

Brain Injury Assistance Act Report

July 2022 – June 2023



BACKGROUND

The Brain Injury Trust Fund Act, changed to the Brain Injury Assistance Act in 2022, has seven expenditure priorities. The Brain Injury Alliance (BIA-NE) of Nebraska was awarded the funding during the first year (July 2021 – June 2022) as well as the second year.

This report summarizes BIA-NE efforts in each of the seven priority expenditures, primarily focusing on efforts in the second year (July 2022 – June 2023).

PRIORITY 1

Resource facilitation shall be given priority and made available to provide ongoing support for individuals with a brain injury and their families for coping with brain injuries. Resource facilitation may provide a linkage to existing services and increase the capacity of the state's providers of services to individuals with a brain injury by providing brain-injury-specific information, support, and resources and enhancing the usage of support commonly available in a community. Agencies providing resource facilitation shall specialize in providing services to individuals with a brain injury and their families.

PRIORITY 2

Voluntary training for service providers in the appropriate provision of services to individuals with a brain injury

PRIORITY 3

Follow-up contact to provide information on brain injuries for individuals on the brain injury registry established in the Brain Injury Registry Act

PRIORITY 4

Activities to promote public awareness of brain injury and prevention methods

PRIORITY 5

Supporting research in the field of brain injury

PRIORITY 6

Providing and monitoring quality improvement processes with standards of care among brain injury service providers

PRIORITY 7

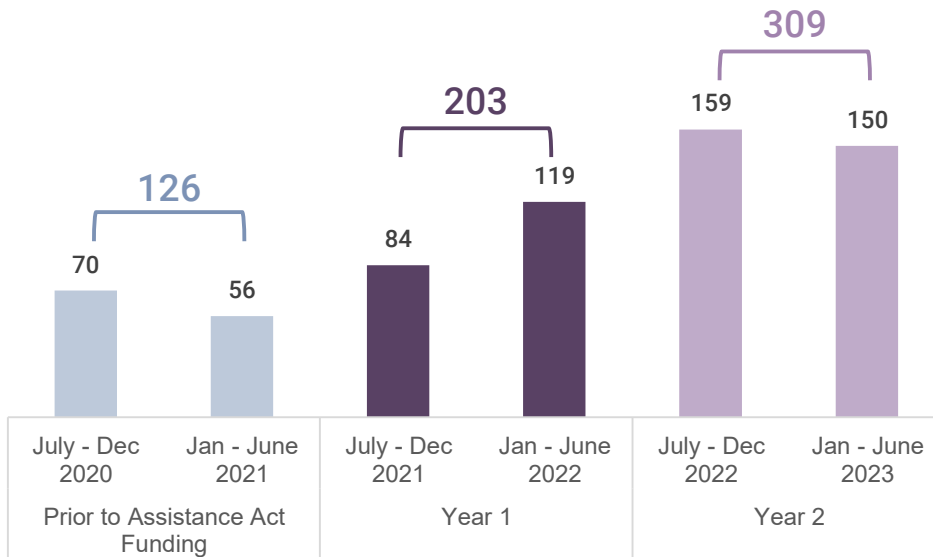
Collecting data and evaluating how the needs of individuals with a brain injury and their families are being met in this state

PRIORITY 1

Resource Facilitation

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

BIA-NE saw an increase in the number of new clients served due to increased capacity through support from the Brain Injury Assistance Act¹

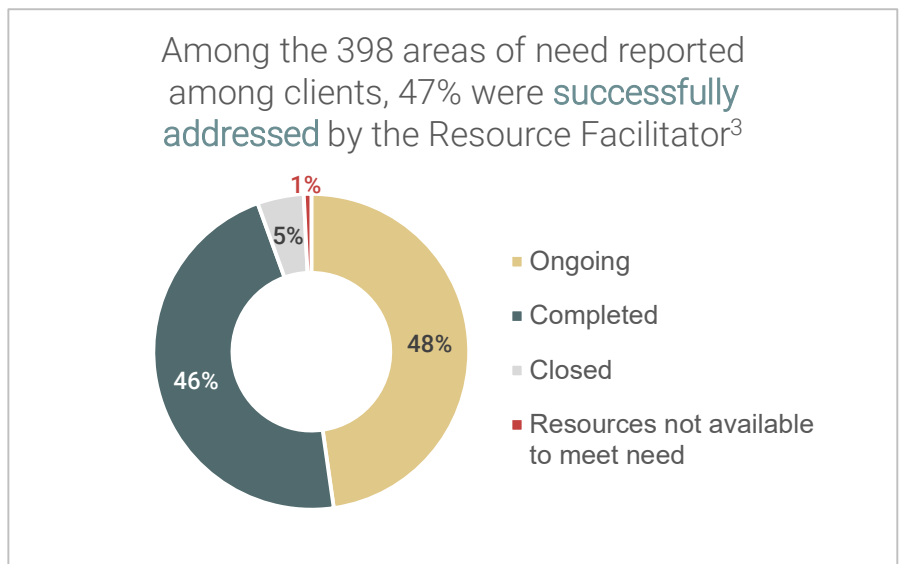


349
unique people
received resource
facilitation²

Beginning in August 2023, Resource Facilitators will begin tracking “Professional Consult” cases in the database. That will allow the BIA-NE to assess how many additional individuals are served by the BIA-NE through other agencies and which organizations utilize BIA-NE to obtain information regarding brain injury for their clients.

