

Traumatic brain injury is still the leading cause of death from young people but the most important problem is that survivors from moderate and severe TBI lead with some sort of cognitive and physical disability. The incidence for TBI is about 100 hospitalized cases per 100.000 population (Kraus & Mc Arthur, 1999) and the mortality rate is 30/100.000/year. There is an epidemiological study from Spain that has shown an incidence for TBI about 91/100.000/year (Vasquez-Baquero A, 1992).

Data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-sponsored State surveillance projects estimates that prevalence range from 2.5 million to 6.5 million individuals living with the consequences of TBI. . Males are more than twice as likely as females to experience TBI.

Although data are limited, it is useful to separately address mild, moderate and sever TBI. Sever TBI is defined by a Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score of less tan 9 obtained within 48 hours of injury. The incidence of severe TBI is 14/100.000/year with a death rate of 58 percent. The incidence of moderate TBI (GCS between 9 and 12) is 15/100.000/year, while mild TBI (GCS greater than 12) is 131/100.000/year. Lyle et al. (Lyle, 1990) found an incidence for severe disability about 2/100.000/year and for moderate disability about 4/100.000/year.

The highest incidence is among persons 15 to 24 years of age and 75 years and older.

Approximately 50 percent of TBIs are the result of motor vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian-vehicle incidents. Falls are the second most frequent cause of TBI among the elderly and the very young. Violence-related incidents account for approximately 20 percent of TBI in U.S but not in European countries that is around 1 percent. Although sports- and recreation-related injuries account for 3 percent of hospitalized persons with TBI, approximately 90 percent of sports-related TBIs are mild and may go unreported.