

Helping the Helpers: Addressing Knowledge & Service Gaps in IPV related TBI

Halina (Lin) Haag MSW, RSW, PhD Candidate
Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University
Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab, University of Toronto



Generously funded by the Council of Ontario
Universities, SSHRC, and CIHR



1 in 4 women in Canada will experience domestic violence over their life time

IPV is the primary cause of injury to women aged 15-44 in Canada

Perfect Storm Effect

1. Area of Violence
2. Type of Injury
3. Resultant Damage



Image source: econews.com

This perfect storm results in women left vulnerable to continued violence, exponentially compounding the damage to the brain in an ongoing cycle

Knowledge-to-Practice Network



Battered & Brain Injured: Identifying and Supporting Brain Injured Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Haag H.L. (co-PI), Sokoloff, S.,
MacGregor N., Broekstra, S., Cullen
N., (co-Is) & Colantonio, A. (co-PI)

- 84% reporting no previous TBI training or education relevant to their work with IPV survivors
- 95% significantly underestimated the prevalence of TBI in their client population
- General lack of understanding on how to recognize TBI and what information can and should be provided when TBI is suspected



Battered & Brain Injured Video Link

<http://abiresearch.utoronto.ca/research/batteredbraininjured/>

Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury: Addressing Gaps in Knowledge and Support



Colantonio A. (PI), Haag H., Sing G., Cullen N.,
MacGregor N., Samsa S., Brayton B. (Co-Is)



Abused & Brain Injured Toolkit

- Develop a TBI training/educational toolkit for use in agencies supporting women survivors of IPV
- Design and content informed by women survivors of IPV/TBI, EDs, program managers, and frontline staff

Community Partners:

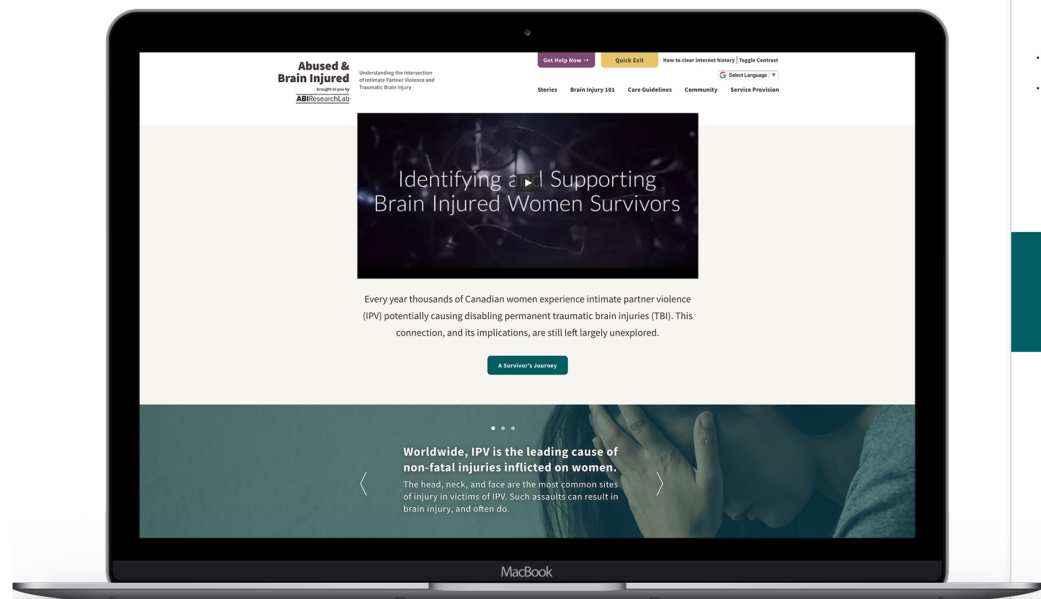
- WomenatthecentrE & Women's Habitat, Toronto, ON;
- The Cridge Centre for the Family, Victoria, BC.

What Did We Do?

- Stakeholder consultation in Phase 1
- Focus groups with direct service providers and survivors in Victoria & Toronto
- Individual interviews with Eds & program managers
- We asked:
 1. What content do you want in the toolkit?
 2. What format do you want it in?

