



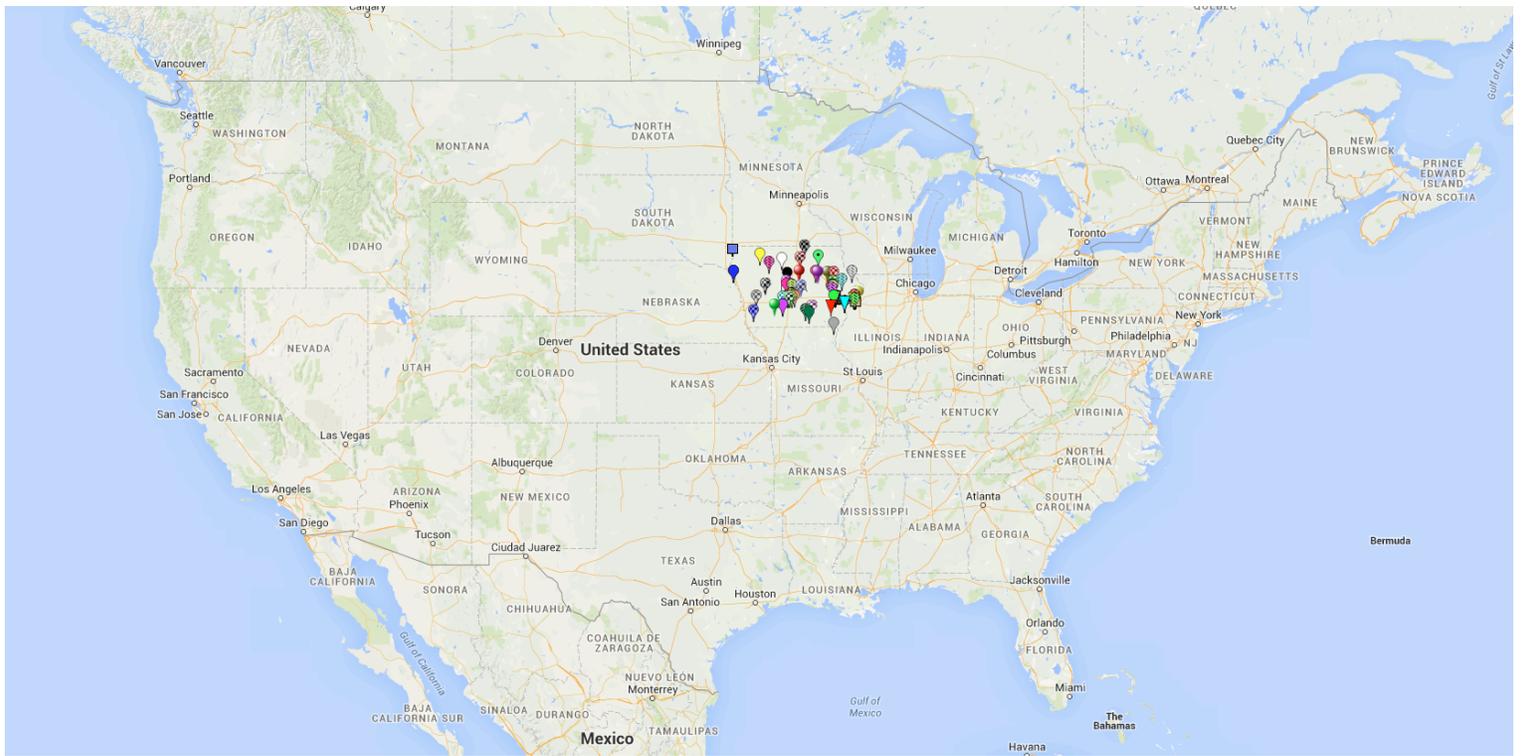
Chapters, Support groups and Statewide Needs Assessment – 2016

Background: From November, 2015 – May of 2016 the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa conducted a statewide needs assessment with its membership, Chapters, Support Groups (Mason City, Tri-State/Dubuque, Quad Cities, Central/Ankeny, East Central/Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, Northwest/Spencer, Northeast/Waterloo) IBIRN sites (145) NRF Clients, BISON peer support members, corporate members, past attendees of conferences, webinars and workshops, and more than 10,000 others stakeholders via secondary contacts from collaborators such as IDPH and others.

Copies of the web based survey and the Chapter/Support group questionnaires may be found in Appendix A.

