

Abstract
#11-006

Traumatic Spinal cord injury (TSCI) results in immediate and generally permanent changes to sensory and motor function. The annual incidence of TSCI in South Carolina is estimated to be 67.2 persons per million and this is higher than the national average, as is the mortality rate. A wide array of research is required to understand TSCI and its impact within the state of South Carolina, as well as nationally, including epidemiologic research on social factors that may mediate important health outcomes

One area of need is that of better benchmarking outcomes in South Carolina with those observed nationally, particularly as related to the health care system in South Carolina. The state is largely rural, with an absence of centralized inpatient rehabilitation services. Unemployment and poverty are common after TSCI. It is important to better understand the nature of TSCI in South Carolina, to investigate the risk factors associated with mortality, how it is affected by services, and how generalizable research more nationally applies to those with TSCI in South Carolina.