

Brain Injury Assistance Act

Year End Report (July 2023 – June 2024)

The Brain Injury Assistance Act – known 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 from the third year of funding (July 2023 – June 2024).

PRIORITY 1

Resource Facilitation

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



495

unique people were served through resource facilitation¹

More than

940



referrals and resources were provided to clients



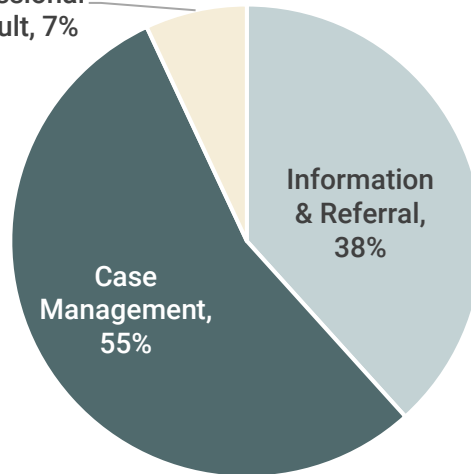
Clients were referred to

190

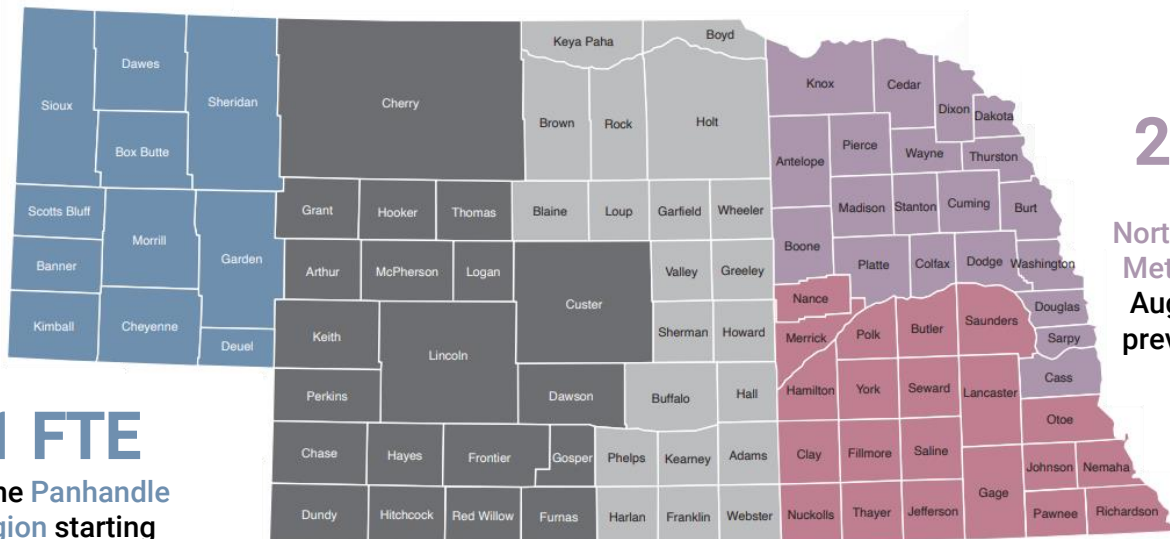
different organizations

Of those actively served between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, slightly more than half received case management (n=603)

Professional Consult, 7%



Although there were staff vacancies during the fiscal year, capacity for Resource Facilitation continued to grow beyond the 1.5 FTE meant to cover the state prior to the Assistance Act funding (which started July 2021)



1 FTE

in the **Panhandle** region starting Nov. 2023

1.5 FTE

in the **Western** region, with staffing consistent since the start of the Assistance Act, though one went from 1 FTE to .5 FTE in Oct. 2023

1 FTE

in the **Central** region, with staff consistent since Oct. 2022

1 FTE

in the **Southeast/Lincoln** Metro area with consistent since start of Assistance Act funding

2 FTEs

in the **Northeast/Omaha** Metro area as of Aug. 2023; was previously 1 FTE

¹ This includes all clients with an Information & Referral or Case Management case. This is higher than the number of unique individuals as a person may have more than one case. This does not include those who may have been served through a Professional Consult cases (support provided by the BIA to another service provider to assist their client or patient).

