# West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Needs Assessment Survey Steven Wheeler, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, CBIS, PI WV TBI State Program; Amanda Acord-Vira, EdD, OTR/L, CBIS, PI TBI Federal Grant; Miranda Talkington, LGSW, CBIS, TBI Program Manager

### Background

- An average of 155 Americans die each day from injuries that include a TBI. Currently over 5.3 million people are living with the effects of a TBI in the US (CDC, 2019).
- o According to the WV Department of Health & Human Resources (2017), every year, as a result of TBI, over 3,600 WV citizens have been hospitalized, 700 citizens lost their life to a TBI and 600 West Virginians have a long-term disability due to a TBI. (Taylor & Breiding) Services and supports for people with TBI are very limited in WV.
- This study was an attempt to discover what services are needed, the quality of existing services, as well as what barriers impede people with TBI and their families from accessing these services, and professionals from delivering them.
- Health Needs Assessment is an evidence- based approach to assess, plan, tailor, and commission health services to a population. (Wright, Williams, & Wilkinson, 1998)While health care expenditures are on the rise, resources continue to be limited, making it difficult to cater to the needs of people. As a result of unmet needs, the amount of physician visits has increased, leading to more burden to the health care expenditure.
- By conducting a needs assessment, unmet health care's needs as well as barriers to care can be identified. This information is vital in planning and allocating resources efficiently. Moreover, it will help understand the needs and barriers from the participant's, family member, and professional's perspective.

# **Objectives**

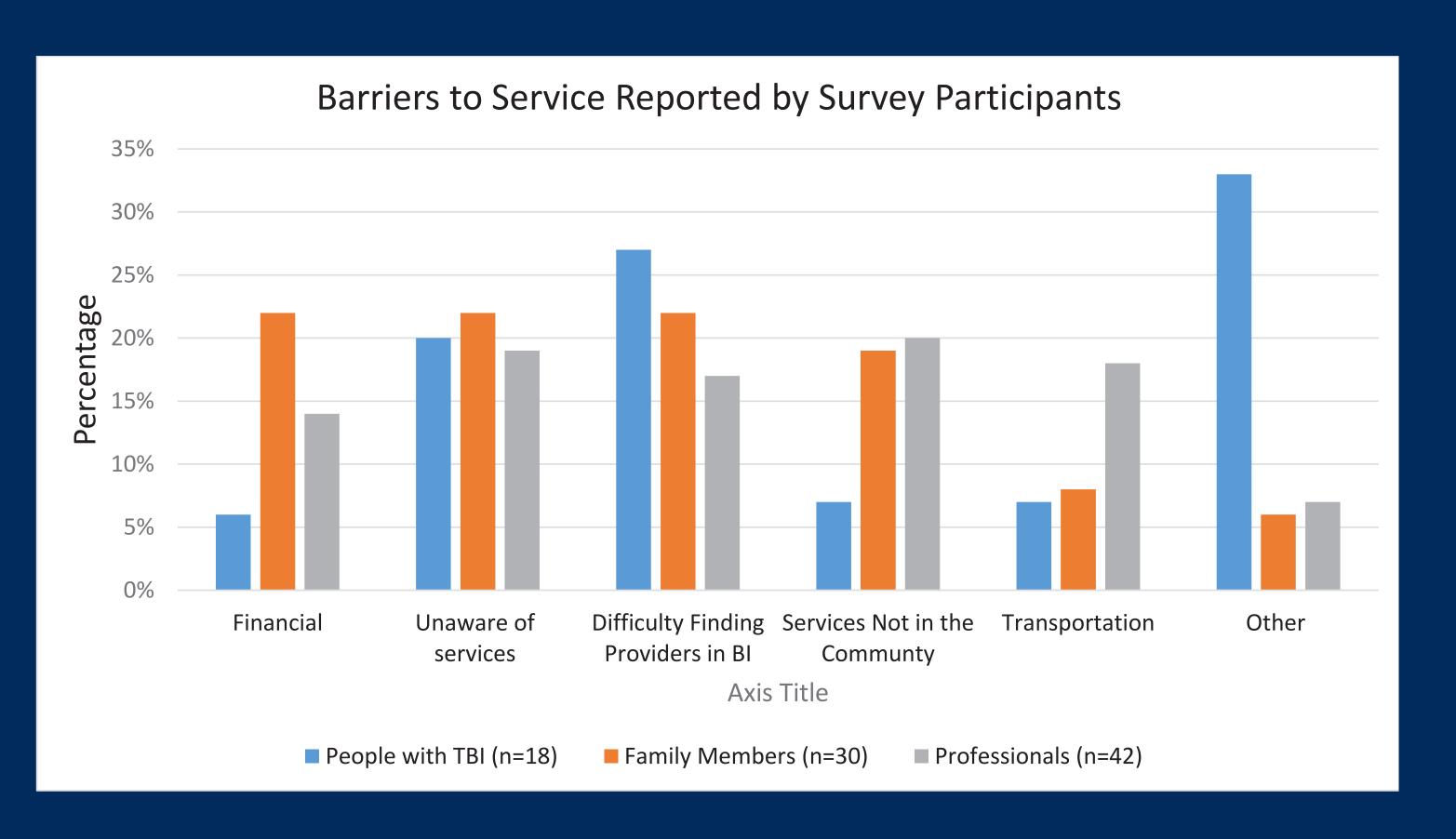
- The purpose of this study was to better understand the unmet needs, barriers to care and services required among:
  - People with a TBI
  - Family members of persons with a TBI
- Professionals who provide services to TBI clients
- This study is also to identify services that are needed in West Virginia but not available.

## Methods or Description of the Program

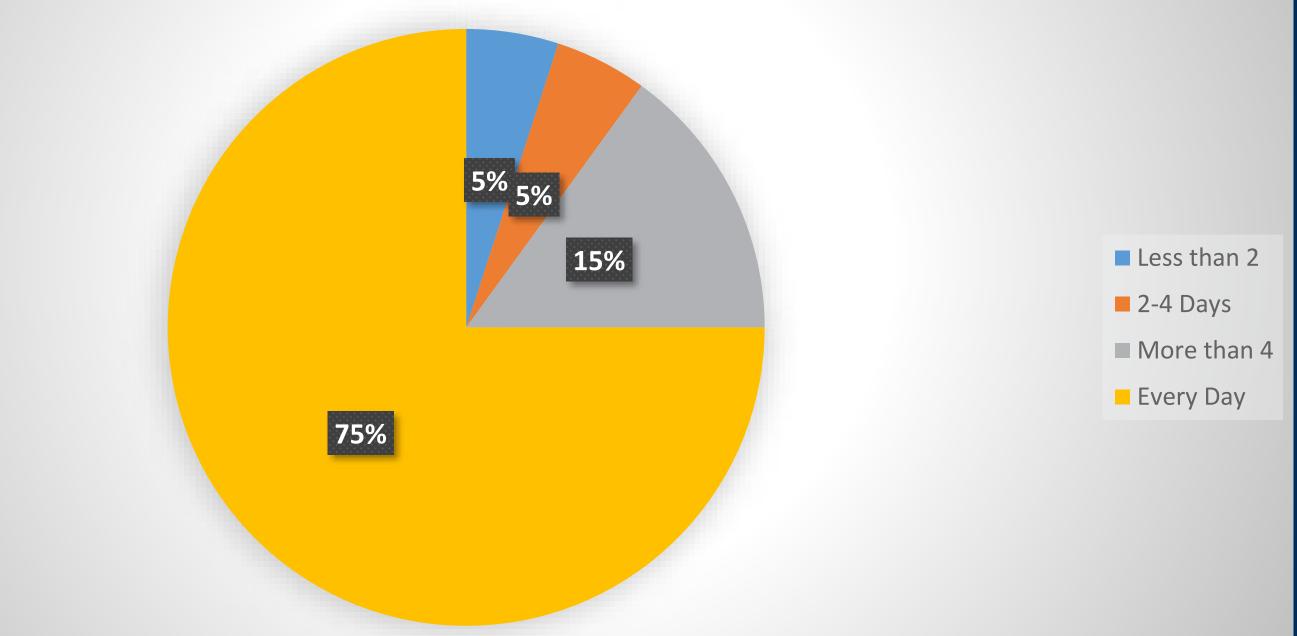
- The study recruited people with TBI, family members of people with TBI, and professionals serving individuals with TBI to participate in an online or paper survey. The survey asked questions about their history of TBI, unmet needs, barriers to care, and services required that are not present among the three groups.
- Variables:
  - Person with a TBI:
  - o Demographic information (gender, race, ethnicity, age, employment status, education, household income, etc.)
  - History of TBI
  - Types of services they require following their TBI like physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and rehabilitation services
  - o Identification of unmet needs, barriers to having needs met, and results of not having needs met.
  - Family members of person with a TBI:
  - Demographic information
  - History of their family members TBI
  - Types of needs they have experiences as a result of their loved one acquiring a TBI
  - Identification of unmet needs and barriers to having needs met
  - Professionals providing services to a person with a TBI: Demographic information