We received 207 responses from both a web-based survey and via BIA-Iowa support groups. With the exception of the Southwest portion of the state these online responses were from across the state. See Charts 1 and 2 below:

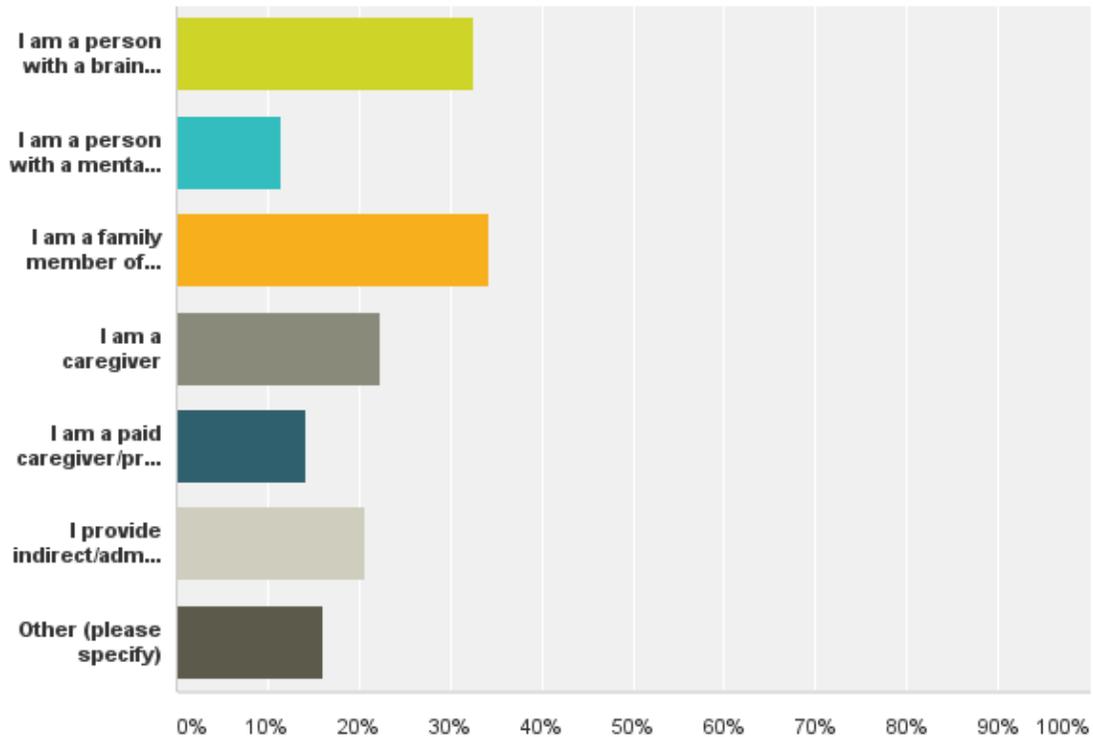
Chart 1 – Distribution of Zip codes from Web-based Respondents



Respondents to both the Online and Support Group based survey process were asked to identify themselves as primarily one of six groups. The web based survey gathered a distinct majority of “family members and caregivers as well as indirect / administrative service respondents” while the support groups were composed of individuals with brain injury (n=32).