PRIORITY 2

Training for Service Providers

66

Brain Injury 101 trainings were offered to professionals

1,251

Attendees were reached (average of 23 per event)

75

Minutes was the average length of events

255

Evaluations were completed³

At least 84 different professions were reported by those who completed an evaluation, with the most common being peer specialists, medical students, nurses, case managers, and social workers (n=236)



One in five of the evaluation respondents reported they were an individual with brain injury (n=249)²

20%

were individuals with a brain injury

31%

were family members of an individual with a brain injury

49%

were professionals who work with individuals with a brain injury

34%

considered themselves an "other professional"



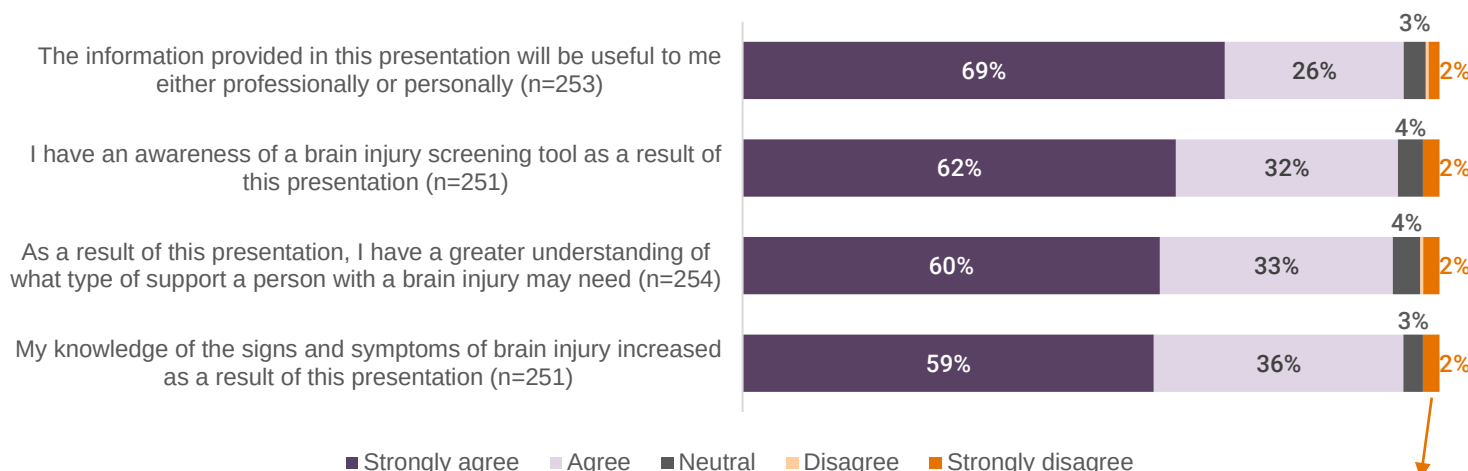
55%

of those who completed an evaluation reported have not previously attended any training about brain injury

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

³ Evaluations are not done at every training. In early 2024, QR codes for the evaluation were added to the slides for some presentations to increase the number of people taking the survey.

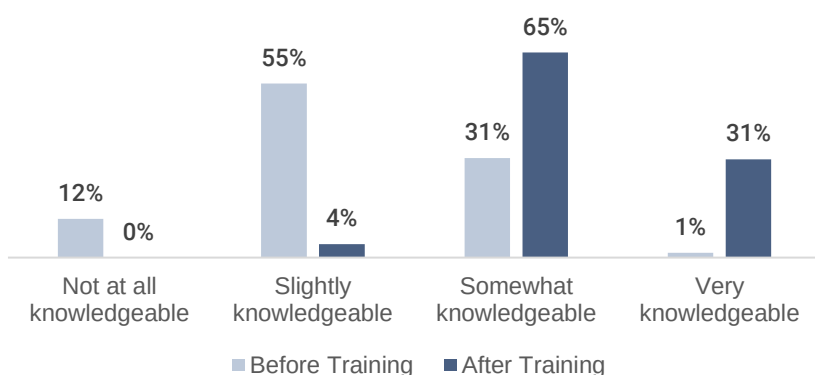
About 95% agreed they had a greater understanding of the signs and symptoms of brain injury as a result of the presentation



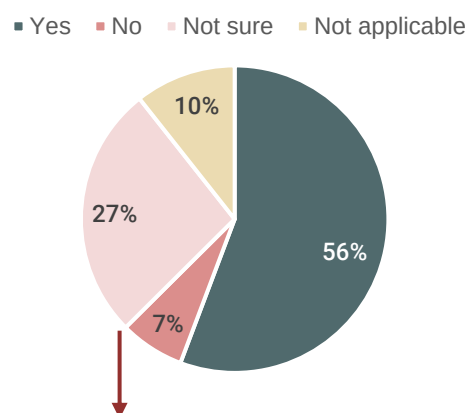
The evaluation form was updated in December 2023 to include visual prompts in the likert scale to minimize the likelihood of people accidentally selecting “strongly disagree” reporting. No “strongly disagree” responses were marked after that update.

