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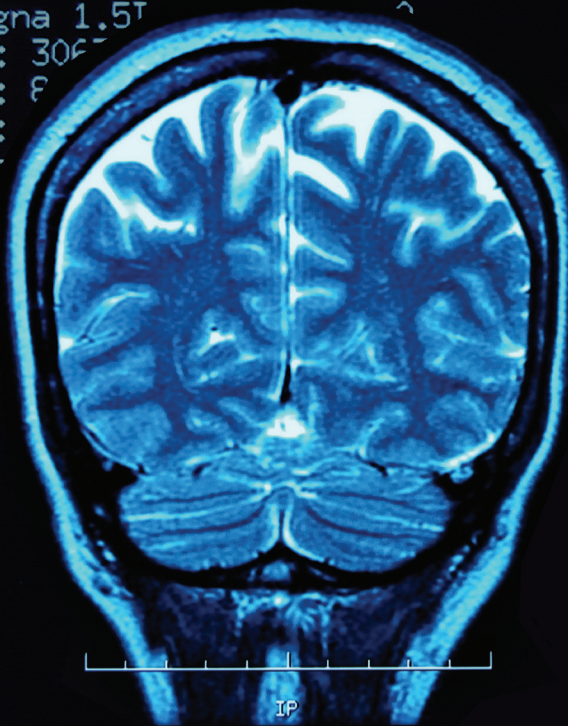
SA

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TE:99.6/55
E:11120.8kHz
HEAD
FIM:2020
30cm/7.0sp
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320x224/2 NEX
6th: 7/7 RF

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IMPACT OF BRAIN INJURY IN NEW MEXICO

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Department of Health data collection funded by:

NM Brain Injury Advisory Council
www.nmbiac.com 505.476.7328

What is brain injury? There are two types of brain injuries.

- 1. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** is an insult to the brain caused by an external force. Causes include motor vehicle crashes, assaults, falls, sports and blast injuries.
- 2. Acquired Brain Injury** could be caused by a stroke, a severe illness, exposure to toxic substances, a tumor, or lack of oxygen to the brain.

The consequences of **traumatic** or **acquired brain injuries** are similar. Physical, psychological, behavioral, emotional and cognitive changes can be temporary or last a lifetime. One may experience issues with balance, hearing, sight; difficulty with short and long term memory; challenges with organizing and completing tasks; or experience sudden mood swings.

About 1,150 deaths due to brain injury occur each year to New Mexico (NM) residents with almost $\frac{2}{3}$ rd (740) from **acquired brain injury (ABI)** and $\frac{1}{3}$ rd (410) from **traumatic brain injury (TBI)**.

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Annual Deaths:

- 84% are due to cerebrovascular events such as strokes; brain tumors are 11%.
- Cerebrovascular events are most likely to occur as people age, with rates increasing from 90/100,000 at ages 65-74 to 927/100,000 at ages 85+.
- Females are 1.4 times more likely to die of ABI than males due to older ages.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Annual Deaths:

- NM had the 2nd highest TBI fatality rate in a 2004 comparison among 34 states.
- Leading TBI causes of death are suicide by firearm (38%), motor vehicle traffic (22%), falls (17%), homicide (12%), other (11%)
- Males were almost 3 times more likely to die of TBI injuries than females.

IMPACT OF BRAIN INJURY IN NEW MEXICO (CONTINUED):

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Annual Deaths

Leading TBI causes differed by age:

- **Motor vehicle traffic** was the leading cause for **children and youth under 15 years of age**, followed by **homicide**.
- At ages **15-24 years** **suicide by firearm** and **motor vehicle traffic** tied for the leading causes at 39% each.
- **Suicide by firearm** ranked first across age groups between **25-64 years**, followed by **motor vehicle traffic**.
- **Homicide** was the 3rd leading cause at **ages 25-44**.
- **Falls** and **homicide** accounted for about the equal proportions at **ages 45-64**.
- **Falls** became the leading cause as the population aged (**46% at ages 65 and older**) although **suicide by firearm** remained a leading cause (33%).

Highest death rates occurred in rural areas; the lowest in metropolitan areas.

NM Hospital Admissions among both General and Specialty Facilities:

About 9,000 admissions occur annually; 84% (7,600) from ABI conditions 16% (1,400) from TBI conditions.

An individual patient might have multiple admissions.

3,700 (40%) were for patients younger than 65 years.

ABI (Acquired Brain Injury) Annual Admissions:

Cerebrovascular events are the main diagnosis (81%).

About 1/3rd (2,700) of admissions were for patients younger than 65.

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) Annual Admissions:

Brain hemorrhages and other intracranial injuries of an unspecified nature were the leading diagnosis (29%), followed by skull fractures (21%), cerebral laceration or contusions (8%), and concussions (7%).

About 2/3rd (970) of admissions were for patients younger than 65.

NM emergency departments (ED) do not report visits for TBI. An estimated 10,000 NM residents may have received ED treatment for TBI events each year based on national ratios of TBI deaths to ED visits.

To request a copy of the entire Department of Health report please contact the Brain Injury Advisory Council office:

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