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- ___ Brain Injury Basics
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Brain Injury Resources

- ABIN-PA InfoLine
800-516-8052 www.abin-pa.org
- Area Agency on Aging (phone book)
- BIAA Help Line
800-444-6443 www.biausa.org
- BIAPA Resource Line
866-635-7097 www.biapa.org
- Brain Injury Help Line 866-412-4755
(free literature, books)
- Disability RightsNetwork(SpEd,TBI,SS)
800-692-7443 www.drnpa.org
- Elks Nurses (PA) 814-781-7860
(care planning for children)
- Head Injury Program 717-772-2762
(1 year of rehab, \$100,000 max)
- Health Law Project 800-274-3258
(help with public benefits)
- Legal Aid (PA) 800-322-7572
- Meals on Wheels www.mealcall.org
- Medicaid Waivers 800-757-5042
(lifetime CommCare, OBRA, etc.)
- Medical Assistance 866-542-3015
(all disabled children are eligible)
- Medicare Coverage 800-633-4227
(24/7 line, A & B in-home services)
- Medicare Denials 800-322-1914
- Pittsburgh Area B.I. Alliance
412-761-9870 www.pabia.org
- Social Security 800-772-1213
(survivors, disability, low income)
- Special Ed Consult Line 800-879-2301
- Special Needs Unit 800-521-6860
(child federally entitled to rehab)
- Vocational Rehab www.dli.state.pa.us

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEADS TO BRAIN INJURY

215-699-2139
1-800-516-8052
info@abin-pa.org
www.abin-pa.org



**ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Battering often causes a concussion or injury to the brain.

Research indicates 66% of those who were battered have had a concussion or brain injury. This injury may interfere with decisions, remembering, making plans or getting help. Counselors must receive special training and develop special skills to be of help to a person with a brain injury.

Batterers often have a previous brain injury.

One study indicated that 48% of the batterers but only 5.9% of the general population had a prior history of concussion or brain injury. This prior injury may interfere with attempts to change behavior.

Prevent the “second hit” to reduce long term disability.

Having a second impact before the first injury to the brain has healed will greatly increase the risk of permanent deficits and may even cause death. Medical attention for each brain injury is essential.

Concussion—Signs

Dazed or stunned. Confused. Unsure of current situation. Clumsy movements. Answers questions slowly. Behavior or personality change. May forget events before, during and/or after the injury.

Concussion—Complaints

Headache. Nausea. Balance problems or dizziness. Double or fuzzy vision. Sensitive to light or noise. Feeling sluggish. Change in sleep pattern. Concentration difficult. Memory problems. Loss of taste or smell.

Long term effects...

COGNITIVE: memory. speed, word finding, concentration, judgment, spatial awareness, organization, planning, multi-tasking, reasoning.

PHYSICAL: seizures, balance, spasticity, weakness, paralysis. vision, hearing, speech, headache, fatigue, smell, taste, swallowing.

BEHAVIORAL: anxiety. depression. mood swings, impulsive, agitated, egocentric, unaware of others.

Injuries are cumulative...

Brain repair will be a little slower and a little less complete with each subsequent brain injury or concussion.

Action Plan

1. Secure a medical evaluation to detect and resolve bleeding in the brain, a skull fracture, spinal fractures, or other problems.
2. Seek brain injury rehabilitation under Medicaid, Medicare, health insurance, the PA Head Injury Program, the CommCare Waiver, or the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.
3. Prevent brain injury or a “second hit”. Plan for safety with a counselor who understands domestic violence and the deficits that may follow brain injury.

PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence

6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300,
Harrisburg PA 17112

Phone: 1-800-932-4632

TTY: 1-800-553-2508

FAX: 1-717-671-8149

LEGAL OFFICE: 1-888-235-3425

TTY: 1-800-553-2508

FAX: 1-717-671-5542

NATIONAL: 1-800-537-2238

TTY: 1-800-553-2508

fax: 1-717-545-9456

Services by County:

www.pcadv.org/Find-Help/Domestic-Violence-Services-By-County.asp