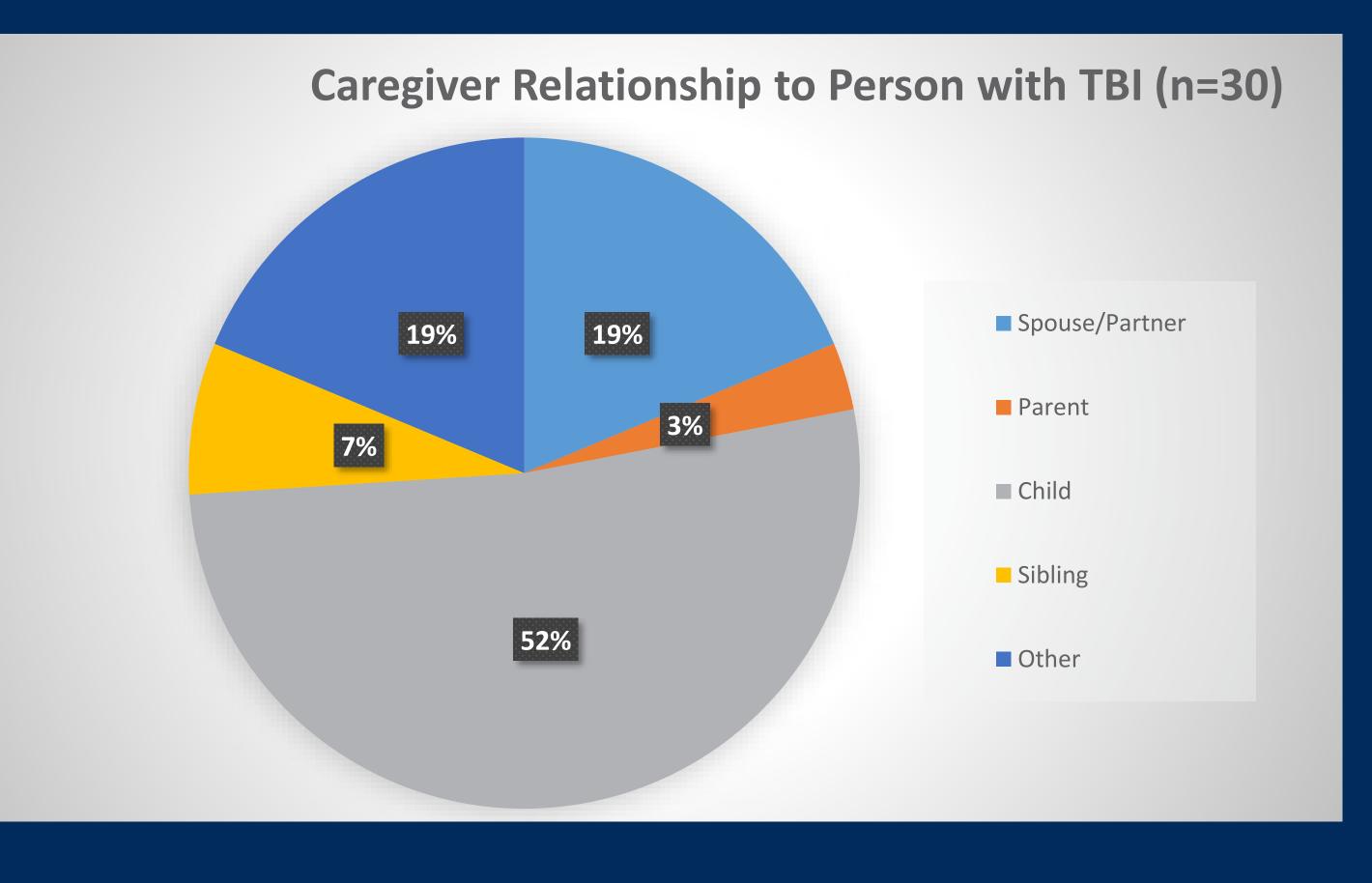
  - Types of services provided
  - Types of needs they have experience in providing better services to people with TBI or their families
  - Identification of unmet needs and barriers to having those professional needs met

