

Brain Injury Assistance Act Mid-Year Report (July – December 2023)

The Brain Injury Assistance Act – previously know as the Brain Injury Trust Fund Act until 2022 – has seven expenditure priorities:



The Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE) was awarded the funding during the first year (July 2021 – June 2022), second year (July 2022 – June 2023), and the third year. This report summarizes BIA-NE efforts in each of the seven priority expenditures, primarily focusing on efforts in the first half of the third year (July 2023 – December 2023).

PRIORITY 1

Resource Facilitation

See the Resource Facilitation report for a comprehensive summary of clients served by the BIA-NE through Resource Facilitation



239

unique people were served through resource facilitation¹

More than
487



referrals and resources were provided to clients



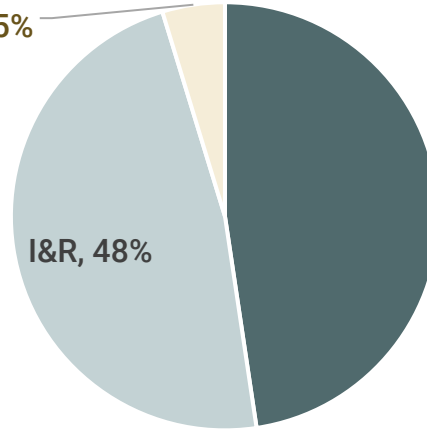
Clients were referred to

92

different organizations

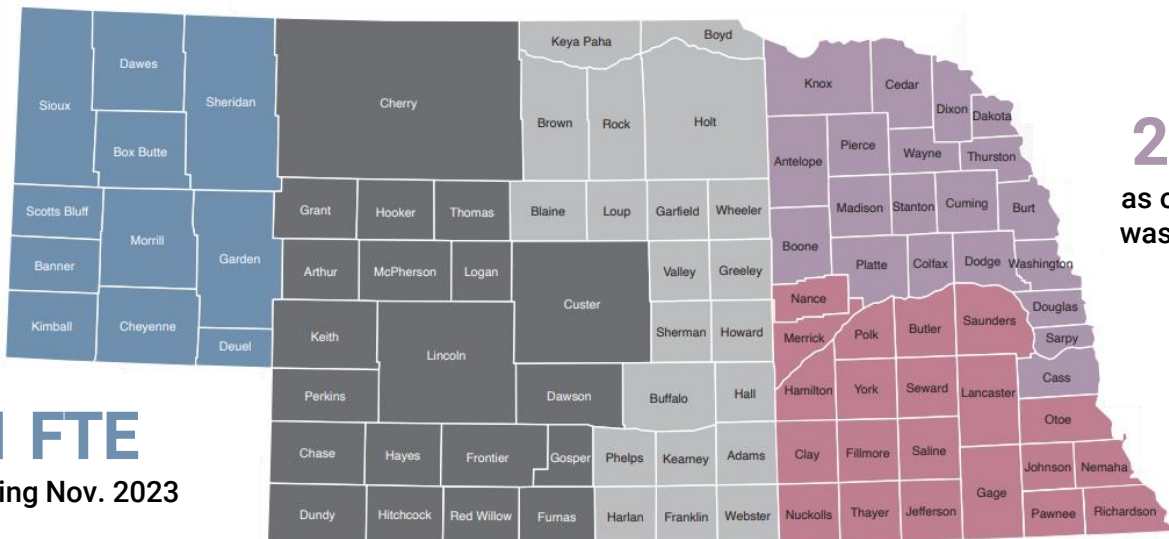
Of those actively served between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, there was an event split between case management and I&R clients (n=254)

Professional Consult, 5%



Case Management, 48%

Although there were staff vacancies during the six-month period, capacity for Resource Facilitation continued to grow beyond the 1.5 FTE that was in place prior to the Assistance Act funding



1 FTE
starting Nov. 2023

1.5 FTE

Staffing consistent since start of Assistance Act funding, though one went from 1 FTE to .5 FTE in Oct. 2023

1 FTE

Staff consistent since Oct. 2022

1 FTE

consistent since start of Assistance Act funding

2 FTEs
as of Aug. 2023;
was previously 1 FTE

¹ This includes all clients with an Information & Referral or Case Management case as well as the Professional Consult cases (a person assisted through another agency).

PRIORITY 2

Training for Service Providers

23

Brain Injury 101 trainings were offered to professionals

513

Attendees reached (average of 23 per event)

75

Minutes was the average length of events

105

Evaluations were completed

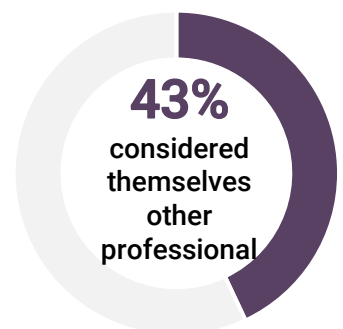
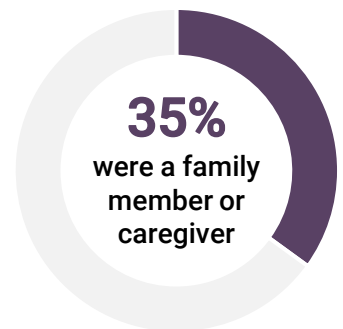
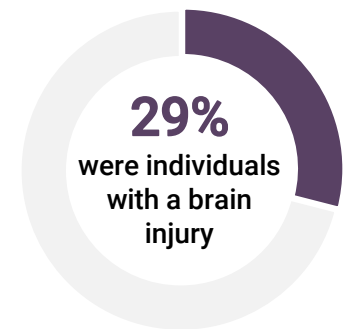
Some of the data made an impression on me as to how much more common it is.