More than
367
referrals and resources
were provided to clients

Clients were
referred to
112
different organizations



¹ This number does not include individuals that may have been assisted through other agencies (i.e., an agency contacts the BIA-NE to get resources, information, or recommendations related to brain injury for one of their clients). The data included in the figure only reflected BIA-NE clients who were considered “in service” as a Resource Facilitation client in the database. Services offered to agencies to assist their clients will be tracked during the next year of funding.

² The new database allows the BIA-NE to track new and existing clients served during the year. Previous reporting primarily included new clients.

³ Each area of need has a status field to indicate whether that need was met (completed) or is being addressed by the Resource Facilitator (ongoing). Resource Facilitators can also indicate if it was closed because the client was no longer reachable or there weren’t resources available to address the need.

PRIORITY 2

Training for Service Providers

64

Brain Injury 101 trainings were offered to professionals

1,680

Attendees reached (average of 24 per event)

70

Minutes was the average length of events

236

Evaluations were completed

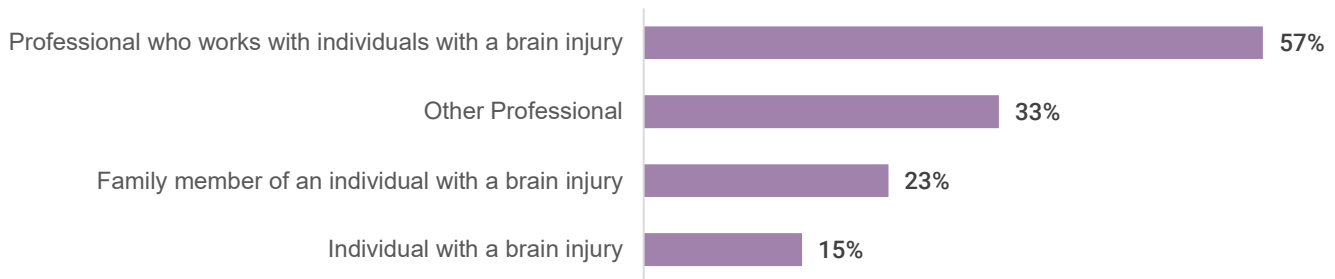
Each part of the presentation was very valuable and informative. I appreciate the resources and the insight on how it affects folks with TBIs.



Attendees who completed evaluations reflected

29 NE Counties

More than half of those who completed an evaluation indicated they were a professional (n=225)⁴



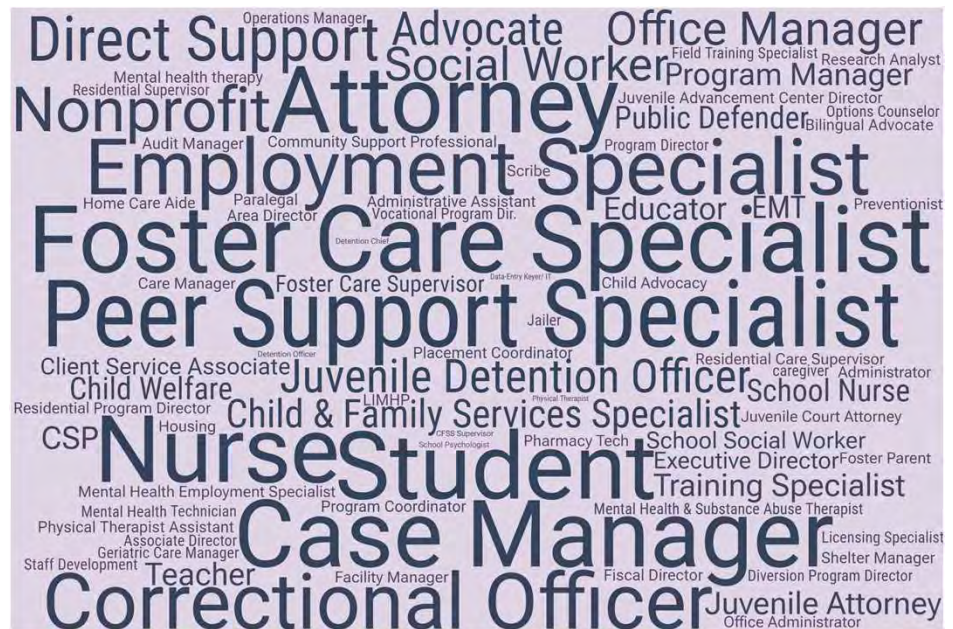
The assessment tool, checklist, and the signs and symptoms of a brain injury. All these things will be very beneficial for my profession and agency that works with DV survivors.



The likelihood that recurrent injuries can add up to become more problematic. I never thought of that!!

