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## 15,000TH PARTICIPANT ENROLLED IN THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY MODEL SYSTEMS NATIONAL DATABASE

WASHINGTON, DC—The federally-funded Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) enrolled its 15,000th participant in the TBIMS National Database on July 7, 2016. TBIMS and TBIMS National Database are sponsored by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The TBIMS National Database contains data collected from participants in the TBIMS Program. The network of [16 TBIMS Centers](#) across the United States works together to collect information for research on outcomes after traumatic brain injury (TBI). The TBIMS National Database now contains information on 15,000 individuals admitted for inpatient acute TBI rehabilitation, and thus far has followed individuals to gather outcome information up to 25 years post-injury. It is the largest database of its kind in the world.

“The database began in 1987, with just 42 participants enrolled in its first year,” said Cate Miller, PhD, NIDILRR-funded TBIMS Program Manager. “Gathering information on thousands of individuals with TBI over the course of their lives has created a unique and important resource for researchers. We are proud that, as it continues to grow, the database is being used to advance understanding of the lifetime impact of TBI.”

The TBIMS National Database offers insight into the lifelong effects of moderate and severe TBI related to health, social experiences, community integration, daily living, employment, and other factors. Data have been used to inform research, treatment, and policy to benefit individuals with TBI and their families. “The ultimate goal of the TBIMS National Database is to gather information for research that could improve the lives of people with TBI,” said Cindy Harrison-Felix, PhD, Project Director of the TBIMS National Data and Statistical Center (NDSC), which manages the TBIMS National Database. “The patients with TBI who enroll in the database are crucial to making the research possible and improving future care for thousands of TBI survivors.”

TBIMS researchers have published more than 700 peer-reviewed articles, including 10 special issues of leading journals in the field of rehabilitation. About a quarter of these articles used data from the TBIMS National Database. “The TBIMS Program has a long-standing record of making significant contributions to the field of TBI research,” said John D. Corrigan, PhD,

Principal Investigator of the Ohio Regional TBIMS and Chair of the Executive Committee for TBIMS Program Directors. “The collaboration of the TBIMS Centers enables us to maximize the quality and usefulness of TBI research.”

The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center maintains a separate publication database of abstracts for NIDILRR funded Model Systems studies on its website and also provides instructions for accessing the TBIMS National Database. Learn more about the TBIMS National Database by visiting <http://www.msktc.org/15000>.

### **About the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center**

The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) is a national Center that supports the Model Systems programs in meeting the information needs of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and burn injury by summarizing research, identifying health information needs, and developing and disseminating information resources. The MSKTC is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). Model Systems are funded by NIDILRR to conduct innovative and high-quality research, provide patient care, and offer services to improve the health and overall quality of life of individuals with SCI, TBI, and burn injury. For more information, visit [www.MSKTC.org](http://www.MSKTC.org).