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

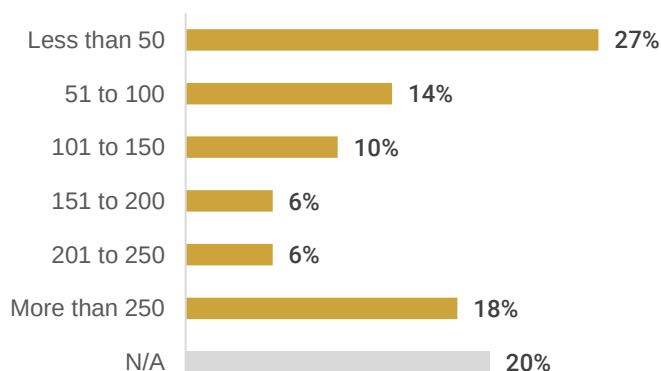
About 82% of evaluation respondents had an increase in knowledge about brain injury (n=140)



More than half indicated they would be able to use the brain injury screening tool with individuals they work with or serve (n=235)



Nearly 40% of evaluation respondents work with more than 100 clients, patients or individuals (n=140)



Among 60 respondents who noted why they would not or weren't sure if they could use the screening tool:

- 40% reported it was not their role in the agency
- 32% reported they needed agency approval
- 17% reported they have limited or no interaction with clients
- 13% reported their clients may be unwilling to do the screening
- 10% reported it wouldn't be appropriate for their clients/patients

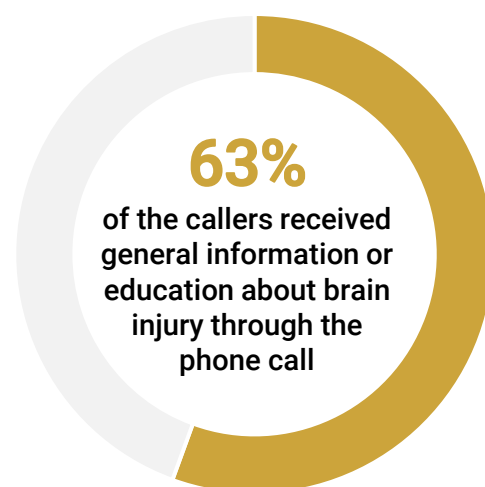
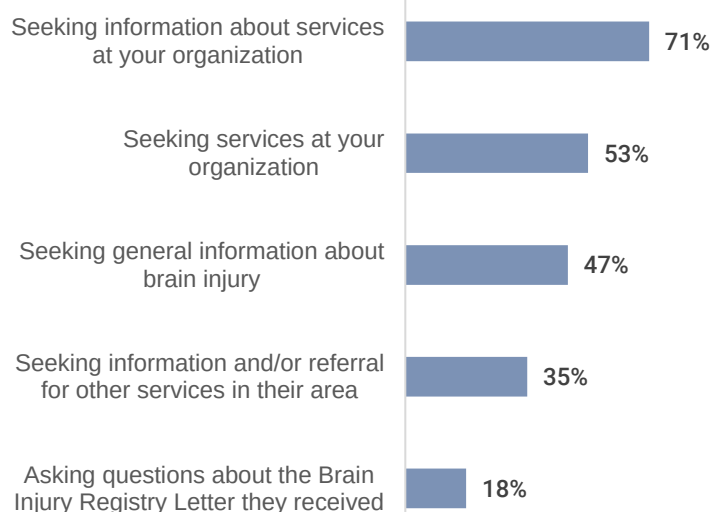
PRIORITY 3

Brain Injury Registry Letter Follow-up⁴

The number of clients who hear about the BIA-NE through the BI Registry Letter varies based on when and how many mailings were sent by Nebraska VR⁵



Recipients of the TBI Registry Letter reached out to the BIA-NE for a multiple reasons (n=17 calls)⁶



⁴ Additional information about the TBI Registry mailing can be found here: <https://braininjury.nebraska.gov/resources/brain-injury-data-and-statistics>.

⁵ Prior to January 2023, there are 30 response options for Resource Facilitators to select for how the client heard about BIA-NE, though only one response option could be selected. That was modified with the new database and staff can now select all that apply. As a result, it is possible that more people prior to January 2023 heard about the BIA-NE through the Registry letter.

⁶ BIA-NE staff record information about calls they receive because of the BI Registry Letter through a survey for Nebraska VR. Staff have a prompt within their database to complete the form if they select that a client heard about the BIA-NE through the BI Registry Letter.

