

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) and Administration for Community Living grant staff, Brain Links, train professionals working with people who have sustained a brain injury. These professionals provide informed services and supports to Tennesseans who have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI).



More than **8,000** people each year enter Tennessee hospitals with brain injury (Tennessee TBI Registry)



More than **18,000** people each year are treated and released from hospital emergency departments in Tennessee (Tennessee TBI Registry)

TDH wants to enrich the lives of all Tennesseans who sustain a TBI. TDH is working on this goal by increasing the ability of its TBI Registry to connect people to services and training and empowering the professionals who serve them.

## TBI Registry

Tennessee's TBI Registry monitors TBIs through hospital reporting. All Tennessee residents listed on the registry receive a letter and a brochure informing them of available TBI services. Registry data also allows TDH to understand how and where injuries occur so the state can develop programs to prevent injuries.



Tennessee used its TBI Registry to **mail 3,480 letters** to people who have sustained a TBI in 2018 alone.



Tennesseans are connected to one of **eight local TBI service coordinators** for assistance with identifying and accessing services in their communities.



Since its inception in 1996, Tennessee's TBI Registry **has collected data on over 150,000 people with brain injury** and helped these people access sources vital to their recovery.

TDH is improving its TBI Registry by encouraging hospitals to expand reporting to emergency departments and revising outreach design to increase registry response rates. TDH is enhancing its registry to connect more people to services and supports.

## Information about Brain Injury

TDH collaborates with the Commission on Aging and Disability, the Department of Education Office of Coordinated School Health and TennCare on trainings.

Through strategic planning with committed organizations, Brain Links has designed workforce development components for professionals. Trainings are coordinated with organizations such as D & S Community Services, Tennessee Association of Adult Day Services and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee.

Brain Links developed concussion guides for parents called *When Concussion Symptoms Are Not Going Away: A Guide for Parents of Children Who Are Five and Under* and *When Concussion Symptoms Are Not Going Away: A Guide for Parents of Children Who Are School-Aged*. Brain Links staff ensures that all materials and trainings are guided by Person-Centered Principles.

## Brain Injury Toolkits

The Brain Links Team has developed two toolkits, one for **Healthcare Providers** ([Visit the Healthcare Providers Toolkit website](#)) and one for **School Nurses**



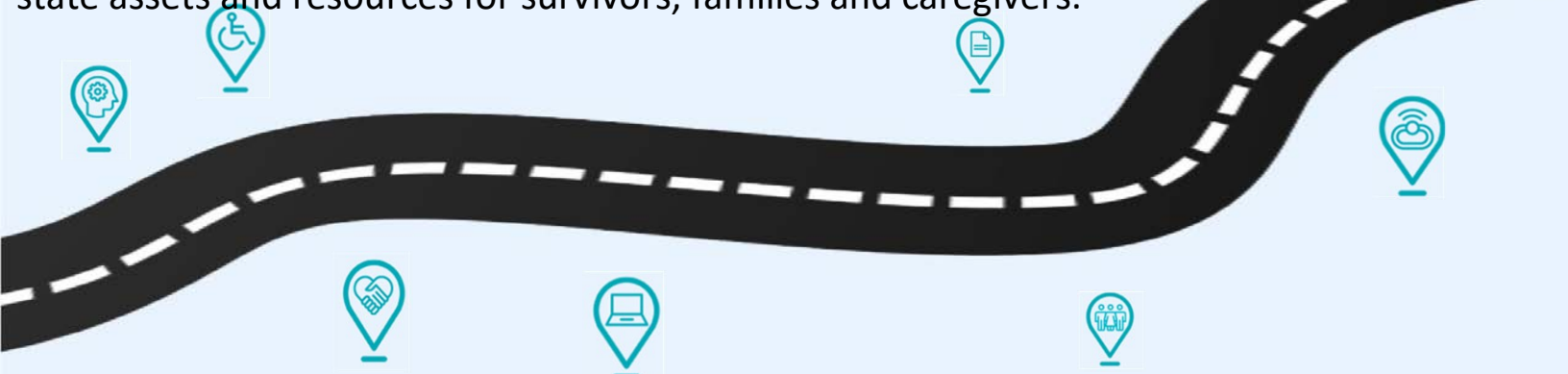
([Visit the School Nurses Toolkit website](#)). Brain Links introduced the toolkits during professional development trainings.

Brain Links staff is implementing the *Healthcare Providers Toolkit* through collaborative efforts with Tennessee's Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians and the Cumberland Pediatric Foundation. To increase supports between community health providers and address specific requests from school nurses, Brain Links staff is implementing the *School Nurses Toolkit* with the Office of Coordinated School Health. The community has been supportive of these materials. The toolkits are online along with trainings available through YouTube ([see the trainings on YouTube](#)). **Brain Links is encouraging people to take the full training component of each kit and receive a certificate of completion. For more information, email Brain Links at: [tbi@tndisability.org](mailto:tbi@tndisability.org).**



# 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](http://www.acl.gov). The table below highlights Tennessee's state assets and resources for survivors, families and caregivers.



## Resources for TBI Community and State Assets



### TDH TBI Program

Contact to learn more about Tennessee's Traumatic Brain Injury Program  
[Visit the TDH Traumatic Brain Injury Program website](#)



### TDH TBI Service Coordination Program

[Visit the TDH TBI Program website](#) to learn how to contact a service coordinator



### Brain Links

[Visit the TDH TBI Program website](#) to learn more about how Brain Links is helping the TBI Community



### TBI Advisory Council

Contact to learn about advocacy opportunities for TBI Stakeholders  
[Visit the Tennessee TBI Advisory Council website](#)



### TBI Family Support Program

[Visit the TBI Family Support Program's website](#) to learn about state financial assistance for people with TBIs  
Phone: (615) 321-5699



### Tennessee Disability Coalition

[Visit the Tennessee Disability Coalition's website](#) to learn more about the full and equal participation of people with disabilities  
Phone: (615) 383-9442



### Brain Injury Association of Tennessee

Contact to find out how to reduce the impact of TBI through education and prevention  
[Visit the Tennessee BIA website](#)  
Phone: (615) 248-2541

### TBI Registry

[Visit the TDH TBI Program website](#) to learn more about the state's TBI Registry

Please contact the Tennessee Department of Health at **(615) 741-1230** for more information.