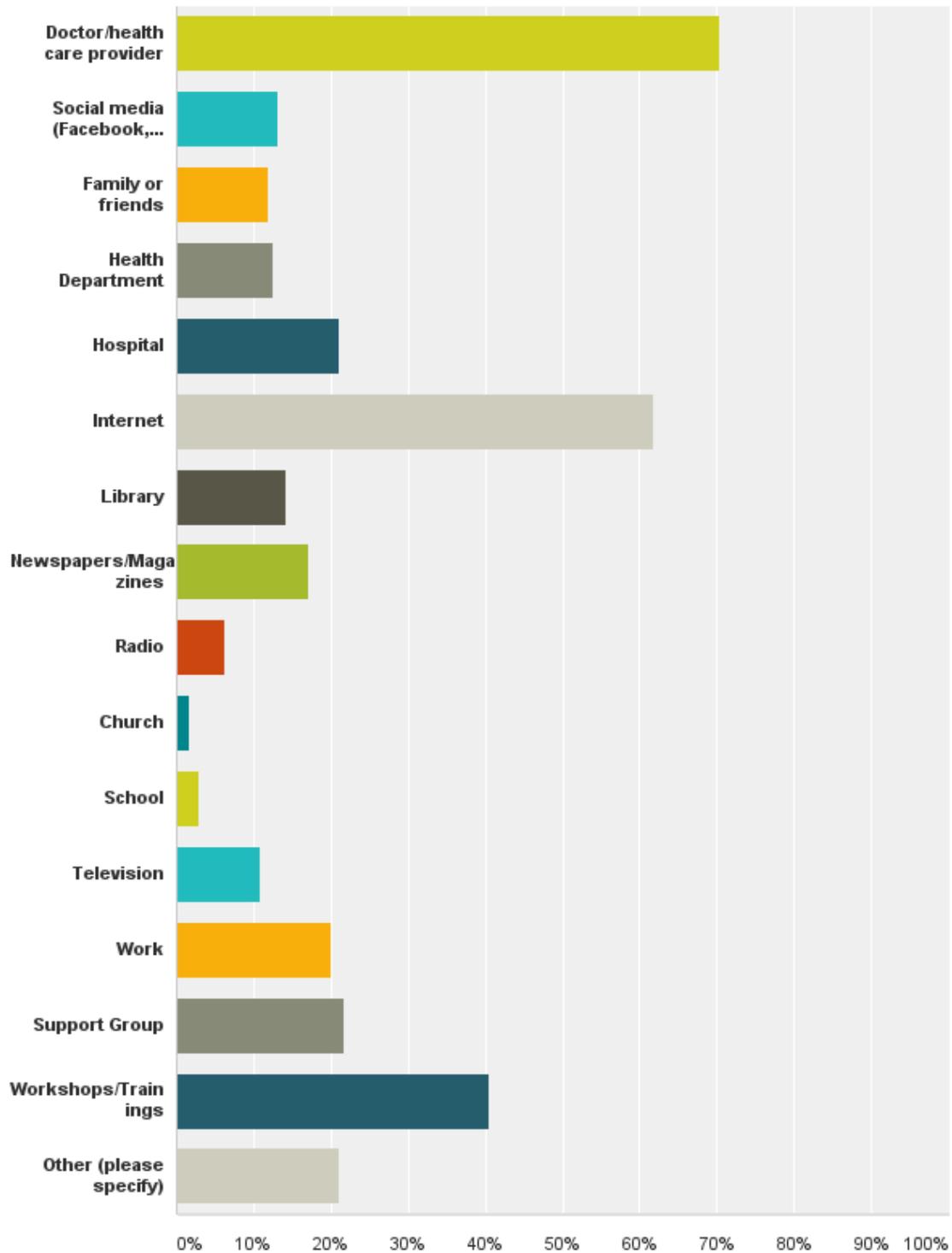
Q2 Please help us to know about who you are (you may fit into more than one category).

Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



Q3 Where do you get most of your health information? (check all that apply)

Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



Summary:

Below are the results from a qualitative analysis of the 2015 – 2016 Statewide BI needs assessment responses. This analysis combined the responses from the online and the support group data. Response items, areas and themes were first identified. Items, areas and themes were combined in cases where they aligned under a more major heading. The overall impressions from this 2015-2016 survey is that while some of the same challenges and concerns that have faced Iowans with brain injury and their families remain significant obstacles to them there is progress being made in some areas such as community awareness of brain injury.

Respondents are tending to get information from health care providers and the internet. There is a notable perception in increased access to and support of the services of the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa. However there are still a vast range of challenges that are obstacles to Iowans with brain injury, their families caregivers and the professional that service them. These include a continued declaration that funding for necessary service availability, duration and intensity is still grossly lacking. There is a significant challenge with the variability, durability and complexity that face survivors of brain injury and their supports. Despite a recognition that awareness of brain injury is on the rise there is still a depth of response that this awareness is too superficial and that the public and professionals lack the lay and technical understanding that could allow better integration into community, housing, education, and employment. A regular theme has been concern with the State or Iowa privatizing Medicaid and the potential negative impact that is feared. Finally there is a growing frustration with the length of wait for access to services for services via Iowa's Medicaid Waiver for brain injury.

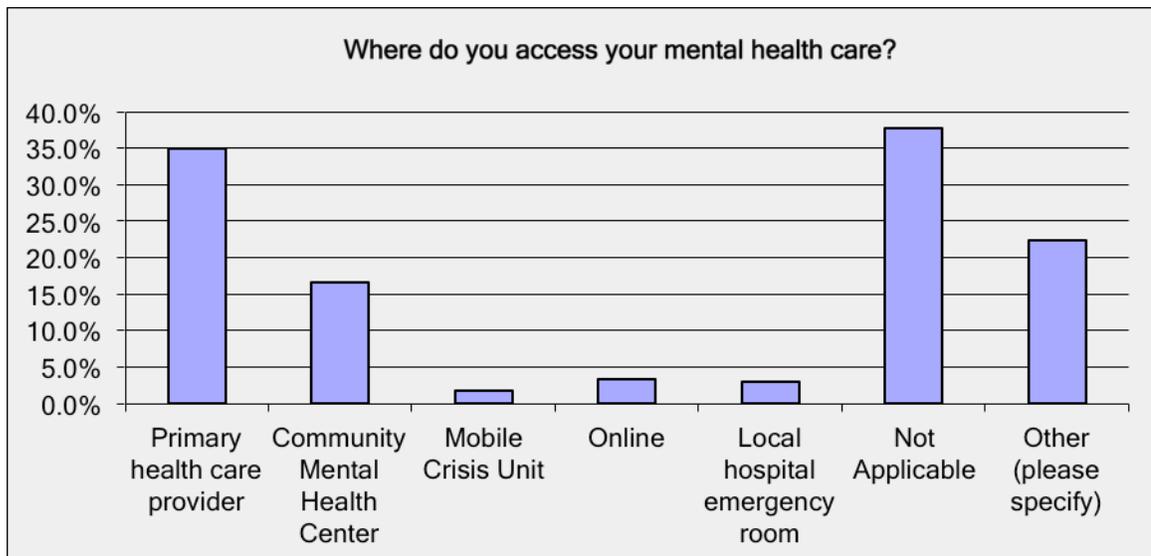
As a result of this survey consideration is still called for with regards to dominant themes around increased access to information and services, funding for Medicaid services, awareness of brain injury among the lay public, increased training and/or education for service provider, and training/education for individuals, family and caregivers around the changes and impact of brain injury.