Consultation Results:

1. TBI 101
2. Toolkit Format
3. Service Provision
4. Risk
5. Education Needs



Abused and Brain Injured: A Toolkit

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Abused & Brain Injured was created to draw attention to the widely unrecognized intersection of intimate partner violence and traumatic brain injury. In order to improve the lives of survivors as well as the working environment for front-line workers, this toolkit serves to provide information, resources, research and practice recommendations for providing trauma-informed service delivery.

This toolkit is currently part of a research project and is incomplete.

The Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant social issue. It is the leading cause of non-fatal injury experienced by women globally.³ The impact of IPV is even greater when it is combined with another major public health concern - traumatic brain injury (TBI). It is believed that between 35 to 80% of IPV survivors sustain a brain injury as a result of abuse by their partner.

[read more](#)

Who is this toolkit for?

Survivors and their friends and families

If you are a survivor, or a survivor's friend or family member, use this toolkit to learn about:

- TBI 101
- Survivor stories
- Regional service providers
- Mental health & TBI
- Communication & TBI
- Strategies to cope with TBI

Front-line workers

We want to help make your job easier. If you are a service provider, use this toolkit to learn about:

- Communication challenges & how to adapt
- Strategies for working with TBI/IPV clients
- Barriers & facilitating factors
- To screen or not to screen
- Care guidelines
- Referral resources

Brain Injury 101

Trauma-Informed Service Provision

Brain Injury 101

Trauma-Informed Service Provision

The purpose of this toolkit is to

This toolkit is provided as a source of information, not training.

- Educate front line workers and survivors about the impact of brain injury in women survivors of IPV.
- Give service providers suggestions to help them support women survivors with a TBI.
- Help identify survivors with possible brain injury.
- Provide referral resources.

NOTE: This toolkit is meant for educational purposes only. The information within it should not be used to diagnose or treat brain injury in your clients

Commonly Asked Questions

Search Questions

Thank you to our partners, funders and supporters

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions:

Candace Stretch, The Criddle Supportive Housing & Family Services

Janelle Breese Biagioni, The Criddle Centre for the Family Brain Injury Services

Reema Shafi, University of Toronto

References

- ¹McGee Investigators. "Prevalence of abuse and intimate partner violence on surgical evaluation (PMWG) in orthopaedic fracture clinics: a multinational prevalence study." *Lancet*, vol. 382, no. 9901, pp. 886-891, 2013.
- ²Botelod, D. and M. Callahan. *Holistic Crisis in Health Care: The Economic Impact of Violence and Abuse*. Elsevier, 2016.
- ³Yu, H., H. and M. Bhander. "Pattern of Physical Injury Associated with Intimate Partner Violence in Women Presenting to the Emergency Department: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 17-30, 2016.
- ⁴Brown, B., Luskash, L., C. Ross, and M. Carlin. "Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Domestic Violence: A Beginner's Guide for Professionals." *J. Forensic Sci. Clin. Invest.*, vol. 8, no. April 2018, 2018.
- ⁵K. Kessler, R. Glick, J. Campbell, K. C. Nelson, T. Best, and J. H. Gill. "Traumatic Brain Injury in Intimate Partner Violence: A Critical Review of Outcomes and Mechanisms." *Trauma, Violence, Abuse*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 133-138, 2011.
- ⁶M. Buzynski. "Section 3: Police-reported intimate partner violence," 2015.
- ⁷R. A. Peltier, S. E. Heston, G. W. Heston, and G. D. Dorn. "Reasons For Reporting And Not Reporting Domestic Violence To The Police?." *Criminology*, vol. 48, no. 3, pp. 437-448, 2010.
- ⁸New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. "Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic Violence." Albany, NY.
- ⁹J. Asherman and M. E. Banks. "Traumatic brain injury and disability as a consequence of assault: Focus on intimate partner violence." *Disabilities: Insights from across fields around the world*, vol. 2. The Springer, 2018, pp. 187-201, 2018.

Home

Stories

Brain Injury 101

Care Guidelines

Community

Terms of Use

This website has been developed by the Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab at the University of Toronto and all information of any kind that is made available on or through this website is provided for general information purposes only and should not be taken as medical advice, diagnosis or treatment recommendations. No information made on or through this website is intended to be a substitute for consultation, diagnosis, treatment, care, or advice provided by licensed health care or other professionals. Although the information made available on through this website is reviewed carefully, it may be out of date and its accuracy or validity is not guaranteed.

For more information, please visit our [Terms of Use](#).

Q&A

