



Family Violence and Brain Injury

Brain injury is one of the most unrecognized consequences of family violence, as research indicates that a person's face, neck and head are most frequently injured during physical family violence. The effects of these assaults can result in multiple brain injuries.

There may not always be physical signs that a brain injury has occurred. Many brain injuries go undetected and do not require a hospital stay, but can cause serious, long-term problems. Brain injury can result in physical, thinking or emotional changes that can alter someone's life forever.

- **Blows to the head or face occur in 50 to 90 percent of assaults.**

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

- **It is estimated that a woman is beaten every nine seconds in the United States.**

Brain Injury Association of America

- **Women of all races are equally vulnerable to family violence.**

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

- **40 to 60 percent of men who abuse women also abuse children.**

American Psychological Association, Presidential Task Force on Violence in the Family

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**Brain Injury
Association
of Minnesota**

Signs and Symptoms of Brain Injury

Physical, thinking and emotional changes from a family violence assault can occur immediately after an injury; however, it may take some time for the symptoms to appear. Because every brain injury is unique, so are the resulting symptoms.

A family violence assault can cause a brain injury with any combination of the following symptoms:

Physical Changes:

- Frequent headaches
- Fatigue
- Ringing in the ears
- Blurred or double vision

Thinking Changes:

- Short-term memory loss, such as forgetting names, numbers, or appointments
- Slowness in thinking; difficulty learning new tasks
- Problem-solving issues; trouble making decisions or frequently getting lost

Emotional Changes:

- More irritable or angry
- Laughing or crying more often
- More sad or depressed than before
- Difficulty sleeping

For Assistance and More Information

If you or someone you know has been involved in a family violence situation and brain injury is suspected, please contact the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota at 800-669-6442 or visit the Web site at www.braininjurymn.org.

On-site, customized training on family violence and brain injury is available for professionals – including advocate, legal, healthcare, law enforcement, and community-based staff. Call 800-669-6442 to schedule a training.

This information is for educational purposes and should not substitute medical advice. If you or someone you know is in immediate physical danger or needs medical attention, call 911.