PRIORITY 4

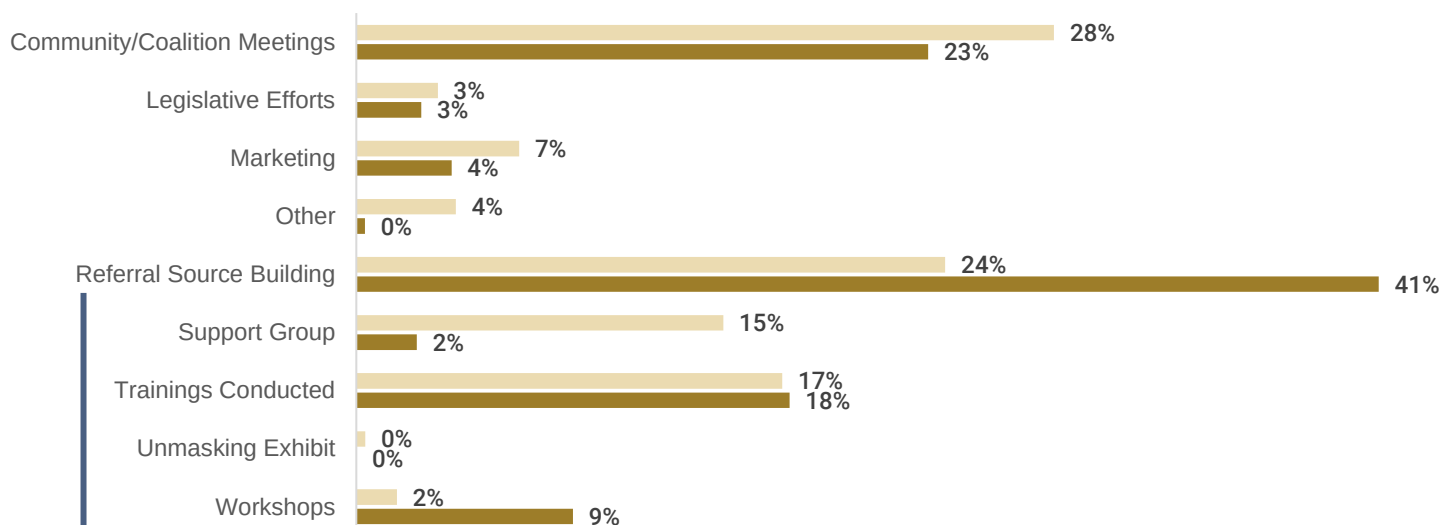
Public Awareness



The intent of community outreach is to ensure people in need of services within various communities are aware of and can connect to BIA-NE. As Resource Facilitators establish connections, it is anticipated less time will be focused on referral source building and more time will be spent assisting clients.

There were 25 more community outreach events **during this funding year**, with slightly less than half of all the outreach being referral source building

July 2022 - June 2023 (n=546) July 2023 - June 2024 (n=571)

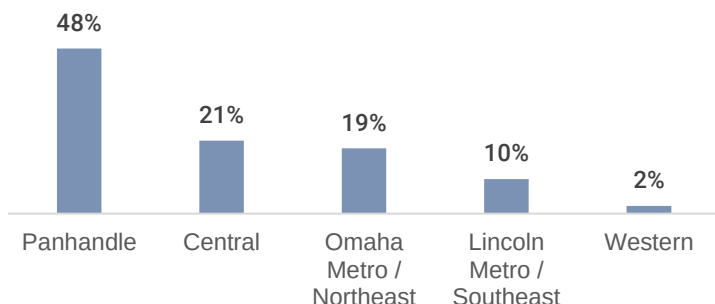


of the referral source building outreach during the fiscal year were initial meetings for staff (n=235)

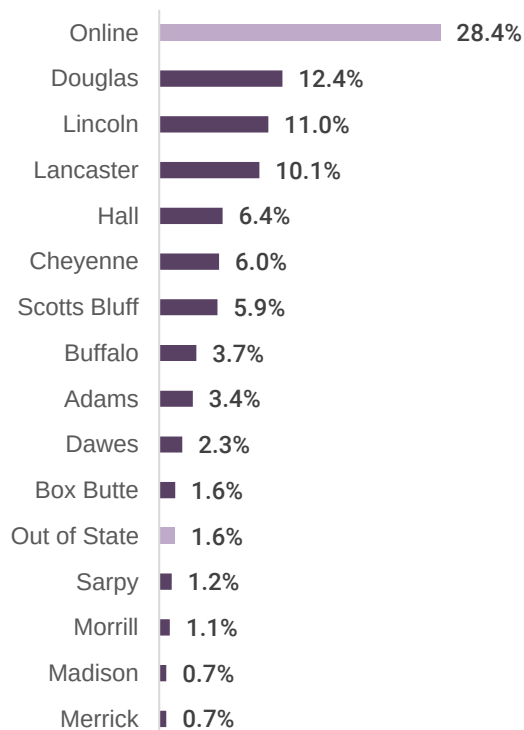
Staff met with **206** different organizations



Among in-person referral building events, nearly half were in the Panhandle region (n=180)



In-person outreach took place in 25 counties throughout Nebraska (n=563)⁷



⁷ The following counties had 1 to 3 community outreach events: Garden, Jefferson, Kimball, Deuel, Custer, Dundy, Howard, Keith, Sherman, Thurston, and Wayne.