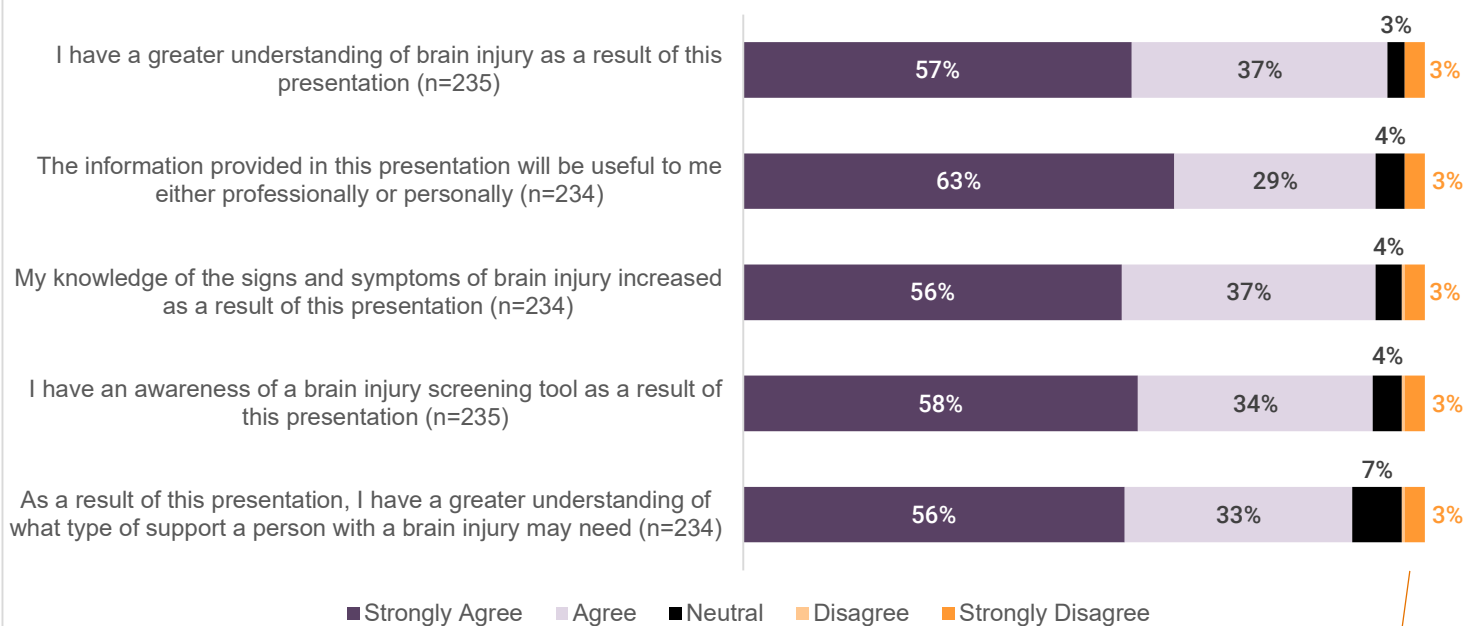


Peer support specialists, foster care specialists, students, and juvenile detention officers were the most noted professions on evaluation forms (n=210)



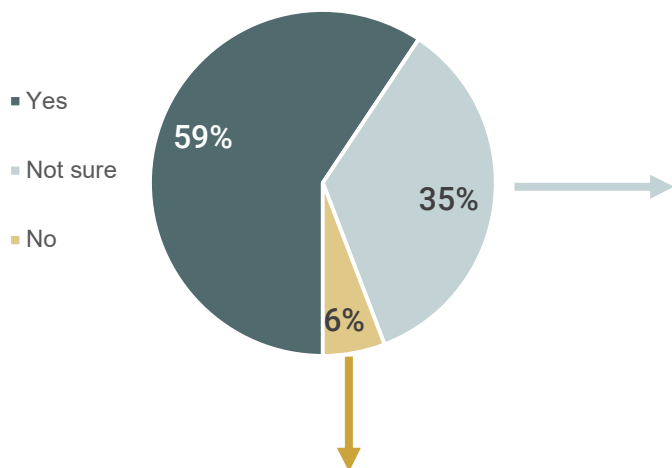
⁴ A respondent could select more than one response option. That was the case for 22% (n=50) of the respondents.

Nearly 95% of all evaluation respondents agreed they have a greater understanding of brain injury as a result of the presentation



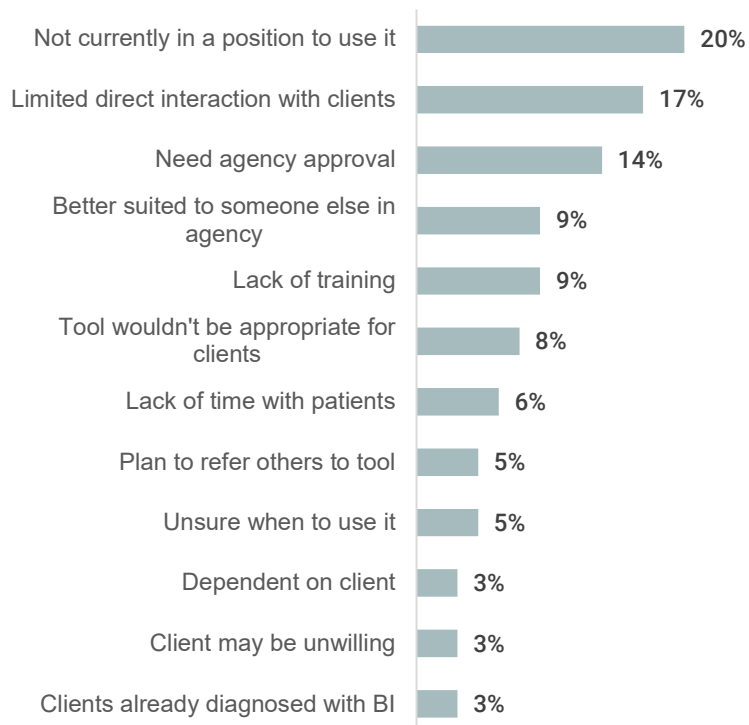
All the "strongly disagree" responses came from seven surveys who marked that across all statements and had positive open-ended feedback, indicating these may be incorrectly marked

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)



A majority of those who responded "no" stated that it was because they do not work directly with clients