The Detail:

Below are charts with the percentage of response themes calculated based on the number of comparable comments (themes) compared to the total number of distinct qualitative comments.

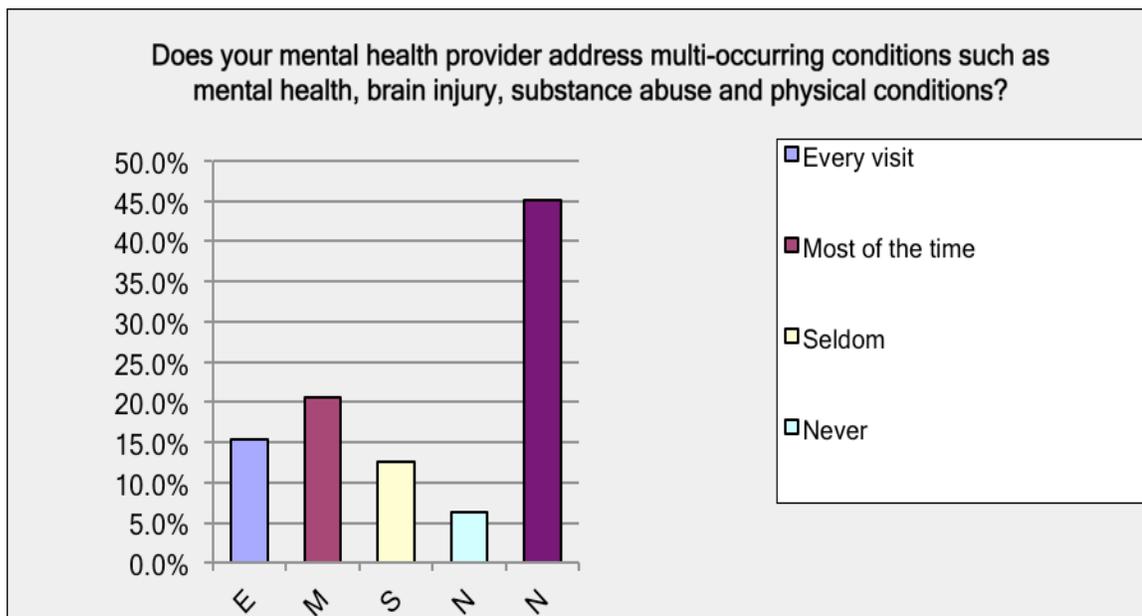
Q4. Where do you access your mental health care?

(186 total responses)



Q5. Does your mental health provider address multi-occurring conditions such as mental health, brain injury, substance abuse and physical conditions??

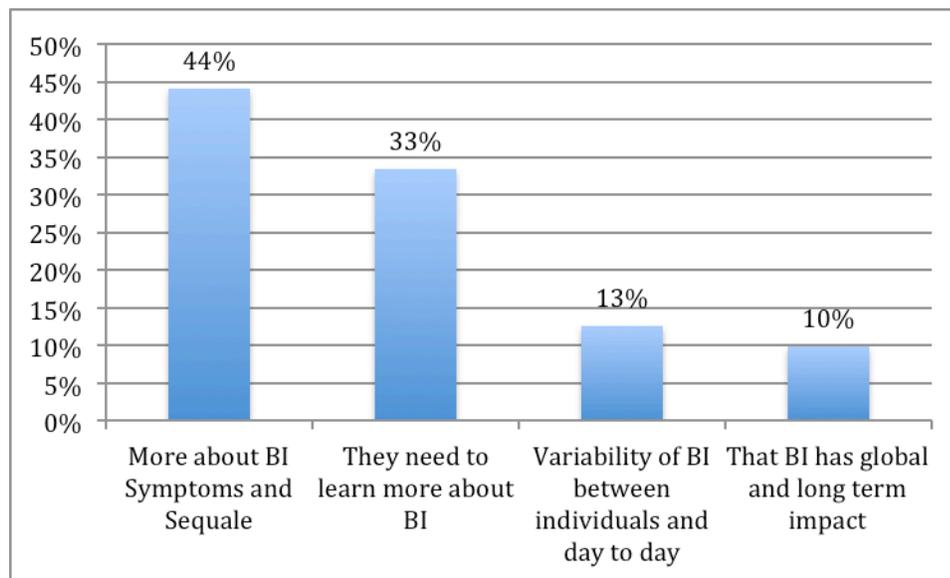
(196 total responses)