The marketing data included in the report reflects information from July 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. The individual serving as BIA's Marketing & Special Events Coordinator changed in May 2024. The new coordinator reorganized how analytics were tracked, so data from May and June was not comparable to the remaining 10 months.

There were

12,741



users on BIA-NE's website during the 10-month period

➔ 1,237

files were downloaded from the BIA-NE website

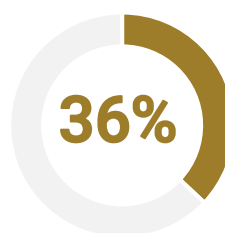


Top 5 Downloads:

- Nebraska Support Group Listings (33%)
- CDC Heads Up Parents Fact Sheet (11%)
- Madonna Post COVID Education and Support Groups (8%)
- Resource Facilitation Coverage Map (6%)
- Resource Guide (6%)

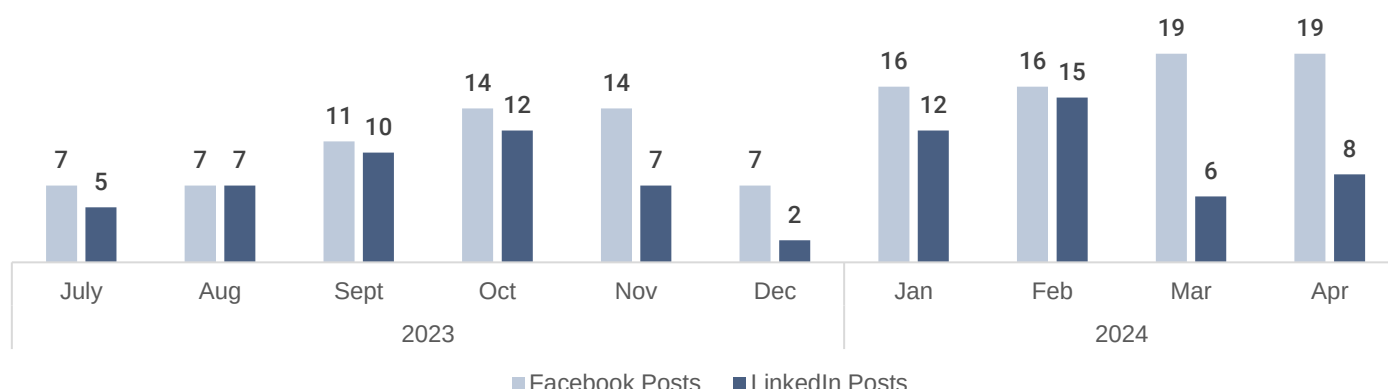
49%

of people getting to BIA-NE's website from a google search are using a phone or tablet



of people, on average, who received BIA-NE emails opened it (n=35 emails)⁸

BIA-NE's social media efforts continued, with **130 Facebook** posts and **84 LinkedIn** posts during the ten-month period

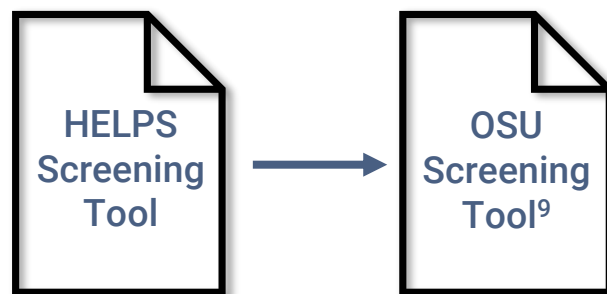


⁸ The number of recipients varied by email based on the intended audience. Ten of the emails went to 188 people while 19 went to at least 7,500 individuals.

