

Acquired Brain Injury, Mental Health & Substance Use: Partnering to Support Individuals with Complex Needs (March 9, 2022 webinar)

Key Messages

- A brain injury is a marker for complexity
 - Up to 75% of people attending programs for concurrent disorders have a history of brain injury with loss of consciousness (Hugo et al, 2017).
 - History of brain injury is associated with more and more severe psychiatric symptoms.
 - History of brain injury increases the risk of suicide three-fold.
 - Strongly associated with other social determinants of health including housing, poverty, social isolation.
- A history of traumatic brain injury with loss of consciousness is common in:
 - Non-institutionalized adults (1 in 5)
 - People seeking treatment for substance use (2-3 in 5)
 - Psychiatric inpatients (2-3 in 5)
 - Co-occurring disorders (3-4 in 5)
 - Precariously housed people
- Neurocognitive impairment may present as: missed appointments, apathetic, lack of empathy (demanding or rude), poor insight, difficulty managing emotions, gaps between 'say and do' (reluctance to plan "awareness", poor follow through, impulsivity).
- Recommendations for service providers:
 - Routine screening for brain injury and other sources of neurocognitive impairment
 - Learning to recognize when behaviours are the result of neurological challenges
 - Make programs more accommodating
 - View complexity as a rule
 - Develop care plans that include long-term supports
- Resources:
 1. HELPS screening tool: <https://abitoolkit.ca/assets/images/HELPS-tool.pdf>
 2. Ohio State University TBI Identification Method – Interview Form: <https://www.brainline.org/article/ohio-state-university-tbi-identification-method>
 3. Alcohol and drug cognitive enhancement (ACE) program: <https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/ace-program>
 4. Traumatic brain injury and substance use disorders: making the connections: <https://attcnetwork.org/centers/mid-america-attc/product/traumatic-brain-injury-and-substance-use-disorders-making>

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5. SUBI workbook 2.0:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb2bae2bb8af12ca7ab9f12/t/61c216a89268ca613d4bd917/1640109740567/SUBI+2+FINAL+508+accessible+12_16_21.pdf

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