

Children and Adolescents with Traumatic Brain Injury



They're not just little adults.

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Causes by Age

- Infant Abuse
- Toddler Falls, MVA passenger
- Preschooler Falls, MVA passenger and pedestrian

Causes by Age

- Elementary school children
 - MVA passenger and pedestrian, bicycling, falls, recreation injuries



- Adolescents
 - MVA driver and passenger, sports, assaults, gun shots

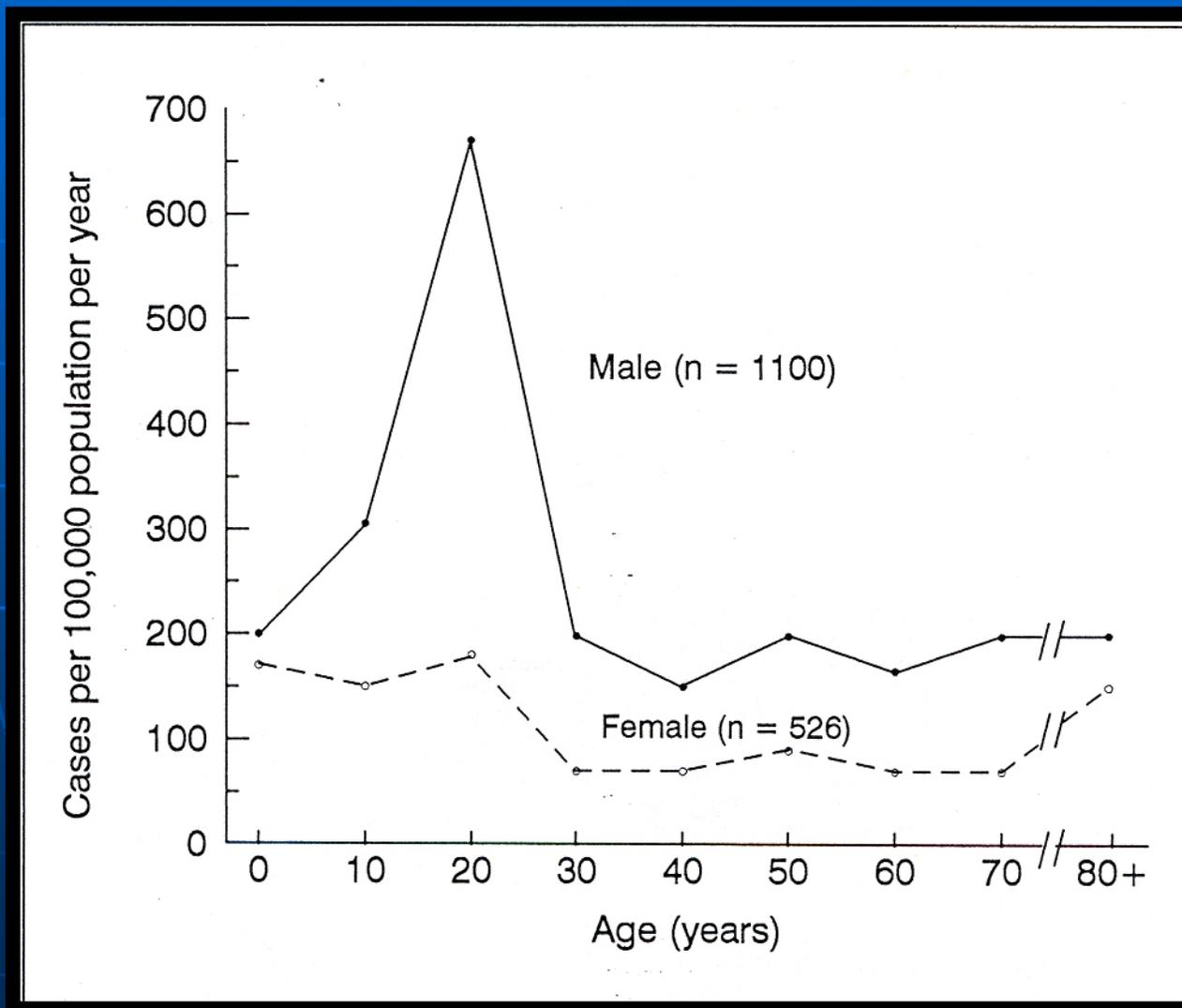


Scope of TBI in Children and Adolescents

- Most frequent cause of death and disability (over 41% of all child deaths)
- Over 30,000 children have permanent disabilities each year
- Over 500,000 new cases each year
- Translates into 1 in every 500 students
- Mild injuries are under-reported

• Source : Centers for Disease Control

Prevalence of TBI x Age and Gender



Recurrent Crises Over Time

- Emergency Dept
- ICU
- Hospital Care
- Rehabilitation
- Coming Home
- Back to School



Emotional trauma for families

- "WHEN IT HAPPENED"
- Immediate crisis of survival
- The coma vigil
- Decision making process for life supports

Myths and Facts about Brain Injury in Children and Youth



Myth

Younger the child is when injured, the better the recovery.

Fact

Younger brain is more vulnerable to damage.



Myth Looks good = is good

Fact Physical recovery outpaces cognitive recovery.

Fact Better the student looks, harder it is to recognize cognitive needs.
Misidentified as ADD or LD



Myth Severe injury means permanent disability..

Fact Disabilities range from physical, cognitive, behavioral, social, and communicative effects

Fact Not all disabilities are equal.

Myth

TBI means student is eligible for special education.

Fact

Diagnosis not automatic qualifier for eligibility.

Fact

Educational impact may change as brain matures and school work changes.



Myth

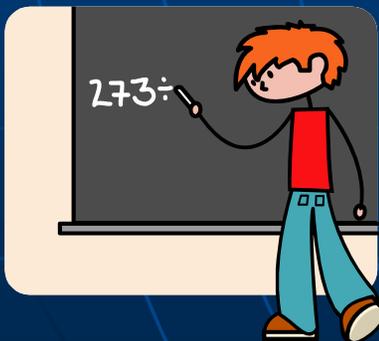
Tests in normal range,
therefore can learn okay.

Fact

Testing old knowledge not
indication for new learning.

Fact

Testing environment not
indicative of classroom



Myth

Time heals.

Fact

Time reveals.



Children are affected by brain injury differently than adults

- Less likely to lose consciousness
- Quicker physical recovery
- Damage to developing brain
- Harder to learn new skills
- Long term impact on development

Impact on Families over Time

- Guilt over failed to protect
- Fear of risk taking
- Anniversary reactions
- Marital conflicts
- Additional births
- Competing needs of siblings

Siblings

- Feeling left behind and left out
- Competing for care and attention
- Maturation and knowledge
- Changes in sibling relationship
- Future caregiver expectations

Long-Term Stresses on Families

- Uncertainty of development
- Ongoing need to educate educators
- Dearth of experts in community
- Stress of adolescence
- Approaching adulthood
- Aging of parents



What every parent wishes...

- Decent income
- Safe place to live
- Friends and support
- A life with meaning
- People who care
- Person to love and be loved
- Fulfillment of dreams