PRIORITY 5

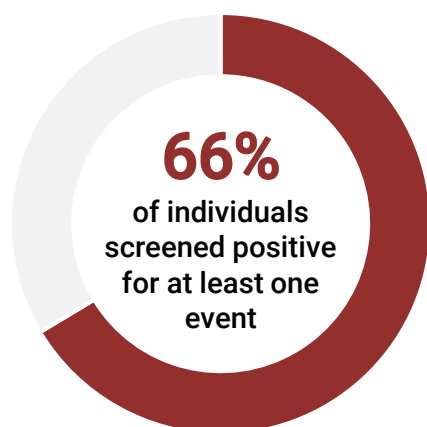
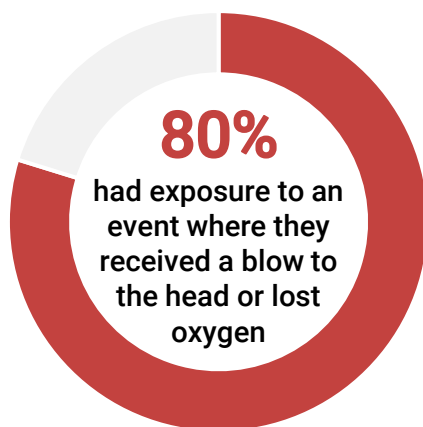
Supporting Research

BIA-NA is collaborating with Dr. Kathy Chiou at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Dr. Chiou received IRB-approval to collect brain injury 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.



366

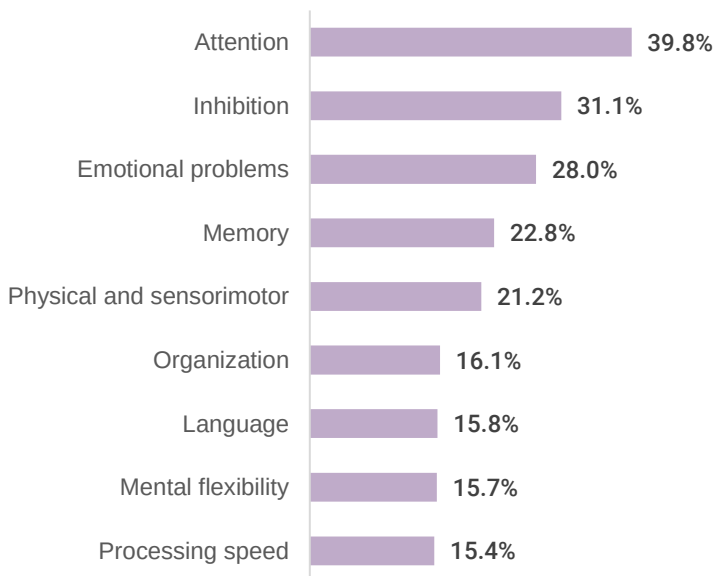
individuals were screened for brain injury among 6 agencies between July 2023 and June 2024¹⁰



There were 6 agencies that were screening clients for brain injury between July 2023 and June 2024

Douglas County Youth Center (DCYC)	Omaha
Lancaster County Youth Services Center	Lincoln
Lancaster Diversion Program	Lincoln
Lincoln County Jail	North Platte
Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion	Papillion
South Central NE Area Agency on Aging	Kearney

All youth screened for brain injury at DCYC were also given the MINDSOURCE symptom questionnaire, with data indicating about 40% of youth report being “extremely” or “very” bothered by attention problems¹¹



⁹ BrainLine (n.d.). Ohio State University TBI identification method. <https://www.brainline.org/article/ohio-state-university-tbi-identification-method>

¹⁰ Data entry for the screenings done during the reporting period is still being done by UNL. This number will be updated once the final data has been reviewed and analyzed.

¹¹ MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network (2018). Juvenile Symptom Questionnaire. <https://mindsourcelcolorado.org/juvenile-symptom-questionnaire/>

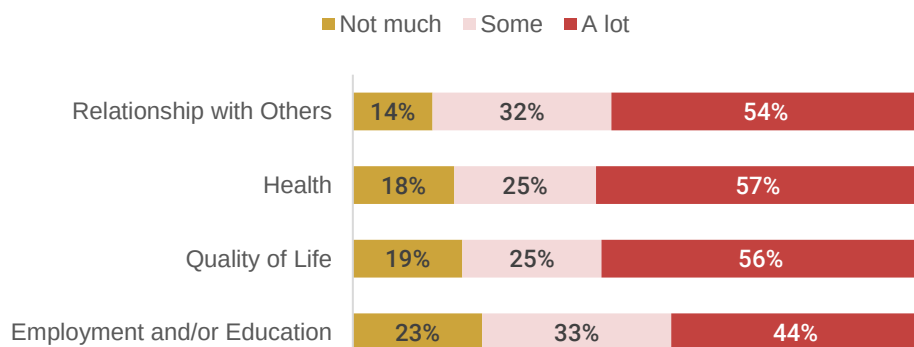
PRIORITY 6

Quality Improvement & Standards of Care



Screening BIA-NE Clients for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)¹²

