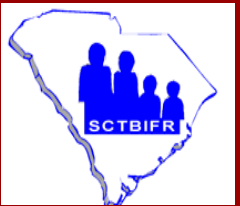




Service Needs of Participants in the South Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Follow-up Registry 1 Year After Hospital Discharge



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Introduction

Little is known about the extent to which persons surviving traumatic brain injury (TBI) receive needed services following discharge from acute care facilities. This population-based cohort study, seeks to fill the knowledge gap by describing the characteristics of persons 1 year after discharge by number of services received and number of perceived unmet service needs.

Table 1. Service Needs	Perceived Need (frequency)	Received Help (frequency)
Controlling alcohol or drug use	157	117
Improving mood, managing stress or emotional upsets	703	395
Finding paid employment (Asked only of unemployed persons.)	225	68
Getting services or managing them	454	236
Obtaining help from a paid personal assistant or care attendant	290	150
Improving job skills (Asked only of unemployed persons.)	430	182
Receiving information about services	915	391
Finding places and opportunities to socialize with others	349	210
Increasing independence in housekeeping, cooking or shopping	376	255
Transportation to get to places need to go	81	Not asked

Methods

Participants were enrolled in the South Carolina TBI Follow-up Registry (SCTBIFR), which gathers data from three major sources—a statewide TBI surveillance dataset, medical record review, and follow-up telephone surveys. From the surveillance dataset, each year a stratified random sample of 33% “mild” (Abbreviated Injury Scale [AIS]: Head =2) and 67% “moderate/severe” (AIS: Head ≥3) injured persons, aged 15 years and older, were selected to yield an annual sample size of 1,200 residents to recruit. Between May 2000 and July 2003, SCTBIFR conducted 2,118 telephone interviews 1 year after participants were discharged from acute care facilities. To create homogeneity among groups, 285 participants having proxy respondents were excluded leaving 1,830 eligible study participants. During the interview participants were asked if they needed help or had received help regarding the 10 services in Table 1.

Results

Table 2 shows participant characteristics by perceived number of unmet service needs. The major findings are:

- ❖ Persons without adequate social support (64%) represents the highest proportion with unmet need.
- ❖ Persons without health insurance (56%) and persons unemployed (56%) reported the second highest proportion of unmet need.
- ❖ Similarly, 55% of persons with cognitive problems, 54% of persons with profound ADL limitations, 53% of persons with poor/fair general health, 53% of persons receiving Medicaid benefits, 51% of persons with some ADL limitations, 49% of black males, and 49% of persons with personal annual income of less than \$10,000 reported unmet service needs.
- ❖ Conversely, fewer than 8% of persons in good general health, 15% of persons older than age 74, and 15% of persons with personal annual income of more than \$50,000 reported unmet service needs.

Table 2. Characteristics by unmet service needs	Total (N=1830)	≥3 Needs (n=158)	1-2 Needs (n=486)	None (n=1186)
* P<0.01		Row Percent†		
Age group*				
75 and older	152	4.0	11.2	84.9
65-74	136	2.9	15.4	81.6
55-64	175	8.0	23.4	68.6
35-54	564	14.0	32.1	53.9
18-34	625	8.3	30.2	61.4
15-17	178	1.7	20.8	77.5
Race & Gender*				
Non-white male	298	15.4	33.9	50.7
White male	835	6.7	22.6	70.7
Non-white female	138	13.8	29.0	57.3
White female	559	6.6	27.9	65.5
Marital Status*				
Single	1087	10.0	28.5	61.5
Married	739	6.6	23.4	70.0
Living Situation				
Alone	284	7.6	29.6	62.7
Not alone	1546	8.8	26.0	65.2
Personal Annual Income*				
<\$10,000	679	15.8	33.1	51.1
\$10,000-\$25,000	612	5.6	28.3	66.2
\$25,000-\$50,000	304	2.3	15.5	82.2
>\$50,000	116	0.9	13.8	85.3
Educational Level*				
Less than high school	592	11.5	28.6	60.0
High school graduate	608	7.6	28.6	63.8
Some college/tech. school	414	7.7	23.9	68.4
College graduate	213	5.2	20.7	74.2
Insurance*				
Uninsured	261	16.9	39.5	43.7
Medicaid	290	16.6	36.6	46.9
Medicare & other gov't	320	5.9	16.3	77.8
Private	959	4.9	23.5	71.6
Severity of TBI				
Severe (AIS=4-6)	787	9.5	25.7	64.8
Moderate (AIS=3)	447	8.1	26.4	65.6
Mild (AIS=2)	596	7.9	27.9	64.3

Table 2. (continued) Characteristics	Total	≥3 Needs	1-2 Needs	None
Other Body Injuries				
Yes (AIS 2+)	1054	8.5	28.3	63.2
No (AIS 0-1)	776	8.8	24.2	67.0
Previous TBI*				
Yes	453	9.3	34.4	56.3
No	1359	8.2	24.1	67.8
General Health*				
Fair/poor	941	15.8	37.2	47.0
Good	613	1.3	18.9	79.8
Excellent	272	0.4	7.4	92.3
Social Support*				
Inadequate support	163	19.6	44.2	36.2
Moderate support	564	12.9	30.0	57.1
Adequate support	1092	4.8	22.3	73.0
Employed*				
Other	559	5.4	18.8	75.9
No	553	18.8	37.1	44.1
Yes	718	3.3	24.5	72.1
Cognitive Status*				
Below mean	899	15.8	39.2	45.1
Above mean	930	1.7	14.3	83.9
Limitations in ADLs*				
Limited a lot	224	18.8	35.7	45.5
Some limitation	486	15.6	35.4	49.0
Not limited	1120	3.6	20.9	75.5

Conclusion

The findings suggest that large proportions of persons with TBI have unmet service needs 1 year after hospital discharge. By quantifying unmet needs, a strong case can be made to foster public policy for service delivery efforts that enable persons with TBI to maintain a reasonable quality of community living.