

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:
General

SOCIAL IMPACT



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

Missing signals

Your brain has 100 billion neurons plus 10 to 50 times as many glial cells for support, nourishment, repair and help in transmitting signals. When injured, brain cells stop transmitting signals to each other. This prevents neural networking and changes thinking, emotions, behavior and bodily functions.

Cell damage

Brain cells can be damaged by breaking the cell wall or interfering with the supply of blood, oxygen or nutrients. Cells are sensitive to pressure, temperature, and poison.

Common causes

These common causes of brain injury and may result in disability: alcohol, anaphylactic shock, aneurysm, anoxia, assault, AVM, brain tumor, carbon monoxide, cardiac arrest, diabetic coma, chemotherapy, concussion, dehydration, near drowning, drugs, electric shock, explosions, falls, gunshot, high fever, hemorrhage, hyperthermia, hypothermia, infection, malnutrition, poison, radiation, seizures, sepsis, shaking, stroke, suffocation, surgery, whiplash, etc.

Level of disability

The terms mild, moderate or severe indicate the intensity of medical care required, not a prediction of the level of functional disability. Functional recovery depends on many factors.

Functional disability

COGNITIVE: awareness, focus, judgment, memory, multi-tasking, organization, planning, reasoning, speed, word finding.
EMOTIONS: agitation, anger, anxiety, depression, mood swings, apathy.
BEHAVIOR: egocentric, impulsive, unaware of others, irresponsible.
PHYSICAL: balance, fatigue, smell, headache, hearing, incontinence, nausea, paralysis, seizures, spasticity, speech, swallowing, vision, weakness.

Reversing disability

Professionals can help re-establish breathing, swallowing, hand control, walking, memory, thinking, etc. They can also help survivors: understand and accept their limitations; re-learn academic, social, vocational skills; develop new interests and vocational goals; compensate for deficits; understand, accept and control emotions; minimize fatigue; and avoid cognitive overload and overreaction.

Common consequences

Each injury is different but some losses are common: home, family, savings, job, friends, independence. Additional risks include: re-injury, poverty, homelessness, jail (73% of inmates), suicide (5 times average rate at 15 years post), chronic traumatic encephalopathy, substance abuse and a misdiagnosis of mental illness or mental retardation.

Undoing consequences

- Family education and training
- Guardianship
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Brain injury screening/diversion in courts, prison/probation, schools, annual physicals, mental health system, intellectual disability system, homeless programs, substance abuse programs.
- Medical Assistance coverage for outpatient and residential brain injury rehabilitation.

Take action !!!

- Speak up for rehabilitation
- Promote accommodations
- Object to "harmless concussions"
- Assure equal services are provided to all equally disabled persons regardless of diagnosis.