Common professions reported on the evaluation form included social workers, medical students, and specialists such as shared living or peer support (n=100)



One-third of evaluation respondents reported they were a professional and either an individual with brain injury or family member/caregiver (n=100)²

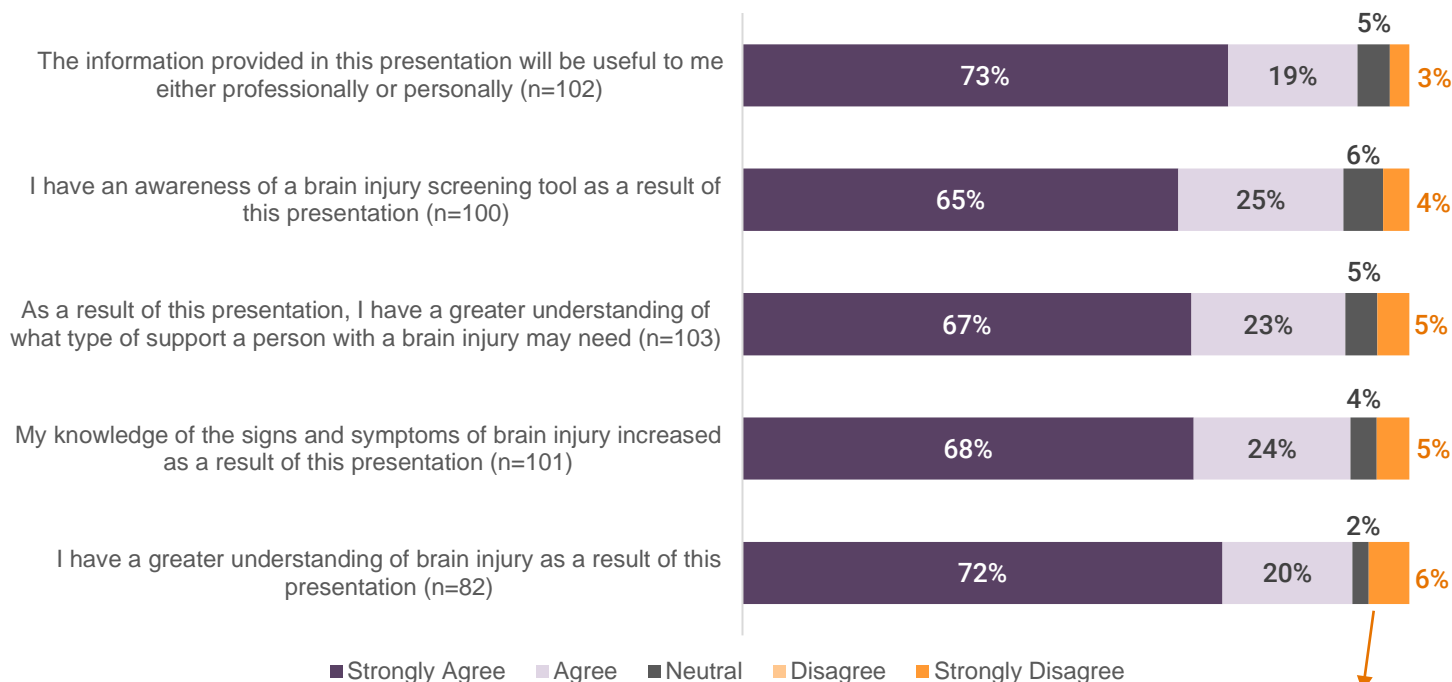


The stats were alarming! This is a very underserved population.



² A respondent could select more than one response option. That was the case for 33 of the respondents.

More than 90% of the evaluation respondents agreed they have a greater understanding of brain injury following the presentation

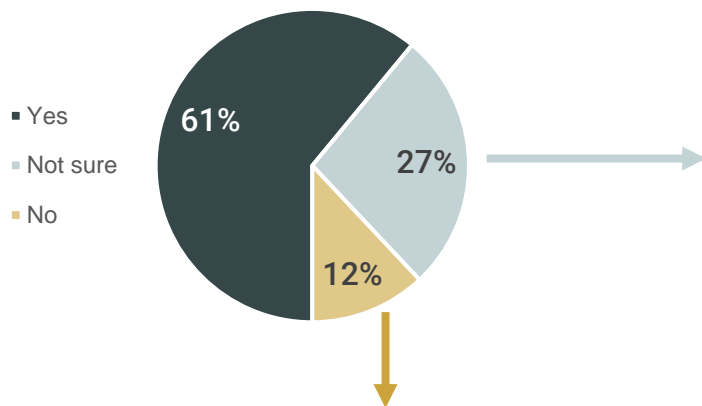


Nearly all the "strongly disagree" responses were by respondents who marked that across all statements and had positive open-ended feedback, indicating these may be incorrectly marked

