

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE *man* Feb 7 2005



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February 4, 2005

TO: Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee

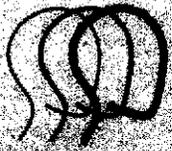
FROM: Kelly Williams, Administrator  
*KW* Senior and Long Term Care Division

RE: Higher Incidence of TBI Among American Indians on Montana's Reservations

In response to Representative Jayne's question regarding why there is a higher incidence of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) on Montana's reservations than on non-reservations, the Department responded that we believed there were two factors, the high rate of alcohol abuse and the high rate of domestic violence. Representative Jayne asked that we provide the documentation which supports this response.

A statewide TBI needs assessment survey was conducted in 2001 by the Montana Center on Disabilities at MSU-Billings and the Brain Injury Association of Montana. To quote directly from page six of the report, "The survey results indicate that the primary cause of TBI for Native Americans in Montana is assault/abuse. Accidents, suicides, and homicides, often associated with drinking or drug use, are excessively present among Native Americans. A recent study by the... U.S. Department of Justice found that American Indians are the victims of violent crimes at more than twice the rate of all U.S. residents." Pages seven, ten, eleven and twelve provide more information related to this question. We are providing a copy of the assessment that was completed for your information as it supports the need for focused efforts at education and prevention related to Traumatic Brain Injury across the state.

Additionally we have asked the Public Health Division to see if they have any statistical information concerning traumatic brain injuries, or any documentation regarding the use of seat belts that may provide additional information in response to the questions raised by the committee. If this information is available we will provide it to the committee.



# BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA

PREVENTION · EDUCATION · ADVOCACY

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RECEIVED  
FEB 04 2005  
SLTC DIV

February 3, 2005

Dear Representative Jayne,

The Brain Injury Association of Montana is writing to provide any information we can about Native Americans and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in Montana.

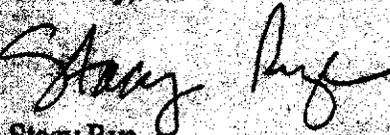
Traumatic Brain Injury in Montana: A Report on the TBI Needs Assessment Surveys was completed in 2002 and funded by a federal grant to study the numbers of brain injury, the causes and the needs for people affected by brain injury in Montana.

The study determined through survey that Native Americans suffer two times the rate of brain injury than the non-Native population. Based on the survey, the largest cause of TBI in the non-Native population (Caucasian) is motor vehicle accidents, followed by falls and then violence or abuse. The causes for Native populations were assault or abuse followed by motor vehicle accidents. Please see the attached pages from the report.

The Brain Injury Association of Montana would like to express immense support for Brain Injury services in Montana, including Medicaid Waiver, Vocational Rehabilitation and any other TBI services. People with brain injuries face an uphill battle of not only dealing with a brain injury and the difficult recover therein, but also limited services. Our Medicaid waiver program in Montana works well and has great flexibility, but needs more funding.

Thank you and please call if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Stacy Rye  
Director



# BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA

Prevention • Education • Advocacy

An Affiliate of the Brain Injury Association, Inc.

## What is Brain Injury?

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is defined as the brain being the result of a blow, bump, or jolt to the head, or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. It can be caused by physical trauma, such as a fall, by a blow to the head, or by a penetrating head injury. It can also be caused by oxygen deprivation, such as a stroke, or by a lack of oxygen to the brain, such as a heart attack. Physical trauma is the most common cause of TBI.

## The Consequences of Brain Injury

Brain injury is the leading cause of mortality among Americans under 45 years of age. Acquired brain injury (ABI) is responsible for the majority of these deaths.

Annually 373,000 Americans are hospitalized as a result of TBI. Of these, 50,000 individuals sustain moderate to severe brain injuries resulting in life long disabling conditions.

- TBI claims more than 56,000 American lives annually.
- Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of TBI, accounting for 50% of all injuries.
- Child abuse is the leading cause of TBI in children and accounts for 64% of all injuries to infants.
- Each year 50,000 children sustain bicycle related injuries and 400 die as a result.

The Brain Injury Association of Montana was organized in 1977. It is a non-profit organization that works in cooperation with the government, private industry, and the community to provide information, support, and advocacy for those affected by brain injury.

The goals of the Brain Injury Association of Montana are:

1. To increase public awareness of the consequences of traumatic brain injury.
2. To reduce the incidence of preventable brain injuries through prevention, education and legislation.
3. To provide information and resource services to patients, family members and professionals.
4. To continue in the development and maintenance of state-wide support groups.
5. To assist in the development of rehabilitation programs for adult and community living.
6. To raise funds to support ongoing brain injury research and training.

**PREVENTION IS THE ONLY CLUE  
FOR BRAIN INJURY**

# Montana State Legislature

**Exhibit Number:** 1

**The following exhibit is a booklet that exceeds the 5-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. The booklets' cover has been scanned to help you when requesting information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.**

Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201; phone (406) 444-4774. For minutes in paper format, please contact the Montana State Law Library, Justice Building, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-3660. Tapes and exhibits are also available at the Historical Society (tapes are retained for five years). Scanning done by: Susie Hamilton



# Traumatic Brain Injury in Montana