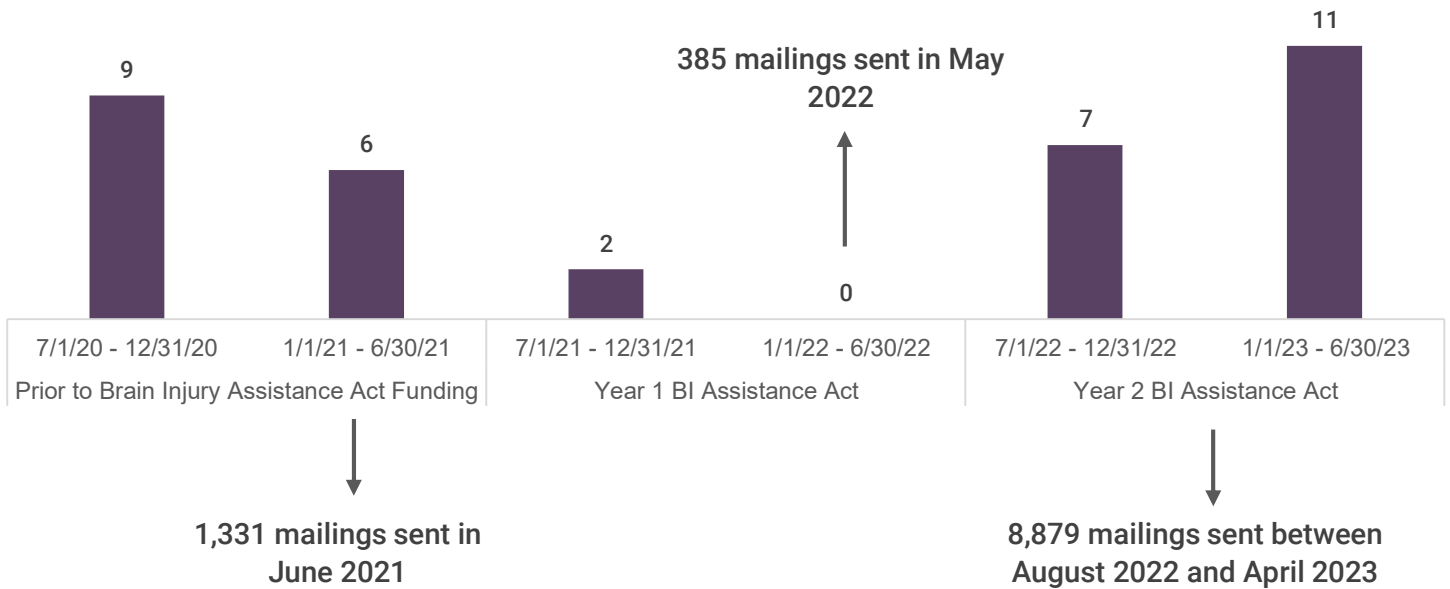
Open-ended responses from 56 individuals who described why they were not sure if they could use the tool fell into 12 categories (n=66)



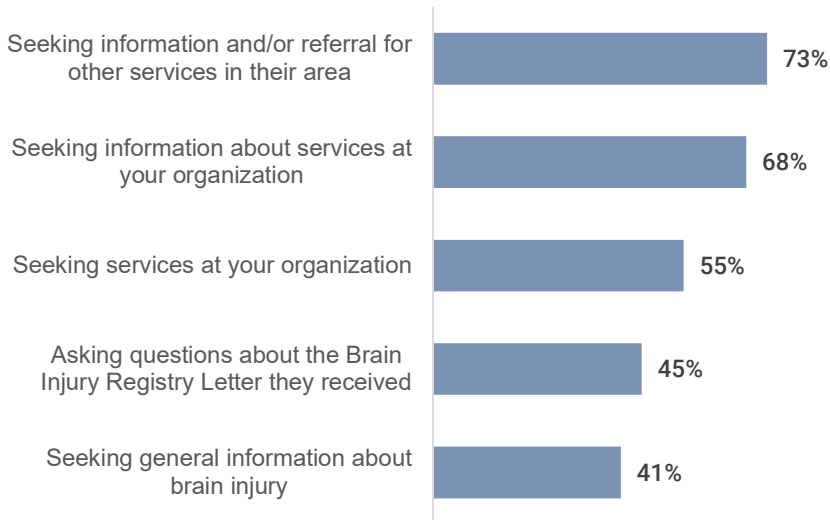
PRIORITY 3

Brain Injury Registry Letter Follow-up⁵

The number of clients who hear about the BIA-NE through the BI Registry Letter can depend on when and how many mailings were sent by Nebraska VR (Vocational Rehab)⁶



Recipients of the TBI Registry Letter reached out to the BIA-NE for a range of reasons (n=22 calls)



Callers received an average of **3 referrals** through their TBI Registry mailing follow-up call with the BIA-NE

⁵ Additional information about the TBI Registry mailing can be found here: <https://braininjury.nebraska.gov/resources/brain-injury-data-and-statistics>