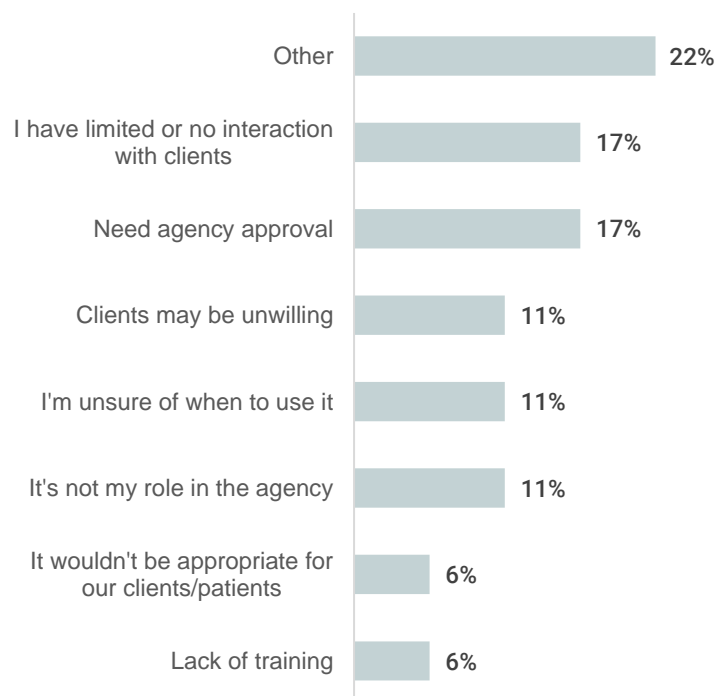
The evaluation form for trainings and workshops was updated to include visual prompts to minimize errors with "strongly disagree" reporting and to ask about the number of clients served to get a better sense for the impact of the trainings.

Respondents who included open-ended responses for why they were unsure about using the screening tool had a variety of reasons (n=18)

Nearly 60% of respondents noted they would have an opportunity to use the brain injury screening tool with individuals they work with or serve (n=224)



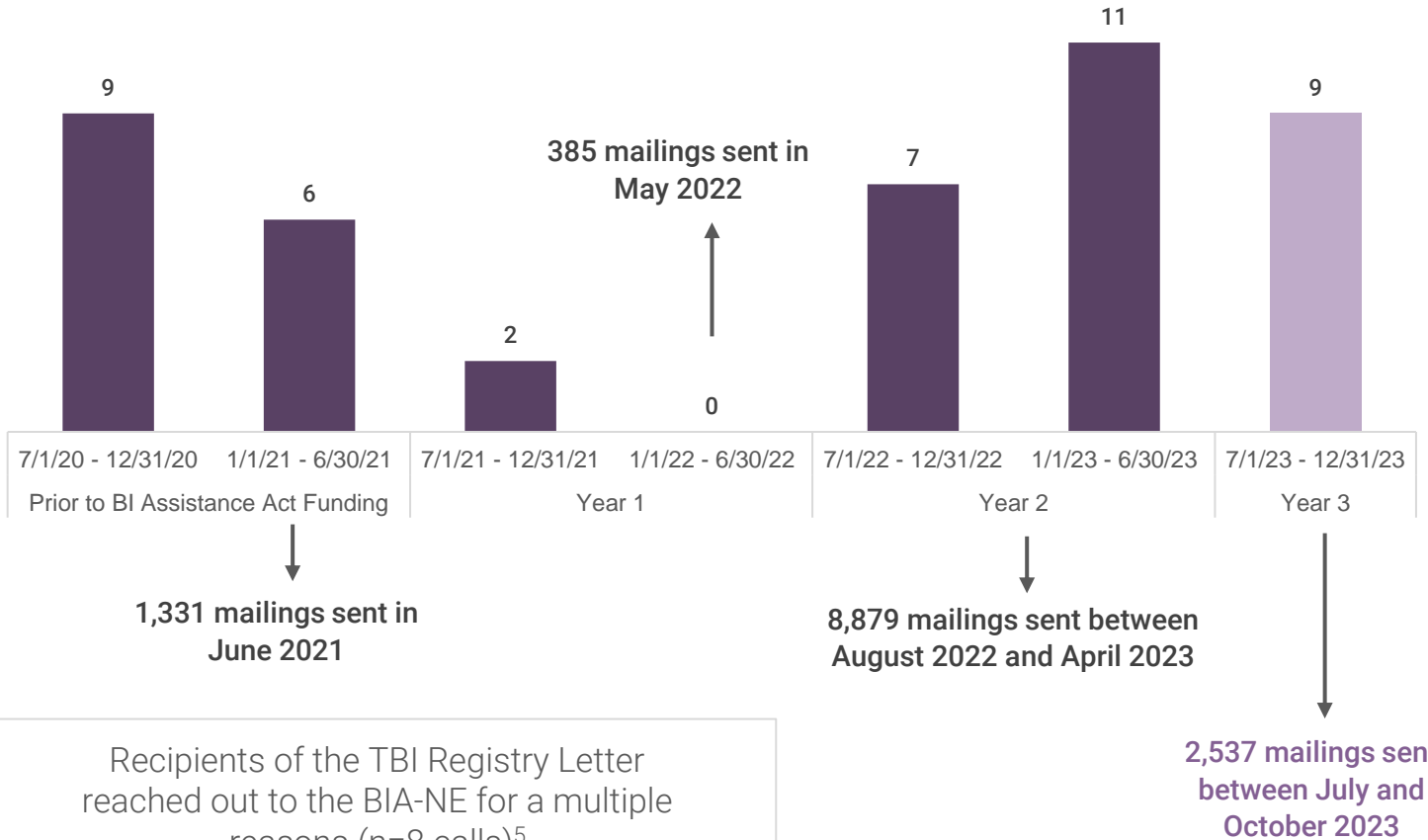
Nearly all who responded "no" noted it was because they do not work directly with clients, or it is not applicable to their role