(note: last column N = not applicable)

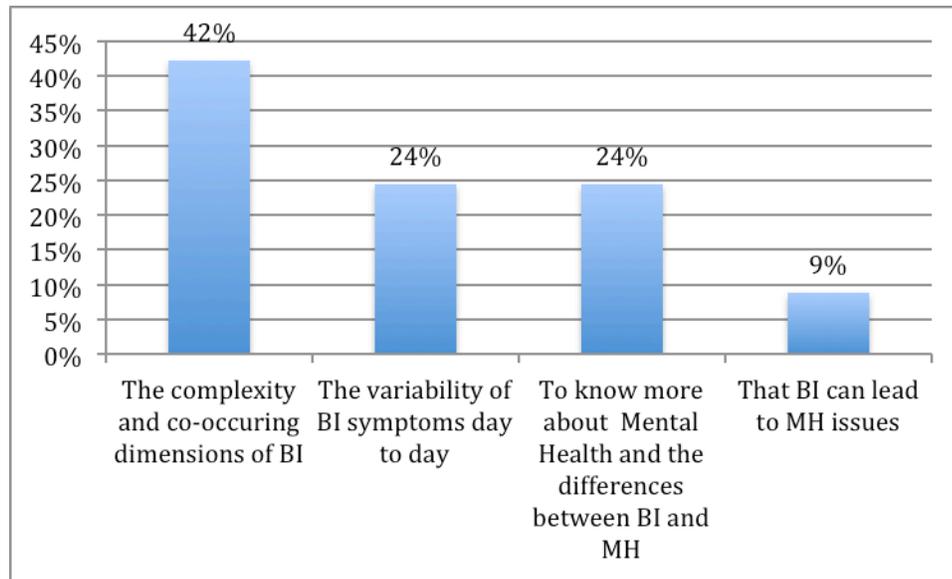
Q6. What would you like your mental health provider to understand about brain injury?

(168 total responses)



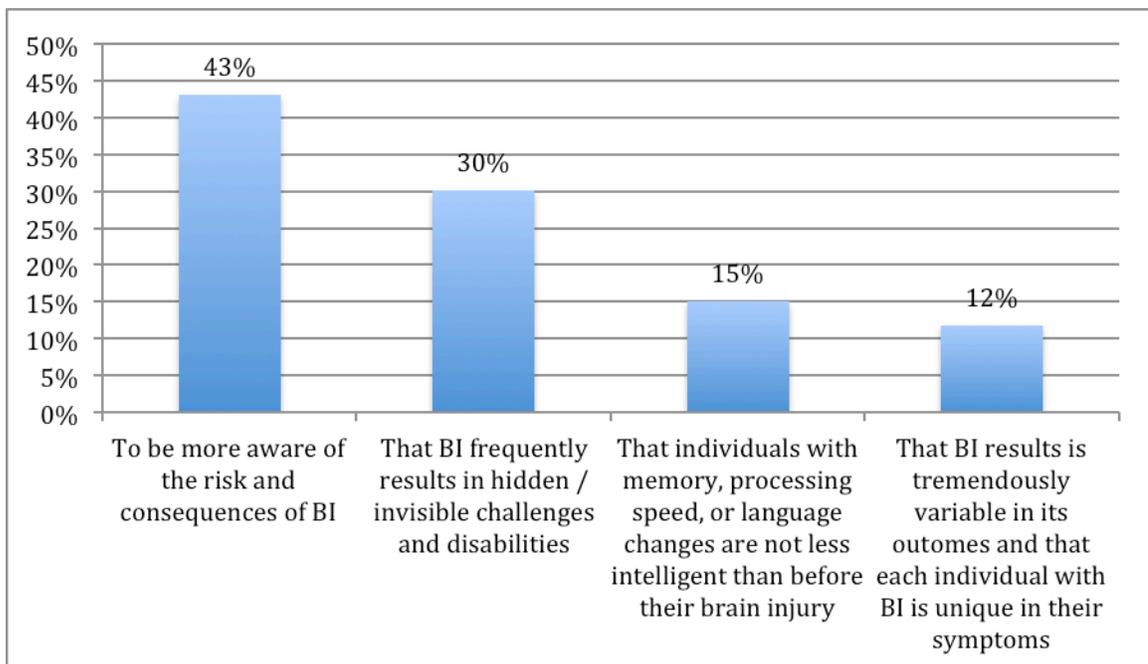
Q7. What would you like your mental health provider to understand about brain injury?

