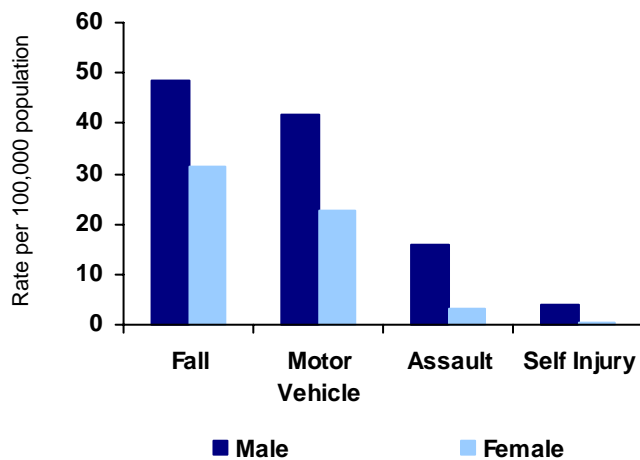


HEALTH DATA FACT SHEET April 2007

Traumatic Brain Injury in New Jersey

- Brain injuries affect thousands of New Jersey residents every year, and can result from blood vessel defects, congenital anomalies, degenerative disease, and trauma. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are most often caused by a blow or jolt to the head, and can severely disrupt normal brain functions.
- Each year in New Jersey there are nearly 9,000 TBIs resulting in hospitalization or death. Approximately 10% of TBIs are fatal. Clearly, there are many more traumatic brain injuries treated in emergency departments, outpatient settings, or not at all.
- TBIs range from mild to severe and can cause impairment of cognitive and physical abilities as well as changes in behavior or emotional functioning. Seemingly mild TBIs can have significant effects that do not immediately appear.
- The leading cause of TBI in New Jersey historically has been vehicle crashes (including automobiles, bicycles, and recreational vehicles), followed by falls and assaults. However, in 2003 falls became the leading cause of TBI in New Jersey, responsible for more than 20% more TBIs than vehicle crashes.
- TBI rates are higher among men for all major causes. The rate of TBI for males is nearly twice that of females for motor vehicle injuries and 54% higher for falls.

Traumatic brain injury incidence rates by cause and gender, New Jersey, 2003

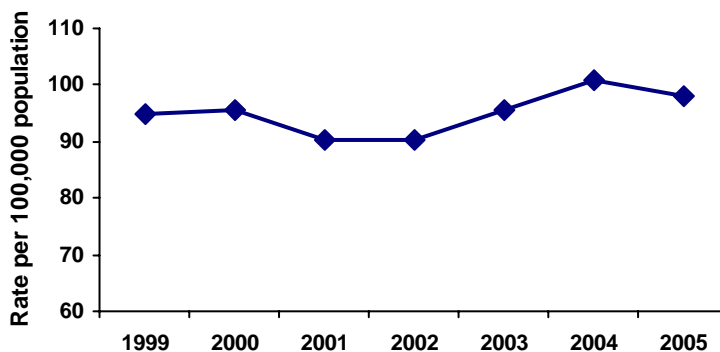


Rates are age-adjusted to the US 2000 Standard population.
Source: 2003 CNS Injury Surveillance data, OISP, CHS, NJDHSS

- Self-inflicted TBI, mostly gunshot wounds, are by far the most lethal, with nearly 97% resulting in death. Males are 13 times more likely to sustain a TBI due to self-injury than women.
- Men are over five times as likely as women to sustain a TBI due to an assault. The rate per 100,000 population is 15.8 for males and 3.0 for females.
- TBI incidence and fatality rates increase with age. The TBI incidence rate is highest for people 85 and older (465.8 per 100,000 population), with a fatality rate of 46.5 per 100,000.

- The hospitalization rate for TBI in New Jersey fluctuated between 1999 and 2004, decreasing slightly again in 2005. Over that time period, 65% of TBI inpatients were discharged to home and nearly 20% were sent to other facilities for further acute care or rehabilitation. Just over 6% of patients admitted for a traumatic brain injury died in the hospital.

**Traumatic brain injury hospitalization rates,
New Jersey, 1999-2005**



*Rates are age-adjusted to the US 2000 Standard population.
Source: UB-92 New Jersey Hospital Discharge Data System, NJDHSS*

- Treatments for TBI include controlling intracranial bleeding and pressure, and monitoring for changes in consciousness and behavior.
- Some strategies to prevent TBIs include increasing helmet use during recreation and sports activities, preventing falls among children and older adults, enhancing violence-prevention programs, increasing the use of child safety seats and seat belts, and reducing drunk and drugged driving.

For more information about Traumatic Brain Injury and Prevention contact the [Brain Injury Association of America](#) or the [Brain Injury Association of New Jersey](#)

For further information on TBI research contact [The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke](#)

Sources:

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Center for Health Statistics

[Central Nervous System Surveillance Data](#)

[Brain Injury Association of New Jersey](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

[Traumatic Brain Injury Fact Sheet](#), [Facts about Concussion and Brain Injury](#)

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

[Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2005](#)

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

[Traumatic Brain Injury Information Page](#)



Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD Commissioner

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Public Health Services Branch

Office of the State Epidemiologist, Center for Health Statistics

P.O. Box 360

Trenton, NJ 08625-0360