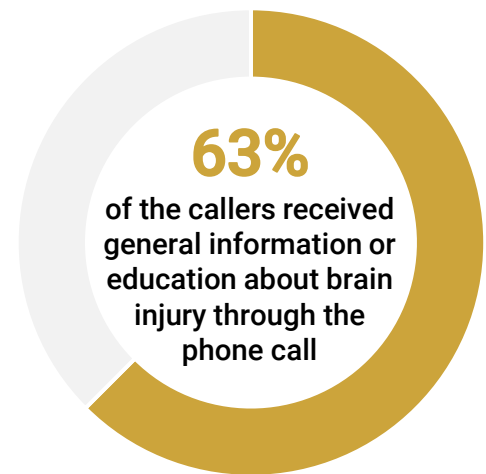
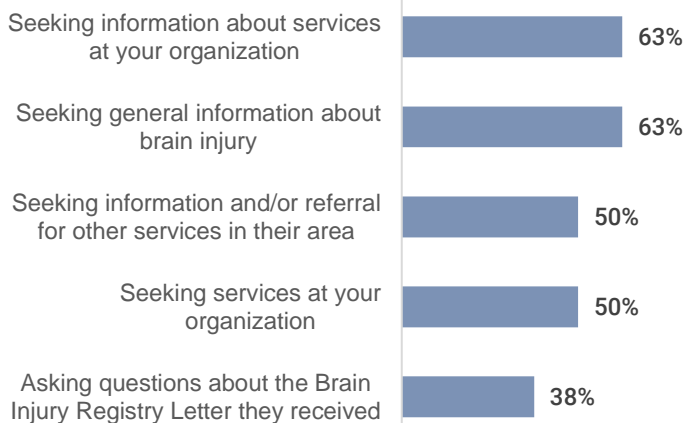
PRIORITY 3

Brain Injury Registry Letter Follow-up³

The number of clients who contact the BIA-NE as a result of the BI Registry Letter seems to depend on when and how many mailings were sent by Nebraska VR (Vocational Rehabilitation)⁴



Recipients of the TBI Registry Letter reached out to the BIA-NE for a multiple reasons (n=8 calls)⁵



³ Additional information about the TBI Registry mailing can be found here: <https://braininjury.nebraska.gov/resources/brain-injury-data-and-statistics>

⁴ There are 30 response options for Resource Facilitators to denote regarding how the client heard about BIA-NE. Prior to January 2023, only one response option could be selected. As a result, it is possible that more people prior to January 2023 heard about the BIA-NE through the Registry letter.

⁵ BIA-NE staff record information from callers through a SurveyMonkey form for Nebraska VR. Staff have a prompt within their database to complete the form when they select the BI Registry Letter as a way a client heard about the BIA-NE.

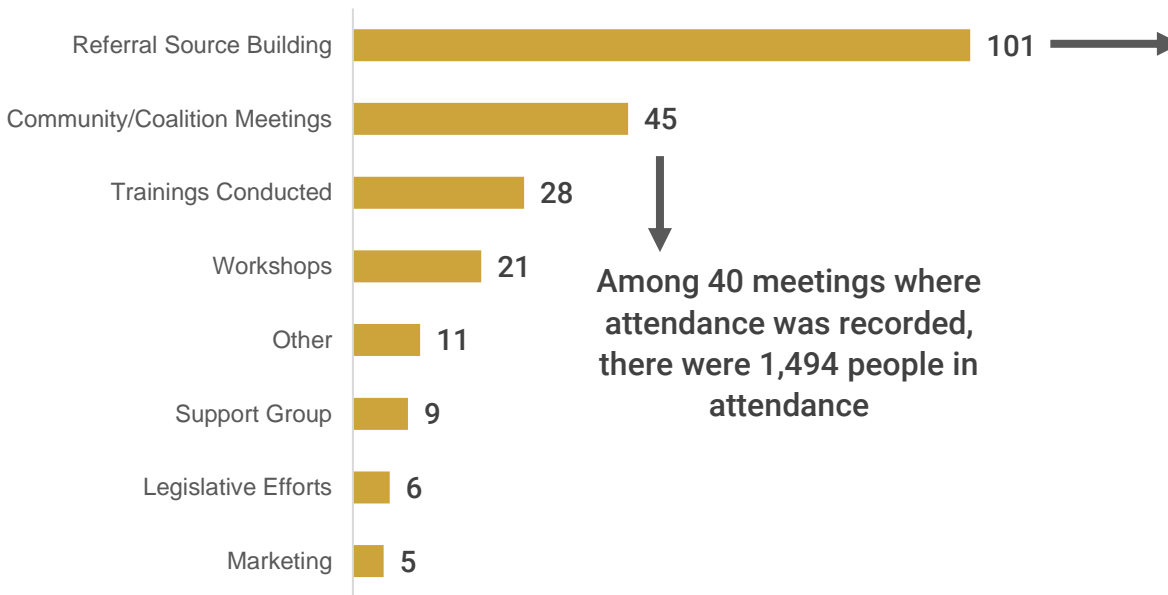
PRIORITY 4

Public Awareness



The intent of community outreach for Resource Facilitators is to ensure people in need of services within the community are aware of and can connect to BIA-NE. At some point there will be less focus on referral source building and more on assisting clients.