(82 total responses)



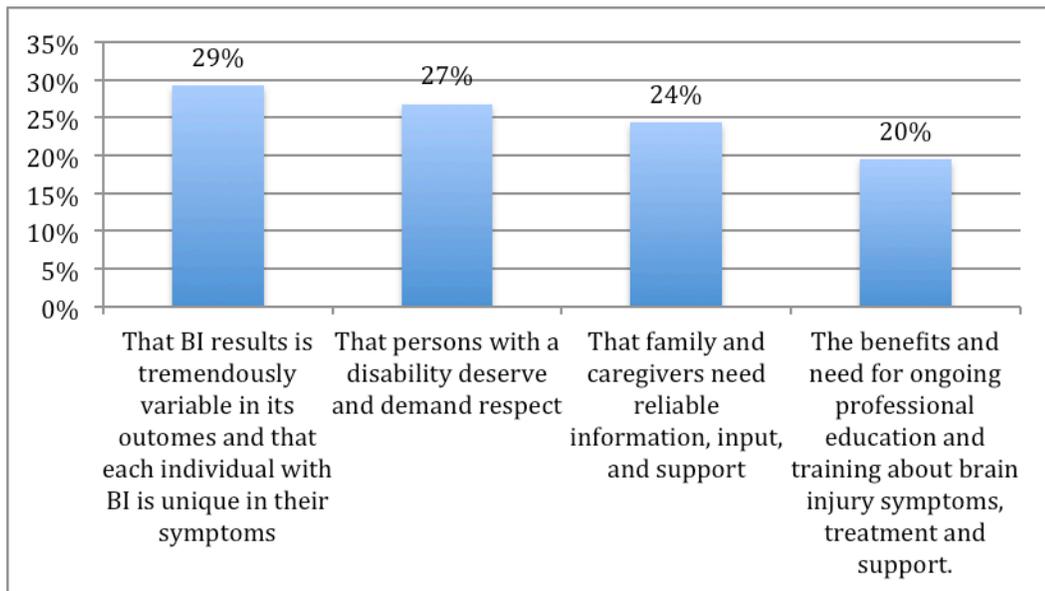
Q8. What is one thing about brain injury you would want members of your community to better understand?

(178 total responses)



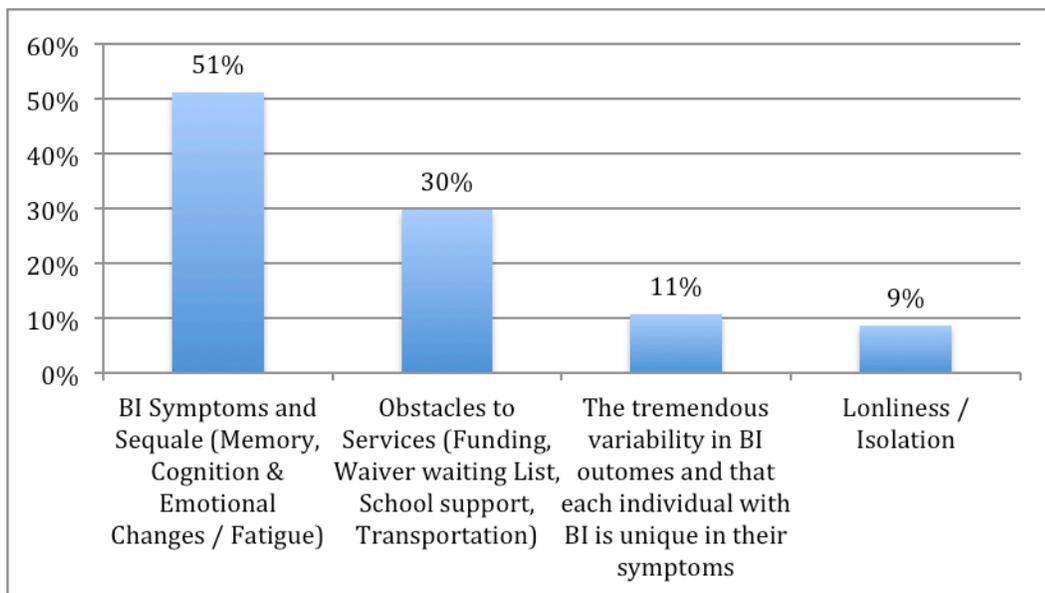
Q9. What is one thing about brain injury you would want health care or disability service professionals to better understand?