More than half the BIA-NE clients screened reported ACEs impacted their relationship with others, health, and quality of life "a lot" (n=57)

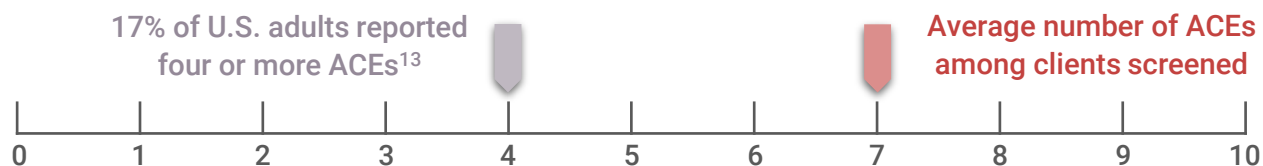


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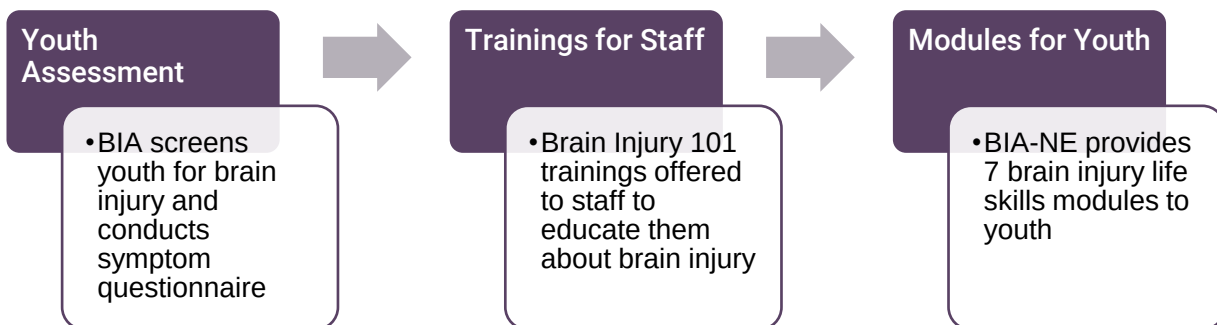
unique case management clients have been screened for ACEs since the project started in January 2023



Accounts for about **21.5%** of the case management cases



Brain Injury Screening within Juvenile Justice System



57%

of DCYC staff who completed an evaluation survey reported they increased how much they thought about brain injury because of the project

BIA-NA is contracting with Parlay Consulting to facilitate conversations on creating a systematic response to the brain injury needs of youth. Two meetings have been held, with the next scheduled in August. Meetings after that will be monthly.



¹² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 2023). Adverse Childhood experiences.

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

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 2023). Prevalence of adverse childhood experiences among U.S. adults – Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2020.

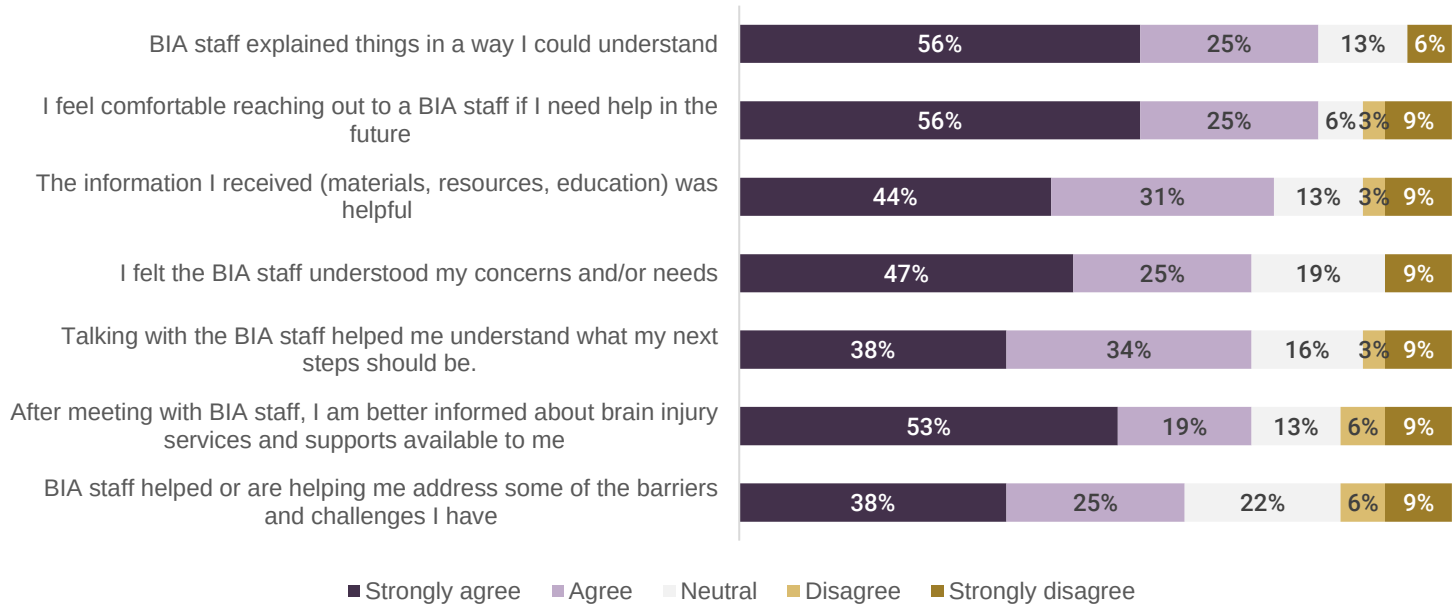
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7226a2.htm#:~:text=Nearly%20two%20thirds%20of%20U.S.,more%20ACEs%20\(Table%202\).](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7226a2.htm#:~:text=Nearly%20two%20thirds%20of%20U.S.,more%20ACEs%20(Table%202).)