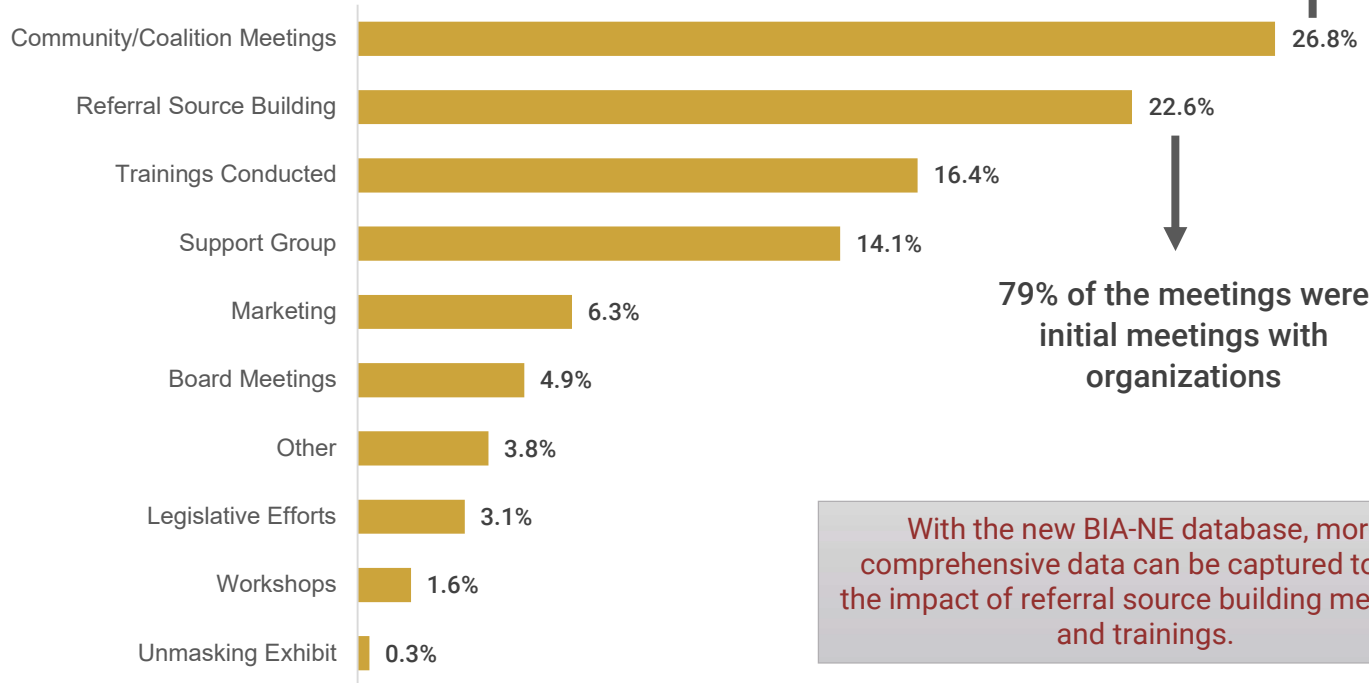
⁶ There are 30 response options for Resource Facilitators to denote regarding how the client heard about BIA-NE. In the previous database, only one response option can be selected. As a result, it is possible that more people prior to January 2023 could have heard about the BIA-NE through the Registry letter.

PRIORITY 4

Public Awareness

Among 151 meetings where attendance was recorded, there were 3,878 people in attendance

Nearly half of the 574 community outreach activities reported in Year 2 were community/coalition meetings and referral source building meetings



79% of the meetings were initial meetings with organizations

With the new BIA-NE database, more comprehensive data can be captured to see the impact of referral source building meetings and trainings.

With an increase in the number of clients being served by BIA-NE, there were fewer community outreach efforts, though there was an increase in trainings conducted and legislative efforts

Type of Outreach	Year 1	Year 2
Referral Source Building	306	130
Community/Coalition Meetings	147	154
Support Group	101	81
Trainings Conducted	82	94
Marketing	41	36
Board Meetings	35	28
Legislative Efforts	6	18
Other	1	22

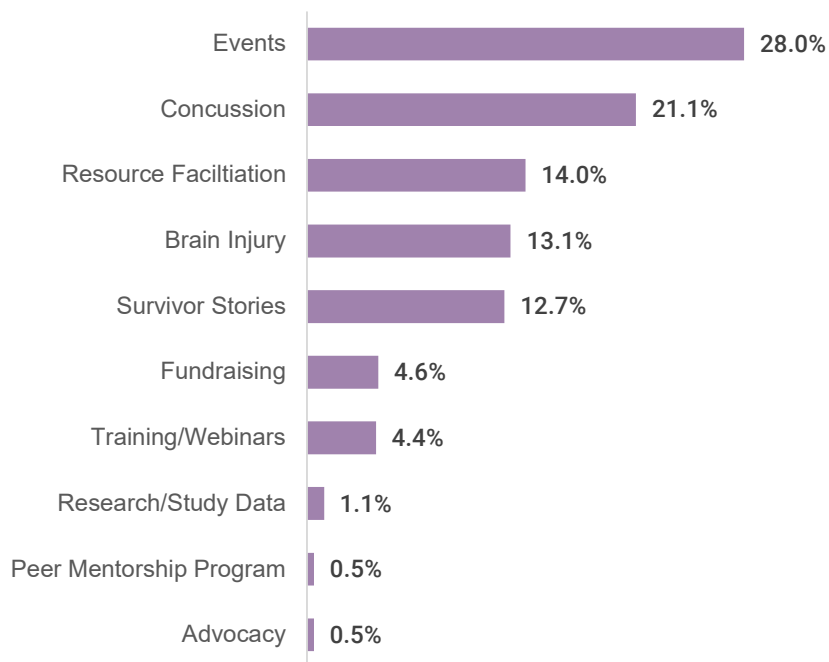


The intent of community outreach for Resource Facilitators is to ensure people in need of services within the community are aware of and can connect to BIA-NE. At some point there will be less focus on referral source building and more on assessing clients.