Nearly 65% of the community outreach recorded was for referral source building and community or coalition meetings (n=226)



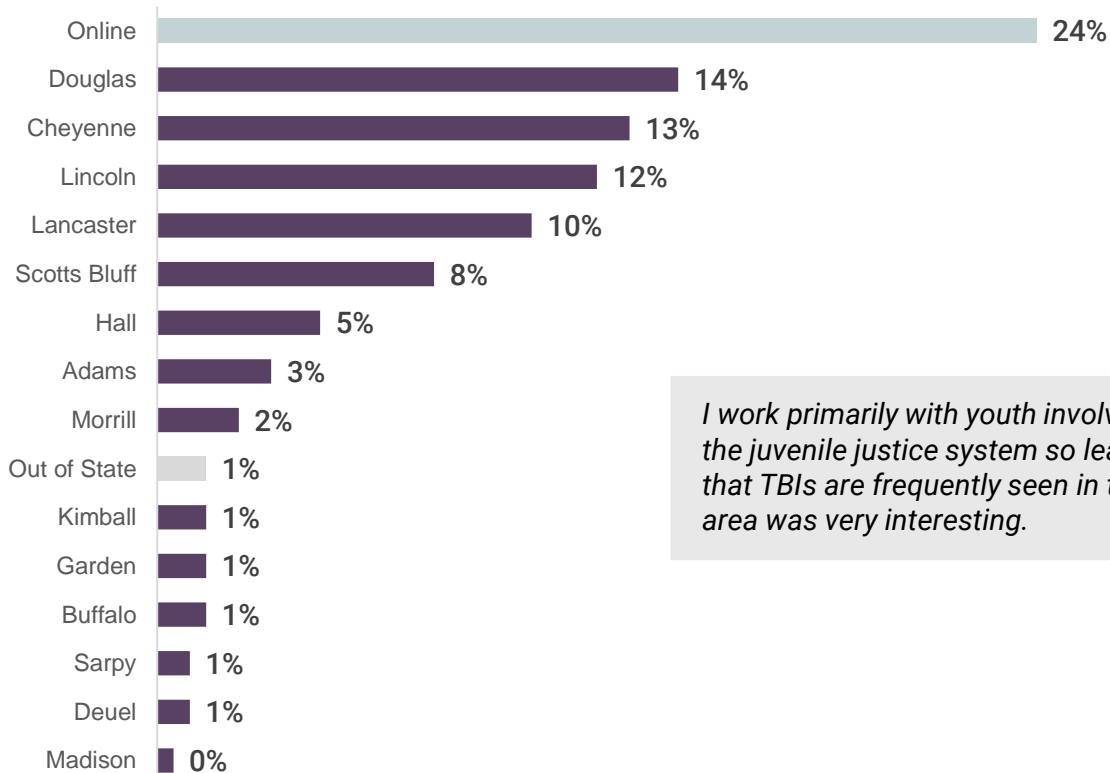
93% were initial meetings with organizations, primarily in the Panhandle

66%

of referral source building was in the Panhandle, as a new position was created to serve this part of the state more directly

Among 40 meetings where attendance was recorded, there were 1,494 people in attendance

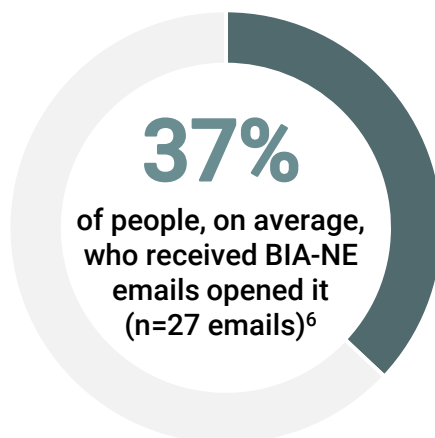
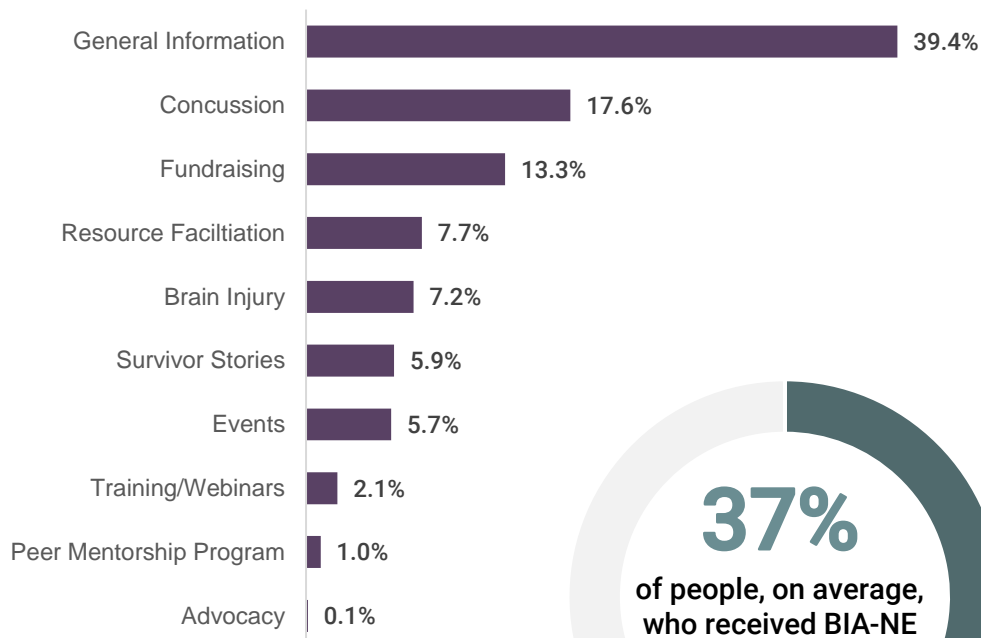
In-person outreach took place in 14 counties throughout Nebraska (n=221)



I work primarily with youth involved in the juvenile justice system so learning that TBIs are frequently seen in this area was very interesting.