PRIORITY 7

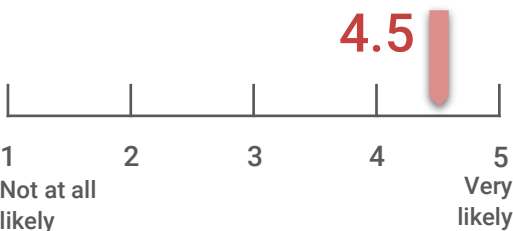
Evaluating Needs

15% of those who received the client satisfaction survey in January or July 2024 participated in the survey (n=227)¹⁴

More than half the survey respondents agreed with all the statements on the satisfaction survey, though there were some areas of disagreement (n=32)



Average rating for how likely a client was to recommend BIA to others (n=31)



The conversation was very helpful, the materials were informative, and the questions were answered in a way that I felt were spot on.



87%

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

At least one-third of the clients reported they decided to contact the BIA after it was recommended by another type of professional (n=34)



¹⁴ 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. For the July 2024 administration, BIA staff sent an email to clients prior to the surveys being sent through SurveyMonkey to build trust and assure the survey link was legitimate. This may have helped increase the response rate, though the BIA and PIE will continue to explore ways to increase 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%	\$	565,071 76%
Accounting and Auditing Fees	\$	4,451 1%	\$	5,645 1%	\$	- 0%
Consultants	\$	47,107 9%	\$	61,762 9%	\$	47,904 6%
Advertising & Promotion	\$	23,069 4%	\$	23,447 4%	\$	11,471 2%
Bank, Credit Card, and Investment Fees	\$	989 0%	\$	640 0%	\$	710 0%
Software and Website Expenses	\$	24,155 5%	\$	7,757 1%	\$	38,173 5%
Conferences and Meetings	\$	731 0%	\$	1,976 0%	\$	3,830 1%
Dues & Subscriptions	\$	7,407 1%	\$	6,687 1%	\$	12,748 2%
Program Events and Efforts	\$	200 0%	\$	7,045 1%	\$	914 0%
Insurance	\$	5,346 1%	\$	9,592 1%	\$	5,931 1%
Office Supplies and Expenses	\$	11,494 2%	\$	4,593 1%	\$	6,263 1%
Postage, Mailing Service	\$	126 0%	\$	205 0%	\$	214 0%
Printing & Copying	\$	10,429 2%	\$	2,889 0%	\$	14,996 2%
Rent and Utilities (Telephone, Internet)	\$	3,163 1%	\$	4,982 1%	\$	6,333 1%
Travel and Meals	\$	9,009 2%	\$	21,970 3%	\$	26,773 4%
Professional Development/Training	\$	12,772 2%	\$	13,460 2%	\$	4,229 1%
Miscellaneous	\$	67 0%	\$	882 0%	\$	421 0%
Total Use of Funding:	\$	533,594	\$	658,019	\$	745,981
Underspent (Overspent)	\$	(83,594)	\$	(208,019)	\$	(295,981)

During all three years, BIA-NE spent more than \$587,000 cumulatively of its own operating funds to supplement the work funded by the Brain Injury Assistance Act. Although the Assistance Act funds the majority of 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 through the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), resulting in BIA-NE funding approximately 25% of the total program costs with its own operational resources.