

Brain Injury & Disability Resources

ABIN-PA InfoLine 800.516.8052
Abuse Reports—Age 0-18 800-932-0313
Abuse Reports—Age 18+ 800.490.8505
Aging/Disability Referrals 866.286.3636
Area Agency on Aging (blue pages)
BIAPA Resource Line 800.444.6443
BrainSTEPS (Local Intermediate Unit)
CareerLink (blue pages)
ChildrensHealthInsurance 800.986.5437
Consumer Protection 800.441.2555
Crime Victim's Benefits 800.233.2339
Defense & Veterans BIC 866.966.1020
Disability Rights Network 800.692.7443
DomesticViolence Hotline 800.799.7233
Elks Nurses (care plans) 814.781.7860
Epilepsy Foundation 800.887.7165
Head Injury Program 717.772.2762
(1 year of rehab, \$100,000 max)
Health Insurance www.healthcare.gov
or 800.318.2596
Health Law Project 800.274.3258
Independent Living Ctrs 717.364.1732
Legal Aid (PA) 800.322.7572
Legal Clinic for Disabled 215.587.3350
Meals on Wheels www.mealcall.org
Medical Assistance 800.537.8862
Medicare Coverage 800.633.4227
(Part A & B have in-home services)
Medicare Complaints 800.783.7067
Office of Vocational Rehab (blue pages)
OVR Complaints 888.745.2357
Social Security 800.772.1213
Special Ed Consult Line 800.879.2301
Special Kids Network 800.986.4550
Waiver Enrollment 877.550.4227
Waiver HelpLine 800.757.5042
Women's Law Project 215.928.9801

ABIN-PA Services

"Empowering Survivors & Families to Rebuild Their Lives."

InfoLine

Resources. Problem-solving. Support.

Advocacy

Individual. Government Affairs.
Nonprofit Coalitions & Collaboratives.

Education

Conferences. Presentations.
Staff Training.

Literature

Free Monthly Newsletter.
Brochures.
Booklets.
PowerPoints.

Website

Newsletter Archives & Sign-Up.
Print Literature.
"Our Stories."
Print Resource List by Birthdate.
Rehab Facility Search by Type.
Videos.

Brochure Categories

General
Children <21
Adults 18+
Families & Caregivers
Rehabilitation
Dual Diagnosis
Justice System

Brain Injury Advisory:
Justice System

JUVENILE JUSTICE & DMC



ABIN-PA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about acquired brain injury and to providing support, education, information, advocacy and other services for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families.

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA
InfoLine: 215.699.2139
Toll-Free: 1.800.516.8052
info@abin-pa.org
www.abin-pa.org

Brain Injury

Injured brain cells and networks interfere with normal cognition, emotions, behavior, and/or physical function. Brain injury rehabilitation is required for recovery.

Typical events

“Traumatic brain injury” refers to an assault, blast, child abuse, fall, falling object (baseball), tackle, whiplash, etc. “Anoxic” brain injury includes cardiac arrest and near suffocation, choking or drowning. Other events may involve alcohol, allergic reaction, anesthesia, bacteria, blood poisoning, brain surgery, carbon monoxide, cold, drugs, fever, heat, infection, Lyme, near electrocution, poisoning, seizures, smoke, stroke, virus, etc.

Recovery plan

- Initially, cognitive and physical rest decrease functional losses.
- Medical care is needed for the event causing the brain injury.
- Neuropsychology, cognitive rehabilitation therapy (CPT97532 in MA—evidence-based for cognitive recovery), OT, PT, neuropsychiatry, psychiatry, and Speech/Language Therapy are needed for functional recovery.

Functional losses

COGNITIVE: memory, speed, word finding, concentration, judgment, spatial awareness, organization, planning, multi-tasking, reasoning, predicting, reacting, processing, attention, reading, writing, math.

PHYSICAL: sudden and extreme fatigue, seizures, balance, gait, spasticity, weakness, paralysis, vision, hearing, speech, headache, smell, taste, swallowing, nausea, appetite, thirst, dizziness, one sided neglect.

BEHAVIORAL: anxiety, depression, mood swings, impulsivity, agitation, egocentricity, unaware of others, apathy, inertia, perseveration, unable to multi-task, frustration, rage, loss of self, anosognosia, apathy.

Brain resilience

Brain cells (neurons) network through branching dendrites that receive messages and axon tails that send messages. Glial cells nourish, guide and repair injured neurons and signals begin flowing again. Dormant cells revive, new routes are developed, and new cells appear as revealed by rat studies and human SPECT scans. This ageless repair & remodeling ability of the brain is termed ‘brain plasticity’.

Juvenile Justice & DMC

Many studies link traumatic brain injury (TBI) to justice-involved youth. One study even showed that, without rehabilitation, 1 in 3 adolescents with traumatic brain injury will be arrested within five years post injury. PA screenings of Bucks and Montgomery County youth in detention found 50% with TBI and PA will shortly screen all youth in detention under a federal grant.

Statistics have consistently shown a much higher rate of TBI among black male youth and the disproportionate greater presence of black males in juvenile justice (disproportionate minority contact). Could the two facts be related? Would juvenile justice numbers go down if all children were provided with brain injury rehab? Fortunately, Medical Assistance will pay for brain injury rehab but few are aware.

Recovery protocol

- HELPS Brain Injury Screening
- Neuropsychological assessment
- MD psychiatrist assessment
- Rehabilitation Team in Action
- Family Training
- BrainSTEPS (Intermediate Unit)
- At 18 and 21, adult options.