

Traumatic Brain Injury in Corrections

PILOT PROJECT July 2020 - June 2024

Traumatic Brain Injury Strategic Partnership Advisory Council of Washington



In July 2020 the TBI Council started a pilot project to improve the lives of people with Traumatic Brain Injuries in correctional facilities.

THE TBI IN CORRECTIONS PILOT PROJECT PROVIDED:

- TBI screening
- Incarcerated resources
- Support groups
- Training and skill building
- Workforce training
- Resource development

"Access to awareness and learning more about my symptoms and behaviors has given me the ability to prepare for them in advance."

SMALL INVESTMENT. BIG IMPACT.

An investment of 9¢ per day (\$32/yr) for each incarcerated person* would:

- reduce recidivism, at an average cost of \$41K/yr
- reduce risk of injury for corrections system employees
- provide TBI learning opportunities, mental health support, skill building, resource connections and re-entry into the community

**Cost based on 12,406 total incarcerated individuals in WA Corrections systems (as of Feb 2023) and a total annual cost of \$400,000.*

The program was offered at five locations:

- Airway Heights Correctional Center
- Coyote Ridge Correctional Center
- Monroe Correctional Complex
- Stafford Creek Correctional Center
- Washington State Penitentiary

"It's hard to be vulnerable in prison. This group allows that."

"The TBI Program has made me aware of my TBI disability and has improved my life tremendously."

Health Equity & Belonging: While anyone can experience a TBI, data shows that certain populations are more likely to die from a TBI or experience long-term health effects, including people in correctional facilities.



Despite its popularity and importance, this program ended in June 2024 due to a lack of funding for a permanent program. \$400K/yr would expand the program statewide and help more than 9,000 people with TBI.

8X

TBI are 8X more prevalent for people who are incarcerated.

72%

of people in the corrections system have a TBI.

350 SUPPORT GROUPS

held in correctional facilities for those with TBI between June 2020 - July 2024.

700 PEOPLE WITH TBI

More than 700 people with TBI were supported through this program.

\$400K

An estimated \$400K a year would help 9,000+ people with TBI in correctional facilities statewide.

\$32

Only \$32 a year would provide support groups and services for an incarcerated individual with a TBI.

\$41K

Annual average cost for one person incarcerated. This program reduces recidivism and increases positive re-entry.

The TBI Council supports the Washington traumatic brain injury (TBI) community through prevention awareness, advocacy, education, delivery of services, and support programs (RCW 74.31). This program aligns with state law, the DOC strategic plan, the Governor's Executive Orders, and the TBI Council Mission.