(76 total responses)



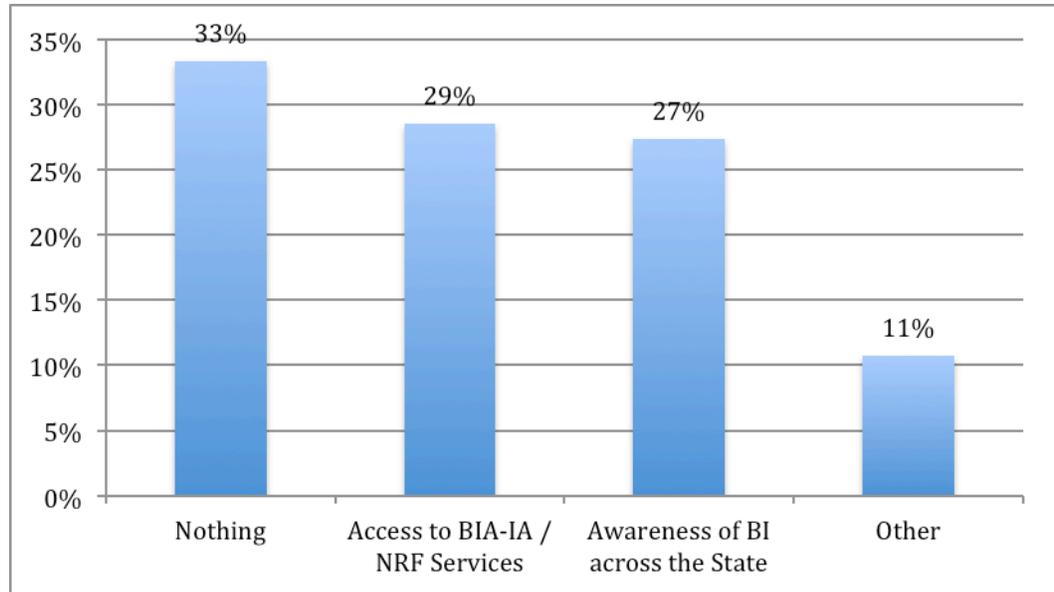
Q10. What is the hardest or most challenging thing about brain injury for you?

(132 total responses)



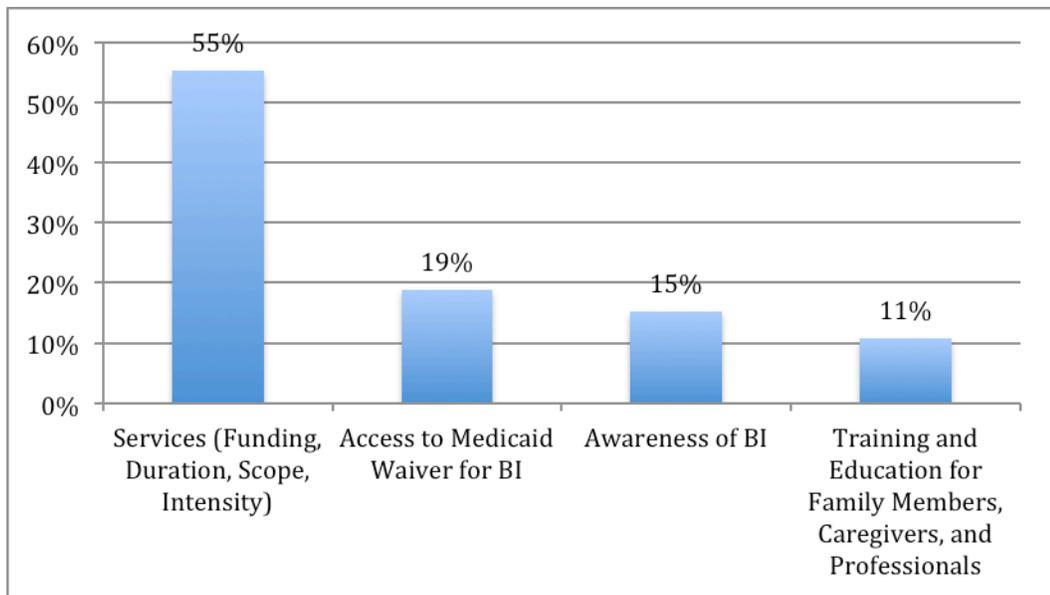
Q11. What has improved about brain injury services in Iowa over the past year?

(82 total responses)



Q12. What would you like to see improve about brain injury services in Iowa?