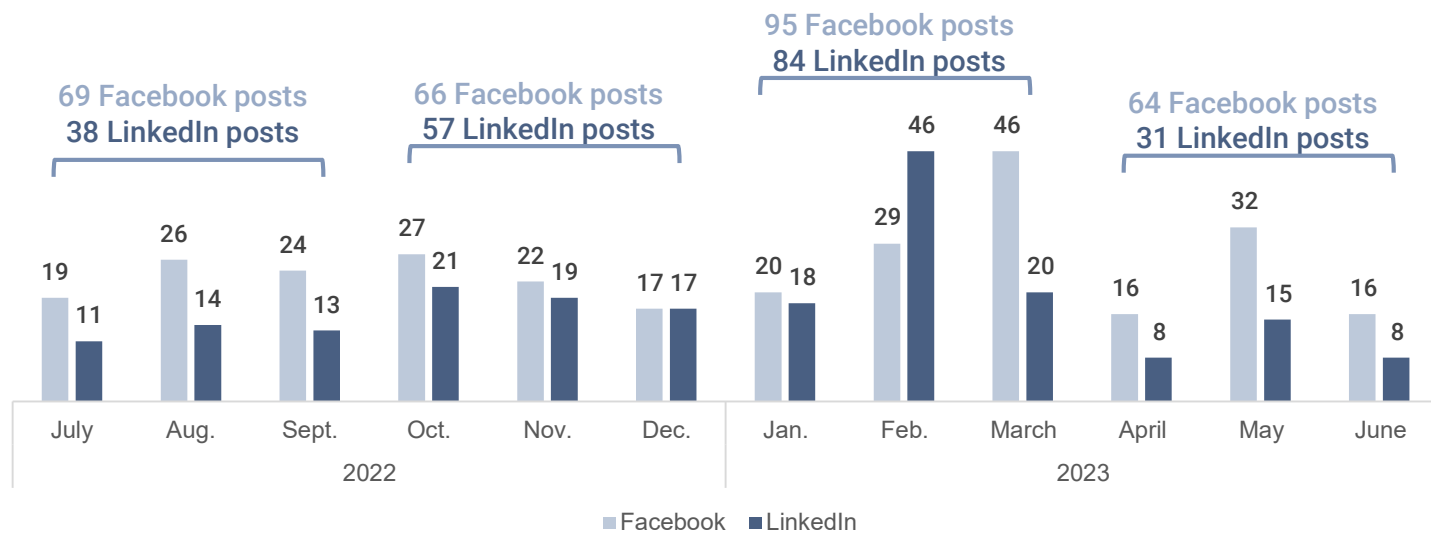
There were
1,185
 downloads from the BIA-NE website, with the most common document being the support group listing



Beyond events, most BIA-NE website views were for concussion information and Resource Facilitation (n=16,432)



BIA-NE's highest social media presence was between January and March 2023, primarily due to promotion of the annual conference



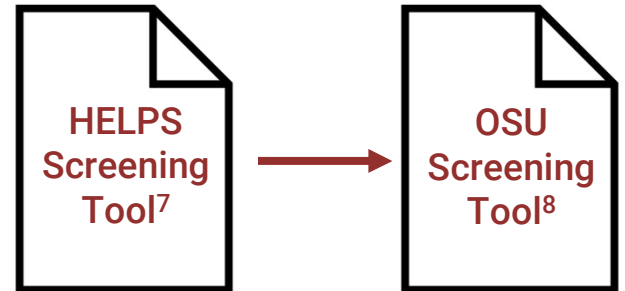
Follower Engagement	Facebook (294 posts)	LinkedIn (210 posts)
Total Reach/Impressions	185,134	113,807
Avg. Reach/Impressions per Post	630	542
Total Likes/Reactions	1,772	235
Total Shares/Reposts	873	96

There were **14 more Facebook** and **49 more LinkedIn** posts in the second year of the Assistance Act funding compared to the first year.

PRIORITY 5

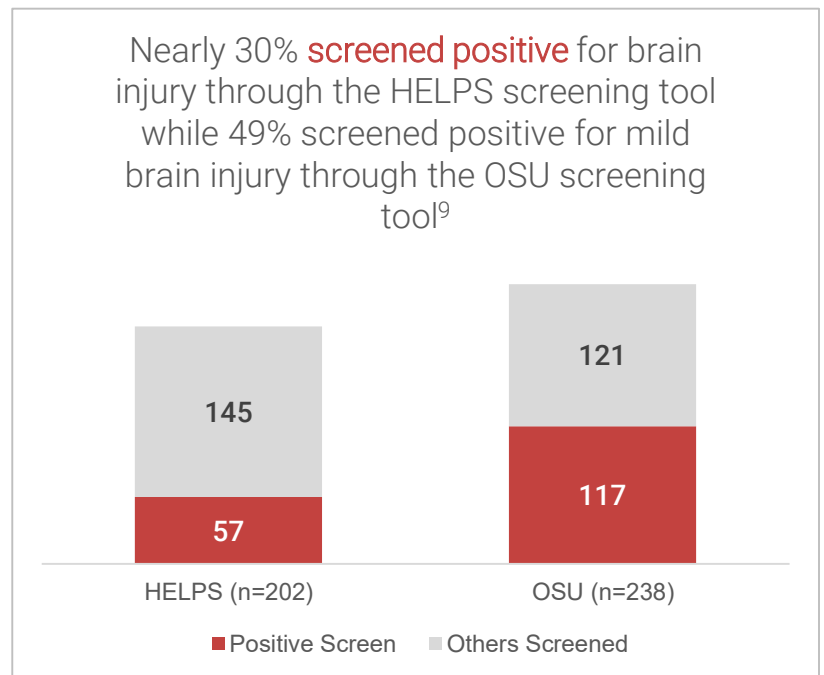
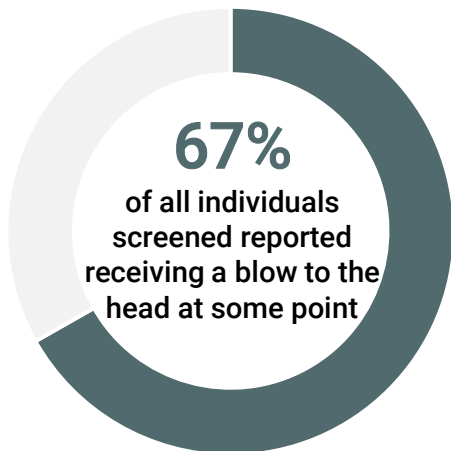
Supporting Research

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 early 2023, the BIA-NE and Dr. Chiou decided to transition from using the HELPS screening tool to the OSU screening tool.