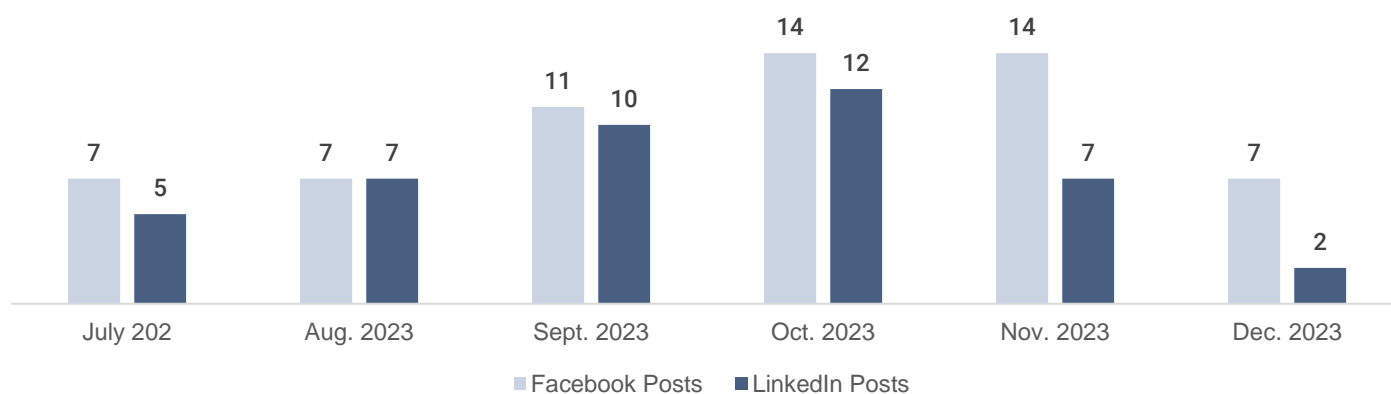


The most common pages viewed on the BIA-NE website were for general information (contact information, overview, reports) and concussions (n=13,527)



There were **679** downloads from the BIA-NE website, with the most common being a parent fact sheet on concussions and support group listings

BIA-NE’s social media presence continued, with a total of **60 Facebook** posts and **43 LinkedIn** posts during the six-month period



Follower Engagement	Facebook (60 posts)	LinkedIn (43 posts)
Total Reach/Impressions	22,347	3,899
Avg. Reach/Impressions per Post	372	90
Total Likes/Reactions	7,49	43

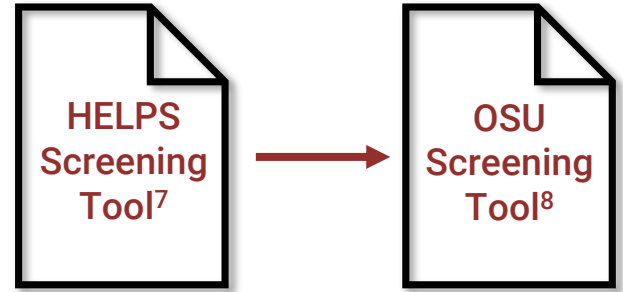
BIA-NE had an average of **10 Facebook posts per month** and **6 LinkedIn posts per month** during the six-month timeframe.

⁶ The number of recipients by email varied based on the intended audience. Ten of the emails went to 188 while another 10 went to 5,452. There were also at least six emails that went to 7,516 individuals.

PRIORITY 5

Supporting Research

BIA-NA is collaborating with Dr. Kathy Chiou at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Dr. Chiou received IRB-approval to collect screening data, with the goal of studying the outcomes and prevalence rates to publish findings. In 2023, the BIA-NE and Dr. Chiou decided to transition from using the HELPS screening tool to the OSU screening tool.

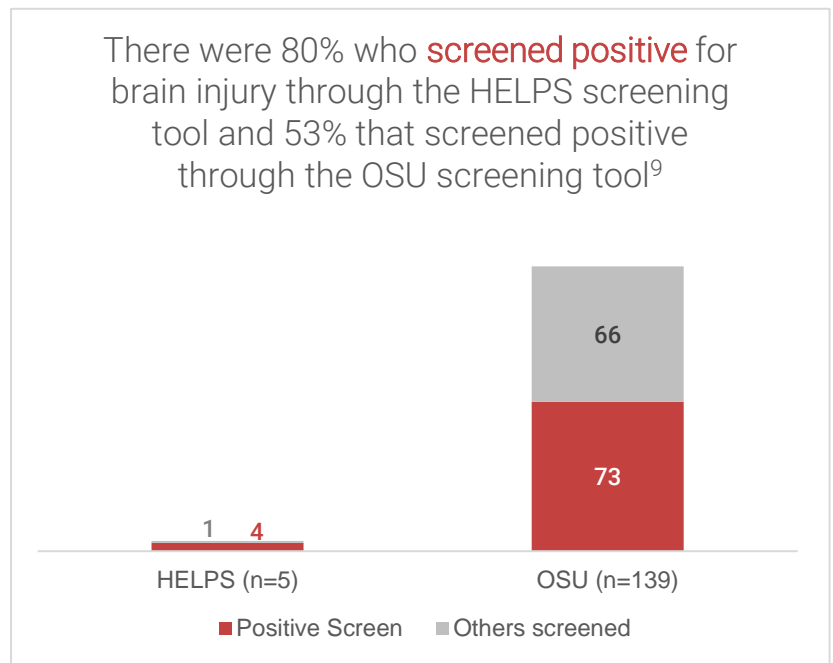


144 individuals

were screened for brain injury among 6 agencies between July and December 2023



There were 80% who **screened positive** for brain injury through the HELPS screening tool and 53% that screened positive through the OSU screening tool⁹



There were 6 agencies that were screening clients for brain injury between July and December 2023

Douglas County Youth Center

Lancaster County Youth Center

Lancaster Diversion Program

Safe Center

Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion

South Central NE Area Agency on Aging

Omaha

Lincoln

Lincoln

Kearney

Papillion

Kearney

Between Jan. and Aug. 2023, 222 youth were screened:

- 72.5% screened positive.
- The average number of potential injury incidents reported by each youth was 3.65

Between Jan. and Oct. 2023, 59 youth were screened:

- 86.4% screened positive for some sort of brain injury
- The average number of potential injury incidents reported by each youth was 5

⁷ National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (n.d.). HELPS brain injury screening tool.