(159 total responses)



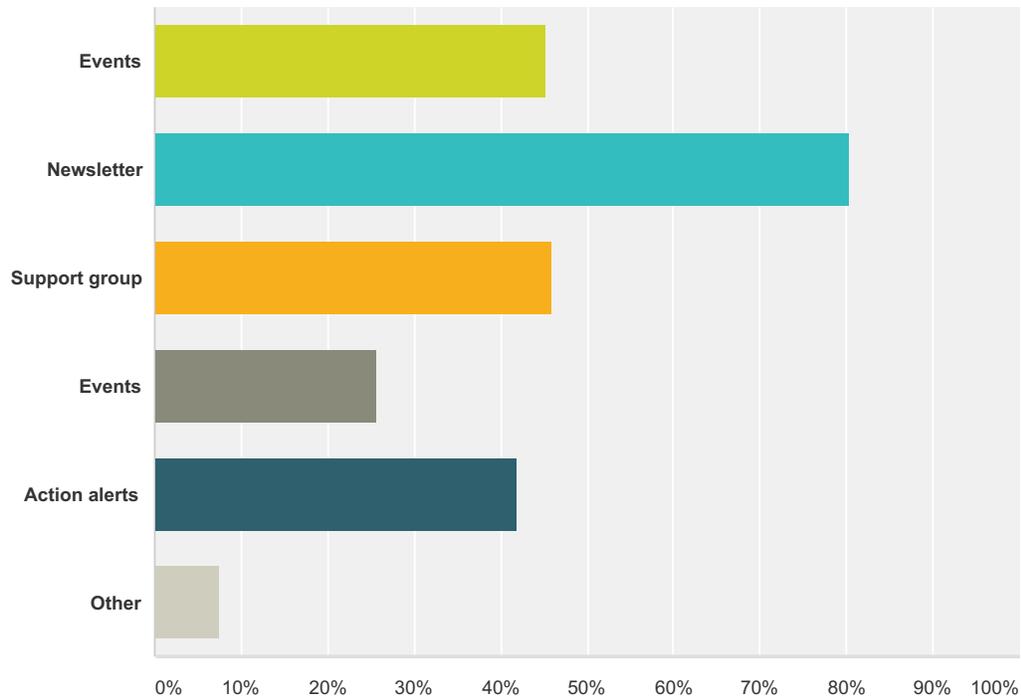
Q13. Are you on a waiting list to access funding for services?

Q 14. Do you have other barriers to obtaining services other than a waiting list for funding?

Data from Q13 and Q14 were invalid due to an error in survey design.

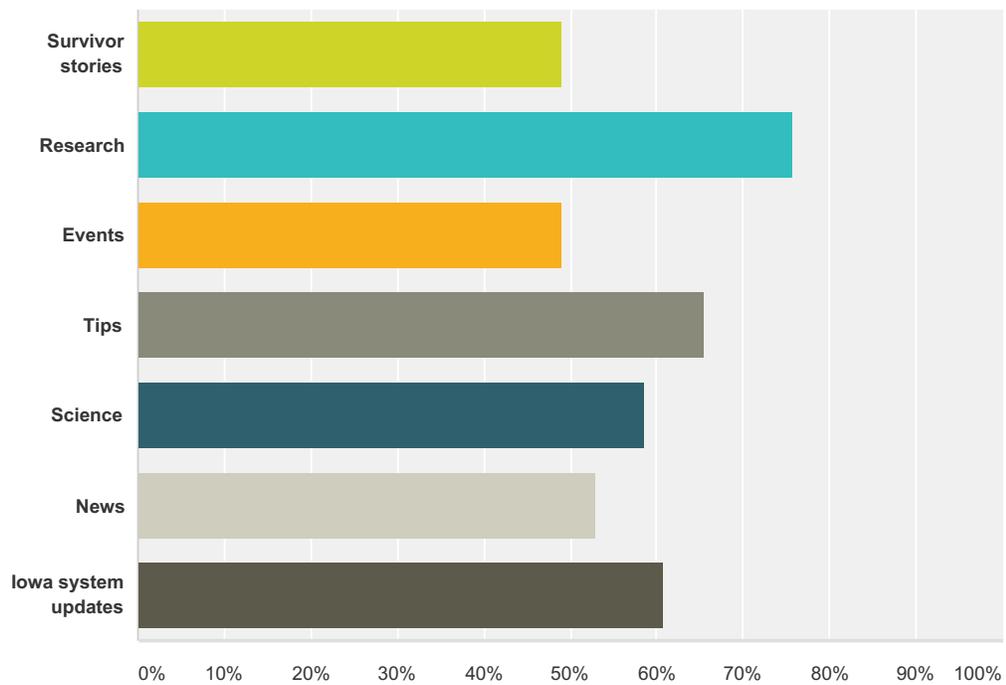
Q15. What information from our mailings do you find useful?

(148 total responses)



Q16. What information in our newsletter do you find useful?

(145 total responses)



Q17. Is there anything else you would would like to share?

Additional comments were varied with no major themes emerging. They tended to reinforce comments that had been made in prior questions.