440 individuals

were screened for brain injury among 9 agencies between July 2022 and June 2023



There were 9 agencies that were screening clients for brain injury between July 2022 and June 2023

CEDARS Youth Services	Lincoln
Douglas County Youth Center	Omaha
Kearney Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center	Kearney
Lancaster Diversion Program	Lincoln
Nebraska Mental Health Association	Lincoln
Safe Center	Kearney
Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion	Papillion
Scottsbluff Youth Diversion Program	Gering
South Central NE Area Agency on Aging	Kearney

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

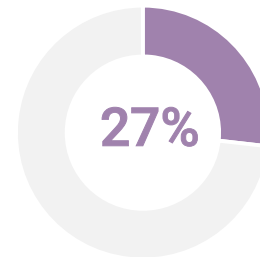
Quality Improvement & Standards of Care



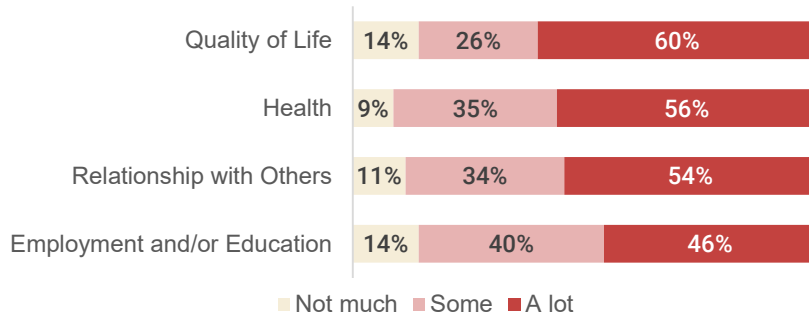
Screening BIA-NE Clients for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)¹⁰

Nearly all clients reported ACEs have some or a lot of impact in various areas of their life

35 clients
were screened for ACEs



of the case management clients in 2023 were screened for ACEs



Average number of ACEs among clients screened



Brain Injury Screening, Symptom Assessment & Training

2

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

SYMPTOMS QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____ Date: _____

In recent weeks, how much have you been bothered by the following problems?
Please check only one circle per row.

	I did not experience this problem at all	I experienced this problem a little but it does not bother me	I am mildly bothered by this problem	I am moderately bothered by this problem	I am extremely bothered by this problem
MEMORY CONCERNS					
Thinking or forgetting important items (not from normal forgetfulness)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forgetting what people tell me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forgetting what I've read	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling lack of time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forgetting what I did yesterday	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forgetting things I've just learned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forgetting meetings/appointments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forgetting to turn off appliances (e.g. iron, stove)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DELAYED PROCESSING					
Trouble following conversations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remembering only one or two items when someone is giving me instructions or directions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Friendship Home continues to screen for brain injury. With their support and assistance from UNL, BIA-NE created a brain injury information flyer in Arabic.



Understanding Brain Injury in High-Risk Populations

3

trainings with DHHS – Children & Family Services

26

attendees

24

evaluations completed

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.

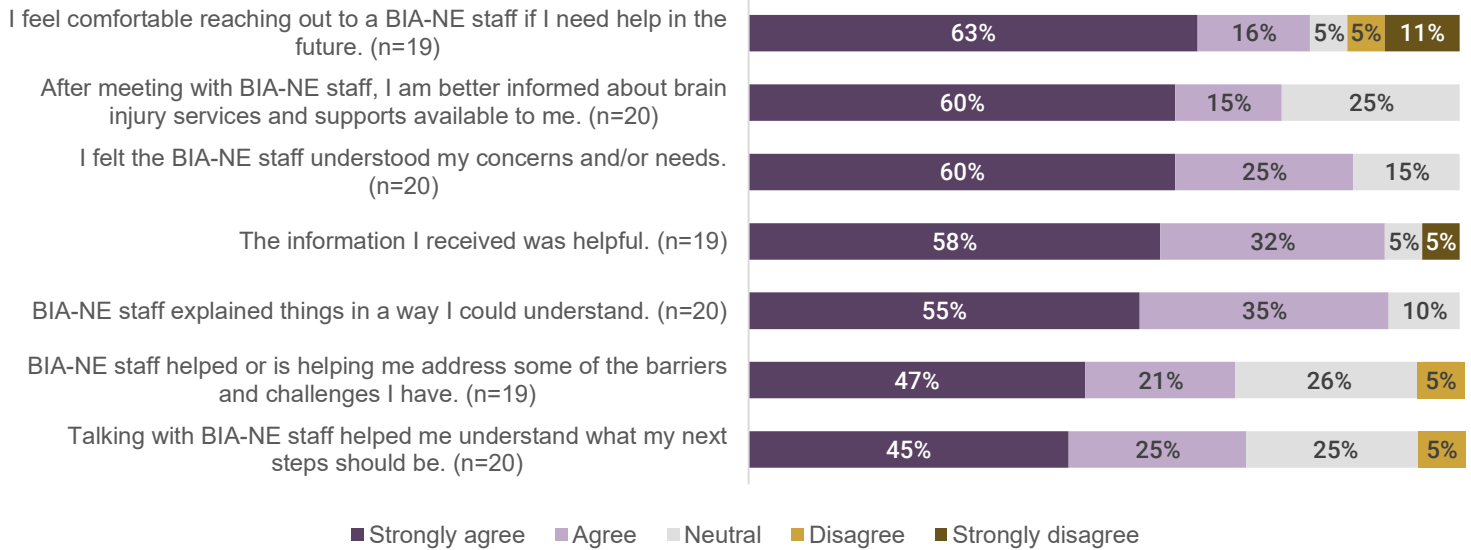
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>

