

WHAT DOES A SPINAL CORD INJURY DO?

Injury to the spinal cord causes paralysis. Paralysis from a neck injury, usually impacting all four limbs, is called quadriplegia or tetraplegia.

A lower spinal cord injury paralyzes the lower half of the body and is called paraplegia. All body systems are at risk from SCI-breathing, bowel, bladder, temperature control and many others.

MEET THE TYPICAL SPINAL CORD INJURY (SCI) IN AMERICA

There are currently 250,000 Americans living with a spinal cord injury.

More than 11,000 additional people are injured each year.

Every 41 minutes another American sustains a spinal cord injury.

More than half of those injured are between the ages of 16-30 at time of injury.

80% of those with SCI are male.

CAUSES OF SCI:

44% Vehicular accidents

14% are the result of violence

23% are the result of falls.

9% sports injuries Sports

MONETARY COST OF SCI TO AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

ANNUAL DIRECT COSTS:

The national total of annual direct costs for spinal cord injury exceeds **\$14.5 BILLION**.

ANNUAL INDIRECT COSTS:

Loss or decrease of productive employment due to SCI cost this nation \$5.85 BILLION.

These costs amount to \$170 every year, for every single American taxpayer.

COSTS OF RESEARCH

America currently invests less than 1% of the costs of spinal cord injury into research that will potentially restore function and substantially reduce the costs of paralysis.

BENEFITS FROM RESEARCH

Spinal cord injury research benefits those with stroke, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, multiple sclerosis, transverse myelitis, traumatic brain injury and many other types of blow to

the central nervous system.

You or someone you love will benefit from this critical research.

Source:

<http://www.travisroyfoundation.org/pages/resources-stats.htm>

and

<http://www.spinalcord.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=21446>