<https://www.nashia.org/resources-list/cdxvc5lq3q3ycesazm0wfyg9umxye>

⁸ BrainLine (n.d.). Ohio State University TBI identification method. <https://www.brainline.org/article/ohio-state-university-tbi-identification-method>

⁹ The higher percentage of positive screenings through the OSU tool is likely not due to differences in the tool but rather the population that is being screened.

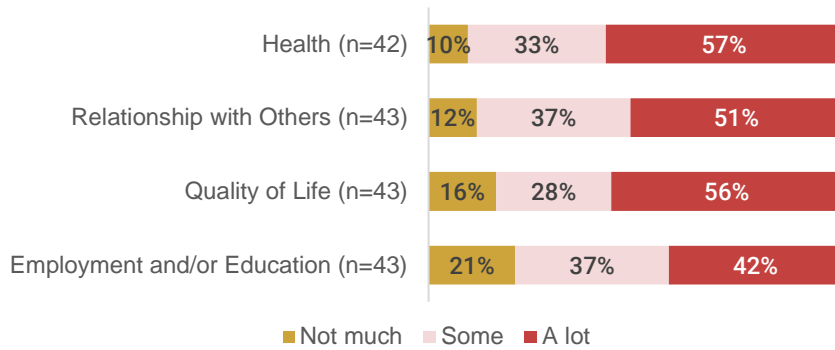
PRIORITY 6

Quality Improvement & Standards of Care



Screening BIA-NE Clients for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)¹⁰

A majority of clients reported ACEs have **some** or **a lot** of impact in various areas of their life



22 clients

were screened for ACEs between January and May 2023 (Year 2)

21 clients

were screened for ACEs between July and December 2023

Average number of ACEs among clients screened



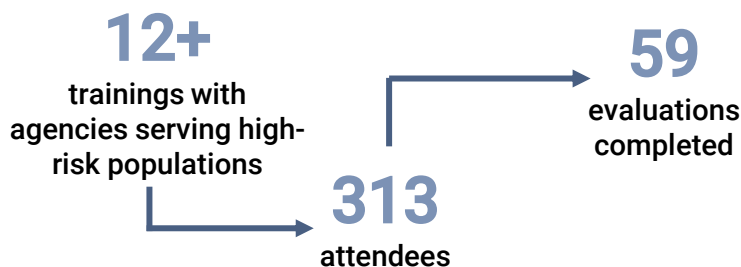
Brain Injury Screening, Symptom Assessment & Training

2

Agencies go beyond brain injury screenings to also assess symptoms and offer training to staff to better address challenges caused by brain injury



Understanding Brain Injury in High-Risk Populations



The statistics and populations effected by brain injuries was very informational and made me think more in depth about the individuals I work with.



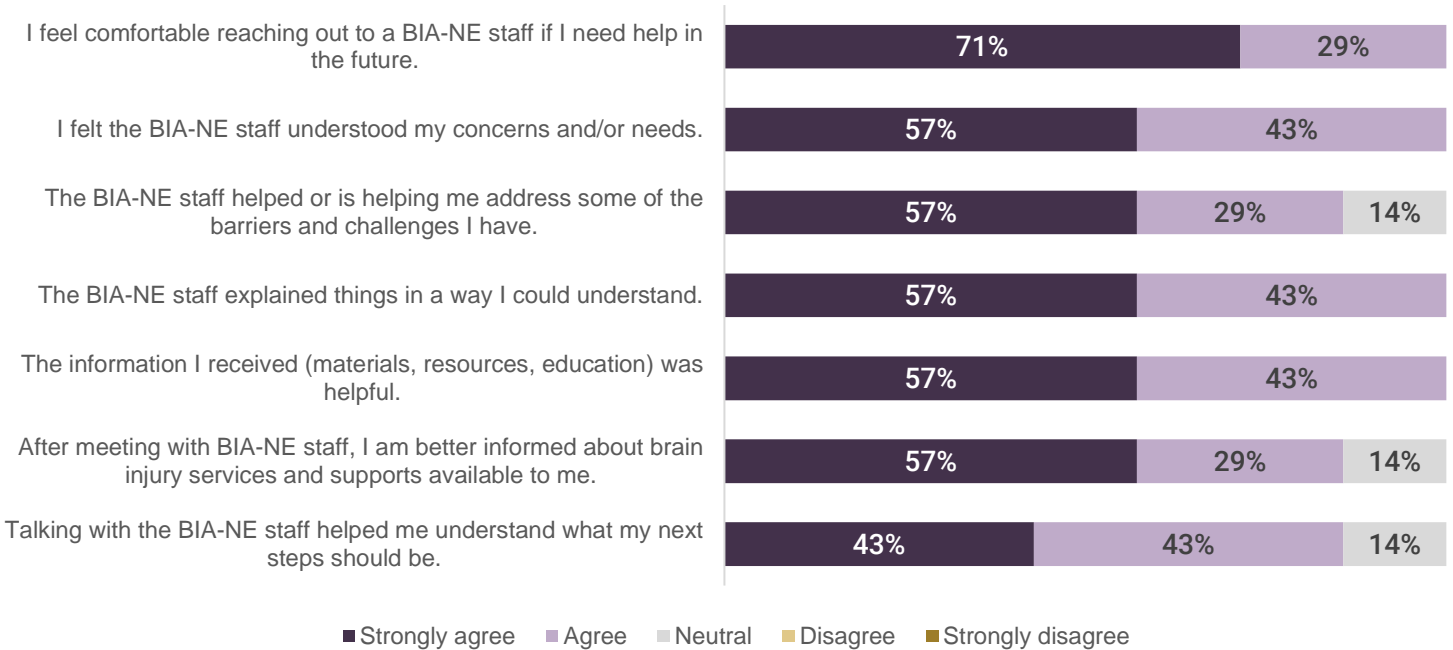
¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 2023). Adverse Childhood experiences. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>