PRIORITY 7

Evaluating Needs

30% of those who received a client satisfaction survey in 2023 (n=102) completed it

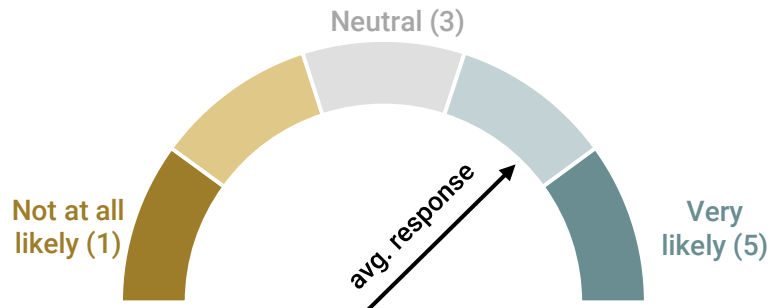
Most of those responding to the client satisfaction survey agreed that the resources and support provided by the BIA-NE was helpful



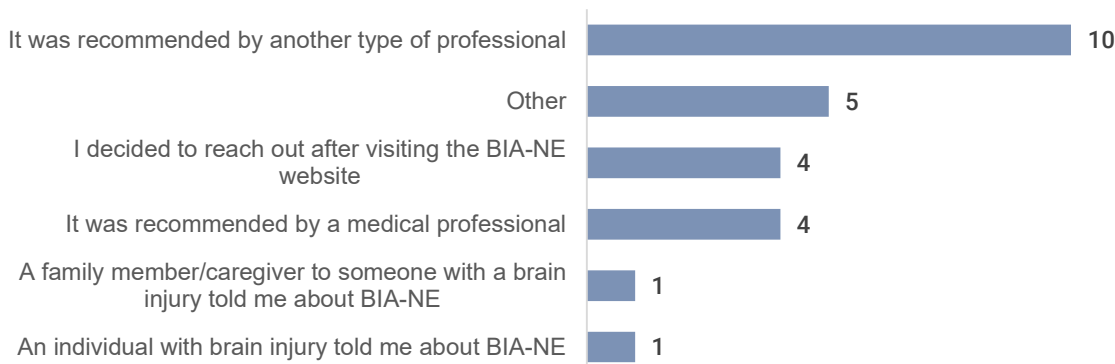
Staff actually understand the barriers brain injured people have, not having to explain and re-explain side effects etc. made getting help less stressful.



On average, clients were highly likely to recommend BIA-NE to others (n=20)



Slightly less than half who responded to the client satisfaction survey noted that they reached out to the BIA-NE after having it be recommended by another professional (n=22)



They gave me fantastic resources and information about BIs that I didn't know.



BRAIN INJURY ASSISTANCE ACT SPENDING

	YEAR ONE July 2021 - June 2022		YEAR TWO July 2022 - June 2023		
Total Funding:	\$	450,000.00	\$	450,000.00	
Use of Funding:					
Payroll and Related Expenses	\$	373,078.85	69.92%	\$ 484,487.83	73.6%
Accounting and Auditing Fees		4,450.87	0.83%	5,644.88	0.86%
Consultants (Strategic Planning/Impl./IT)		32,765.59	6.14%	42,206.96	6.41%
Advertising & Promotion		23,069.00	4.32%	23,447.46	3.56%
Bank, CC, and Investment Fees		989.22	0.19%	640.01	0.10%
Software and Website Expenses		24,154.73	4.53%	7,757.26	1.18%
Conferences and Meetings		730.81	0.14%	1,975.56	0.30%
Contract Services (Data Collection/Rpt)		14,341.19	2.69%	19,555.00	2.97%
Dues & Subscriptions		7,406.94	1.39%	6,687.42	1.02%
Program Events and Efforts		200.33	0.04%	7,045.22	1.07%
Insurance		5,345.77	1.00%	9,592.15	1.46%
Office Supplies and Expenses		11,494.45	2.15%	4,593.16	0.70%
Postage, Mailing Service		125.90	0.02%	204.52	0.03%
Printing & Copying		10,428.76	1.95%	2,889.08	0.44%
Rent and Utilities (Telephone, Internet)		3,163.47	0.59%	4,981.51	0.76%
Travel and Meals		9,008.89	1.69%	21,969.68	3.34%
Professional Development/Training		12,771.82	2.39%	13,459.99	2.05%
Miscellaneous		67.90	0.01%	881.60	0.13%
Total Use of Funding:	\$	533,594.49		\$ 658,019.29	
Underspent (Overspent)	\$	(83,594.49)		\$ (208,019.29)	

Overspent amounts represent program costs that exceed the Trust Fund award amounts and are funded with BIA's own operating funds.

During Year One and Year Two, Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska spent over \$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 to the tune of \$900,000 over the first two years, demand for resources and assistance and the resulting costs exceed what the Act funds. To cover those additional costs, Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska utilizes generous contributions from its donors and Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) funding received under its relationship with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), resulting in Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska funding approximately 25% of the total program costs with its own operational resources.

