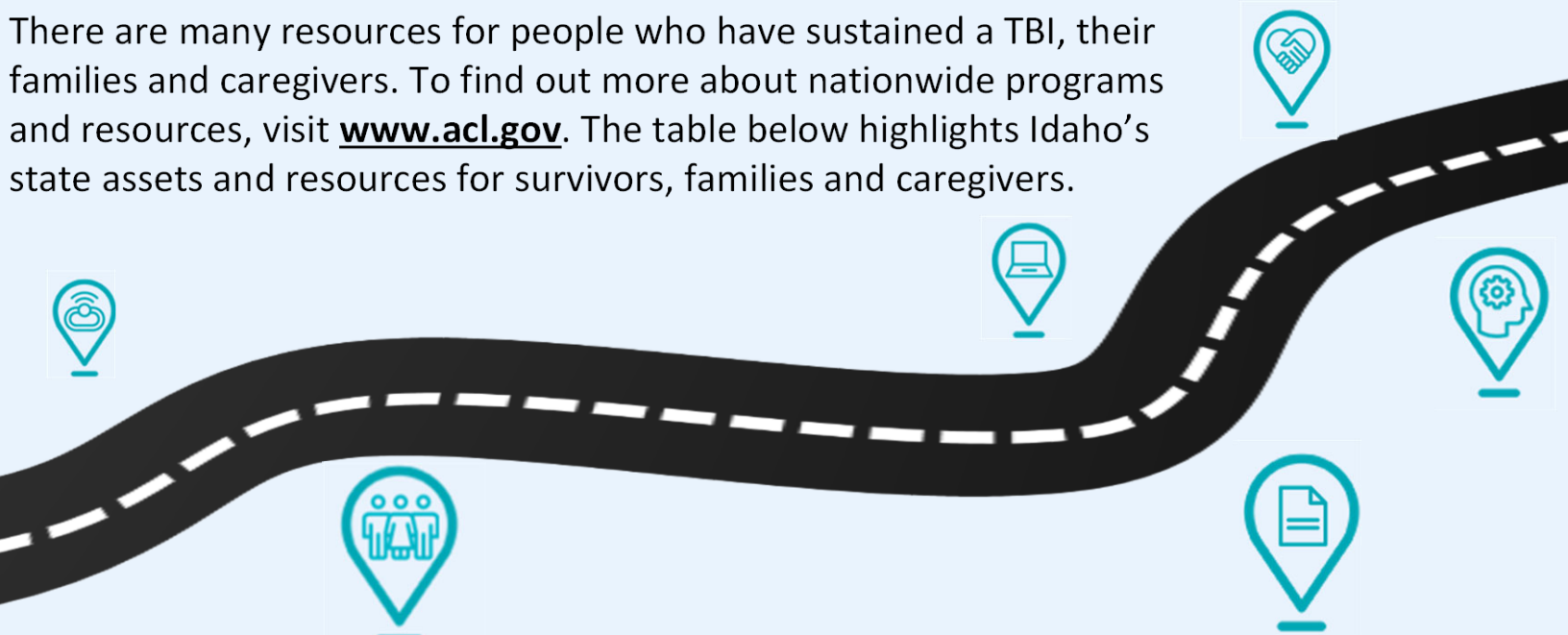
Screened **149** Homeless Stand Down participants (2015-2019)

ISU offered primary care referrals to the **59%** of people who screened "likely" for a lifetime history of TBI. The Homeless Stand Down Events raised awareness of the need for further screening for lifetime history of TBI in homeless populations.



The Road to Resources

There are many resources for people who have sustained a TBI, their families and caregivers. To find out more about nationwide programs and resources, visit www.acl.gov. The table below highlights Idaho's state assets and resources for survivors, families and caregivers.



Resources for TBI Community and State Assets



Idaho Assistive Technology Project

Contact to learn more about AT information and referrals

[Visit the Idaho AT Project website](#)

Phone: 1 (800) 432-8324



Idaho TBI Advisory Council

Contact to learn more about advocacy opportunities for TBI stakeholders

Phone: (208) 373-1769



Idaho TBI Virtual Program Center

Contact to learn more about the Idaho TBI Program and find TBI information

[Visit the Virtual Program Center website](#)

Phone: (208) 373-1773



Idaho 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waiver

Contact to find out eligibility requirements for financial assistance and services

[View the waiver application from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare website](#)

Phone: 1 (877) 456-1233



Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Contact to learn more about obtaining and retaining employment

[Visit the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation website](#)

[Find your local Division of Vocational Rehabilitation office](#)

Phone: (208) 334-3390



Brain Injury Alliance of Idaho

Contact to find out how to reduce the impact of TBI through education and prevention

[Visit the Brain Injury Alliance of Idaho website](#)

Phone: 1 (208) 385-3013

Idaho Time Sensitive Emergency System Registry [Ⓢ]

Database of trauma survivors used to track incidence and perform outreach

[Visit the Registry website](#)

Phone: (208) 338-5100

[Ⓢ] This is only a state asset and not a public resource

Please contact the Idaho State University Institute of Rural Health at **(208) 282-4436** for more information.