PRIORITY 7

Evaluating Needs

Of those who received a client satisfaction survey January 2024 (n=86), only seven completed it¹¹

None of the survey respondents disagreed with any of the statements regarding their experience with the BIA-NE (n=7)



The patience and understanding shown me by each person I spoke with. They all genuinely cared about my comfort, confidence, and self-esteem.



100%

of the respondents reported the amount of communication they had with the BIA-NE staff was "about right"



The most common ways survey respondents decided to reach out to BIA-NE was 1) having it be recommended by a medical professional and 2) having an individual with brain injury telling them about the organization

Every time we had contact, I received great information and all of my questions were answered. We never had any non-productive contact.

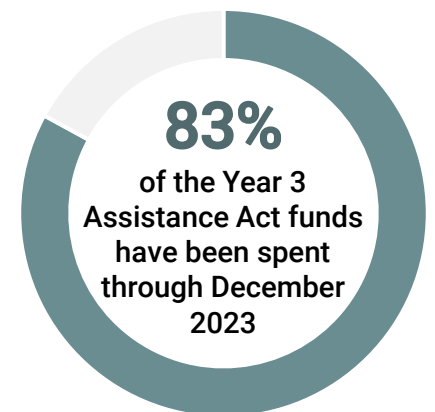


At least three BIA-NE staff members participate in the Brain Injury Data Workgroup. A focus during this time period was developing the data collection tools that will be used as part of the statewide brain injury needs assessment. In addition to reviewing the tools and providing input, BIA-NE staff identified individuals to pilot the individuals with brain injury survey to ensure it is user-friendly and will adequately evaluate needs.

¹¹ Client satisfaction surveys are sent to clients that have a closed case in the database within the previous six months and have not already received a survey. BIA-NE and PIE are exploring ways to increase the participation in the survey.

BRAIN INJURY ASSISTANCE ACT SPENDING

	YEAR ONE July 2021 - June 2022		YEAR TWO July 2022 - June 2023		YEAR THREE July 2023 - Nov. 2023*	
Total Funding:	\$ 450,000.00		\$ 450,000.00		\$ 450,000.00	
Use of Funding:						
Payroll and Related Expenses	\$ 373,079	70%	\$ 484,488	74%	\$ 291,064	78%
Accounting and Auditing Fees	\$ 4,451	1%	\$ 5,645	1%	\$ -	0%
Consultants	\$ 47,107	9%	\$ 61,762	9%	\$ 27,266	7%
Advertising & Promotion	\$ 23,069	4%	\$ 23,447	4%	\$ 6,992	2%
Bank, Credit Card, and Investment Fees	\$ 989	0%	\$ 640	0%	\$ 528	0%
Software and Website Expenses	\$ 24,155	5%	\$ 7,757	1%	\$ 10,061	3%
Conferences and Meetings	\$ 731	0%	\$ 1,976	0%	\$ 1,552	0%
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 7,407	1%	\$ 6,687	1%	\$ 675	0%
Program Events and Efforts	\$ 200	0%	\$ 7,045	1%	\$ 838	0%
Insurance	\$ 5,346	1%	\$ 9,592	1%	\$ 3,755	1%
Office Supplies and Expenses	\$ 11,494	2%	\$ 4,593	1%	\$ 4,965	1%
Postage, Mailing Service	\$ 126	0%	\$ 205	0%	\$ 54	0%
Printing & Copying	\$ 10,429	2%	\$ 2,889	0%	\$ 9,604	3%
Rent and Utilities (Telephone, Internet)	\$ 3,163	1%	\$ 4,982	1%	\$ 1,717	0%
Travel and Meals	\$ 9,009	2%	\$ 21,970	3%	\$ 11,422	3%
Professional Development/Training	\$ 12,772	2%	\$ 13,460	2%	\$ 2,463	1%
Miscellaneous	\$ 67	0%	\$ 882	0%	\$ 288	0%
Total Use of Funding:	\$ 533,594		\$ 658,019		\$ 373,244	
Underspent (Overspent)	\$ (83,594)		\$ (208,019)			



During the first two years, BIA-NE spent more than \$290,000 cumulatively of its own operating funds to supplement the work funded by the Brain Injury Assistance Act. Although the Brain Injury Assistance Act funds the majority share of the costs incurred under the program, demand for resources and assistance and the resulting costs exceed what the Act funds. To cover the additional costs, BIA-NE utilizes contributions from its donors and Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) funding received under its relationship with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), resulting in BIA-NE funding approximately 25% of the total program costs with its own operational resources.