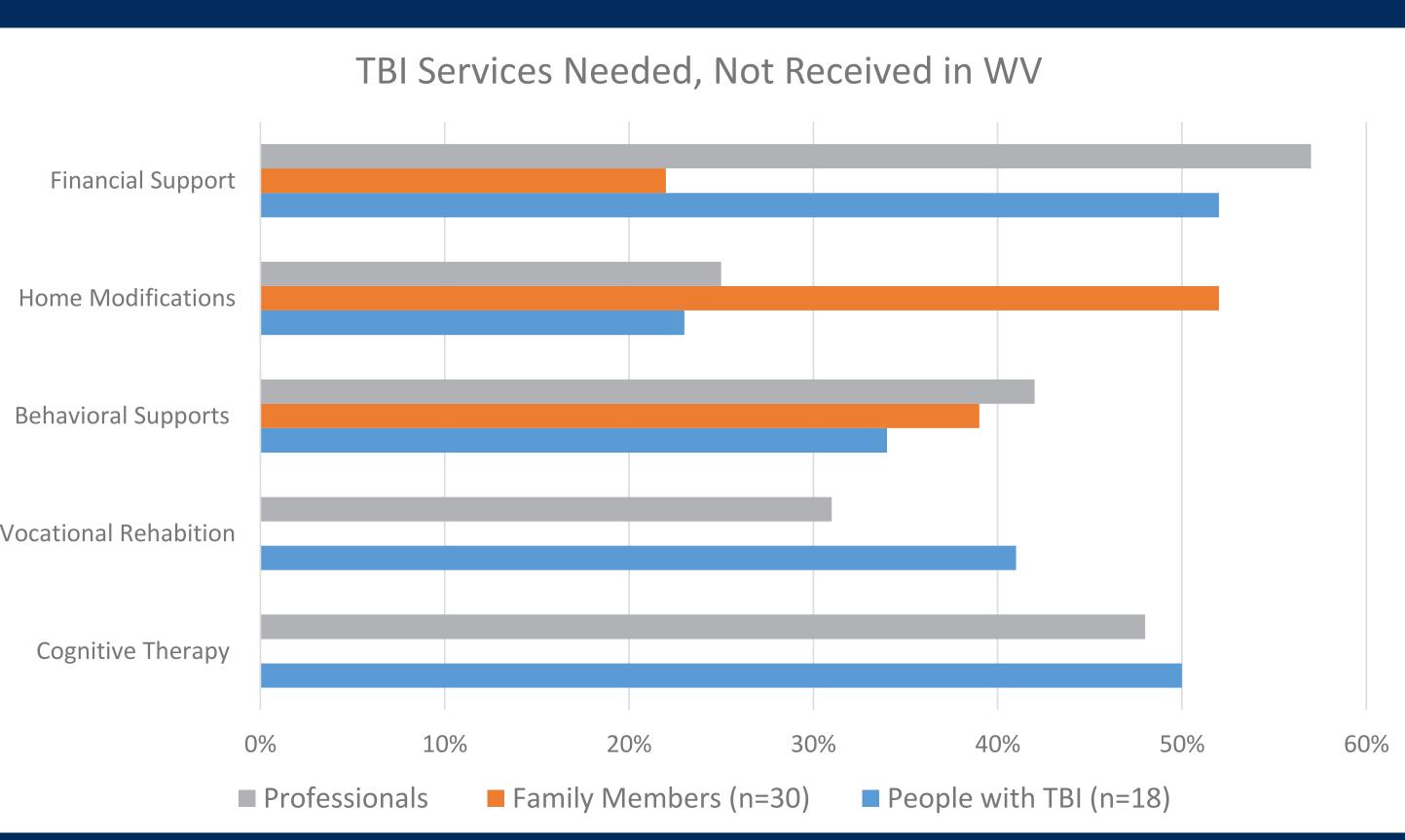












# **Findings/Results**

- a person with a TBI, and 42 professionals.
- other relationships.
- providing care every day.
- community.

Conclusions The statewide TBI needs and resource assessment provides essential information for planning and implementing comprehensive and coordinated services. Through a better understanding of the needs reported by persons with TBI, caregivers, and healthcare professionals in WV, several initiatives across the state are being developed or enhanced. These include educational outreach, support group assistance, expanded service partnerships, an updated strategic plan, and improved screening. Data collection on this project will continue in an effort to further understand needs across the state to ensure optimal utilization of resources within the limits of program funding.

## References

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Ninety participants participated in the survey, 18 people with TBI, 30 family members of

• The perception of barriers to service for people with TBI varied from the perspectives of family members of people with TBI and professionals.

 $\circ$  Of the family members surveyed (n=30) 19% were providing care to their spouse, 3% were parents, 52% were taking care of their child, 7% were siblings, and 19% were

• We also found that 75% of the family members that participated in the survey were

 Our survey showed different perspectives to barriers of service among the survey participants. 35% of our participants with TBI reported the other category (35% n=18) as the biggest barrier to service. Family members of people with TBI viewed being unaware of services and difficulty finding brain injury providers as the biggest barrier. 20% of professionals reported the biggest barrier being services not available in the

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