



Traumatic Brain Injury

TBI Council of Washington



Have you had a Traumatic Brain Injury?

Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic Violence

Domestic violence (DV) can lead to a traumatic brain injury (TBI), because the head and neck are common targets in physical assaults within the domestic setting.

What is a traumatic brain injury (TBI)?

External trauma to the head or violent movement of the head that leads to brain damage, which can be caused by several things, such as, an assault, being shaken, or a fall.



What is domestic violence (DV)?

The intimidation, physical and/or sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior against another individual.



Have YOU been:

- **Shaken** severely?
- Hit in the **face**, **neck**, or **head**?
- Made to **fall**, then hitting your head?
- **Choked** or **strangled**?

**IF YOU SAID YES,
THEN YOU MAY HAVE
HAD A TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY.**



PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS OF A TBI INCLUDE:

- Headaches
- Vision Changes
- Dizziness **and/or** Balance Problems
- Fatigued **and/or** Easily Confused
- Head **and/or** Neck Pain



YOU MAY ALSO EXPERIENCE:

- Gaps in Memory
- An Inability to Focus **and/or** Pay Attention
- Lack of Motivation in Daily Life
- An Inability to Control Your Emotions
- Increased Sensitivity to Light **and/or** Noise



DANGER SIGNS OF A TBI FROM DV:

- Headaches that do not go away or get worse
- Extreme drowsiness or having a hard time waking-up
- Slurred speech, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Unusual behavior, restlessness, or agitation
- One pupil (eye) is larger than the other

THINK YOU HAD A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY?

- If you have been hurt in the head or choked, especially if you have **ANY** symptoms, seek **medical** attention.
- Connect with your local medical **and** support services.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE

WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.wscadv.org



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Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives