

Meeting Clients Needs and Enhancing Communities Capacity

Peggy Reisher, MSW

Chair, United States Brain Injury Alliance

Executive Director, Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska



**Brain Injury
Alliance**
N E B R A S K A



**combined health
agencies drive**
MEMBER CHARITY

Brain Injury Alliance of NE

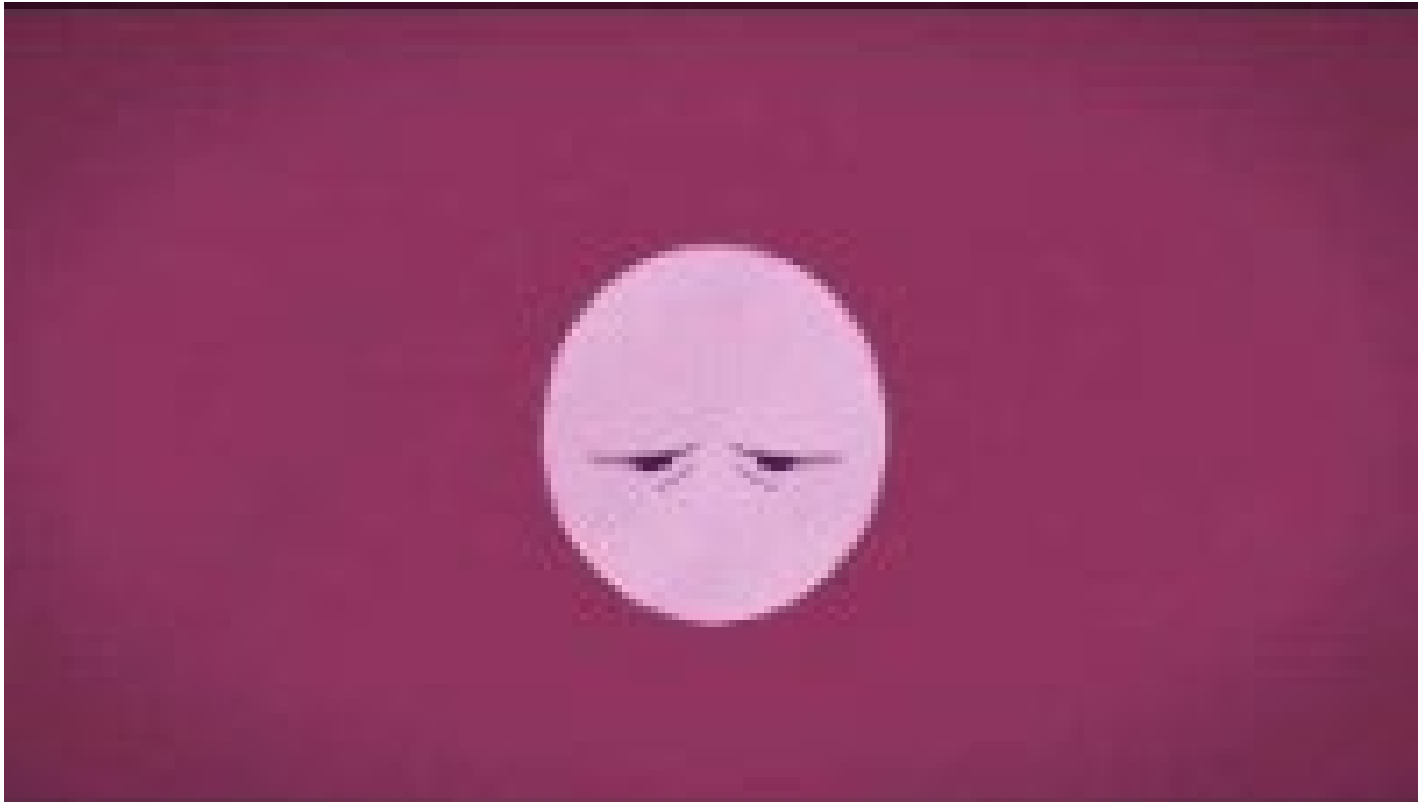
- Mission:
 - To create a better future for all Nebraskans through brain injury prevention, education, support, and advocacy
- Statewide Non-Profit
- Support individuals with Acquired Brain Injury
- No charge for services
- Staff size- 10 FTE
- Special focus on high-risk populations

Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska - Resource Facilitation

- Supporting clients
 - Brain injury-specific education
 - Connecting to support and services
- Building Systems Capacity
 - Education
 - Screening

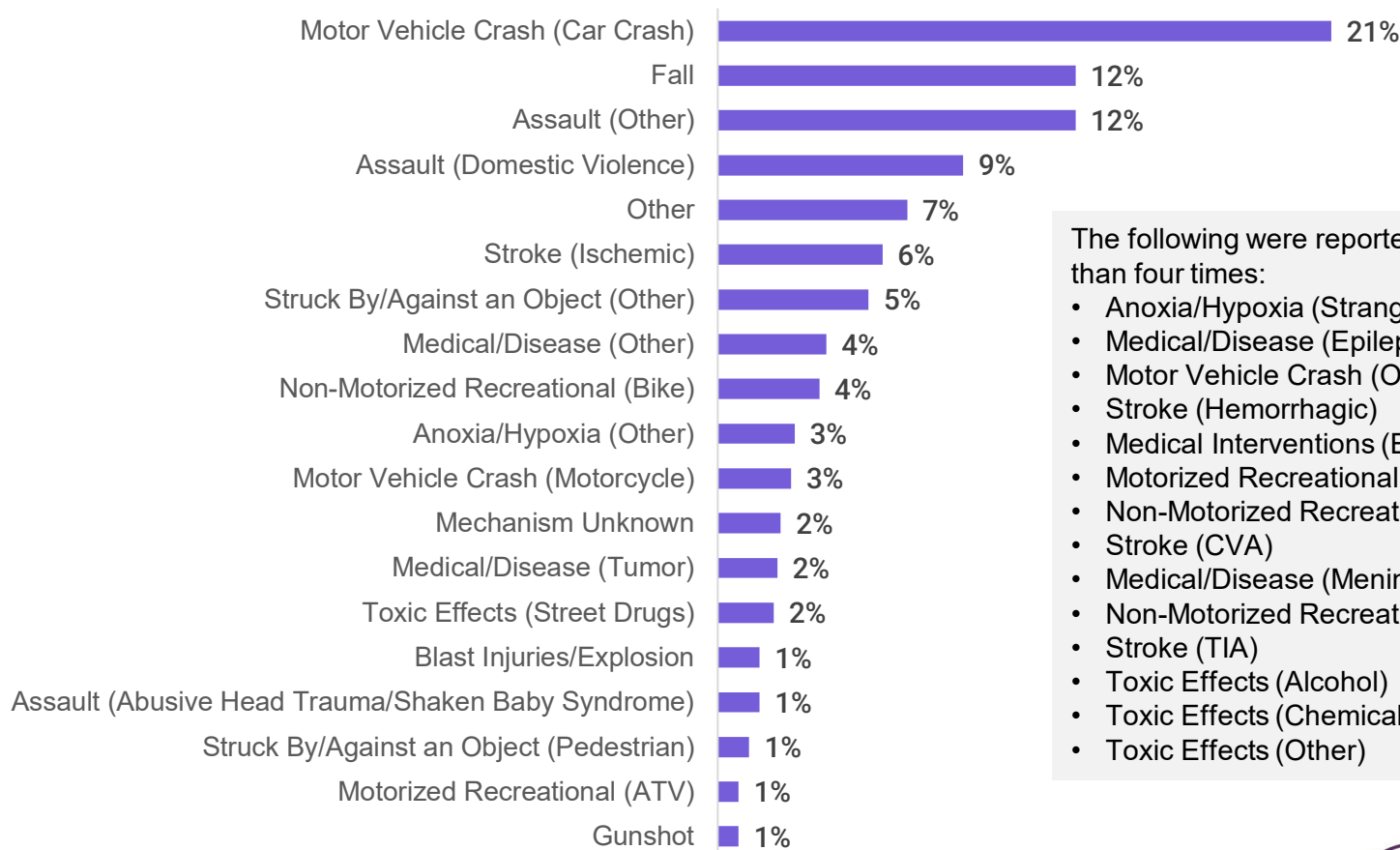


BIA-NE Resource Facilitation



Cause of Injury

Motor vehicle crash is the top reported cause of injury among 627 clients since July 1, 2021 (n=821 injuries)

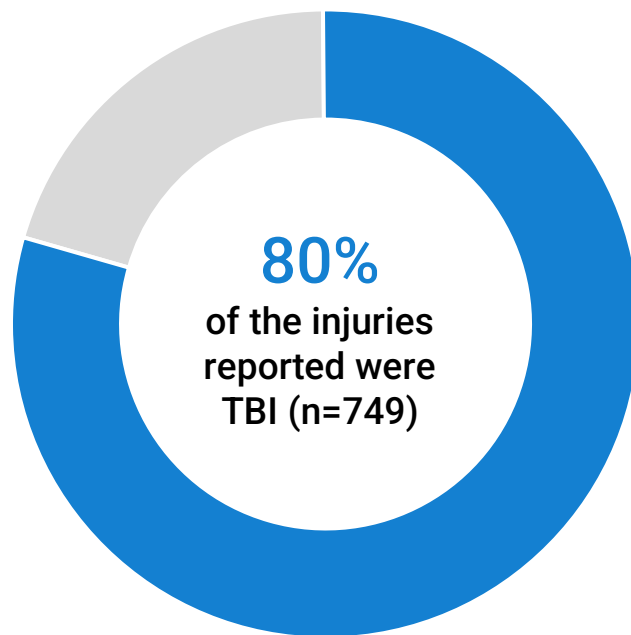


The following were reported at least once but less than four times:

- Anoxia/Hypoxia (Strangulation)
- Medical/Disease (Epilepsy/Seizure)
- Motor Vehicle Crash (Other)
- Stroke (Hemorrhagic)
- Medical Interventions (ECT Treatment)
- Motorized Recreational (Other)
- Non-Motorized Recreational (Skateboard)
- Stroke (CVA)
- Medical/Disease (Meningitis)
- Non-Motorized Recreational (Horseback)
- Stroke (TIA)
- Toxic Effects (Alcohol)
- Toxic Effects (Chemical Exposure)
- Toxic Effects (Other)

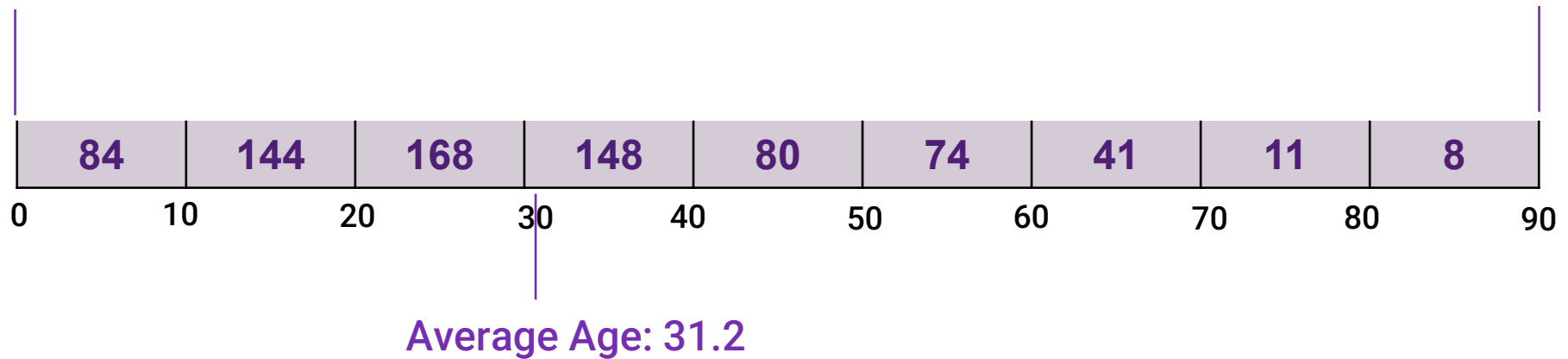


Serving all Acquired Brain Injuries



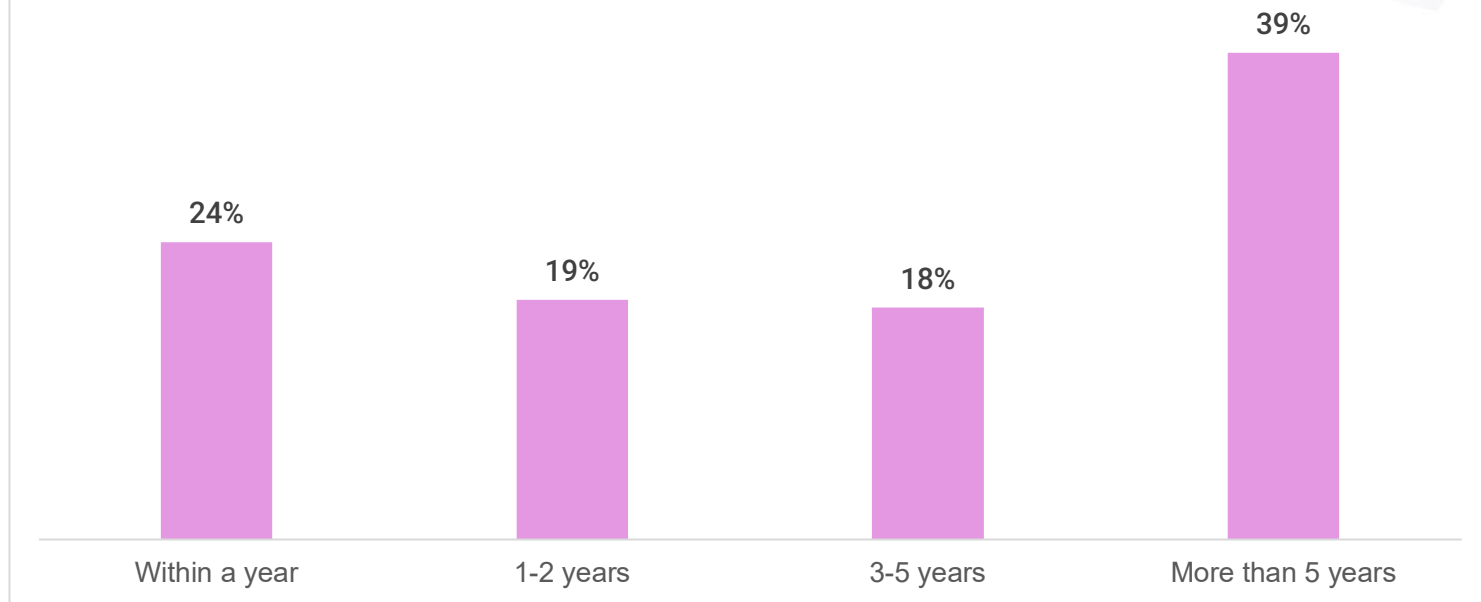
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Age at Time of Injury



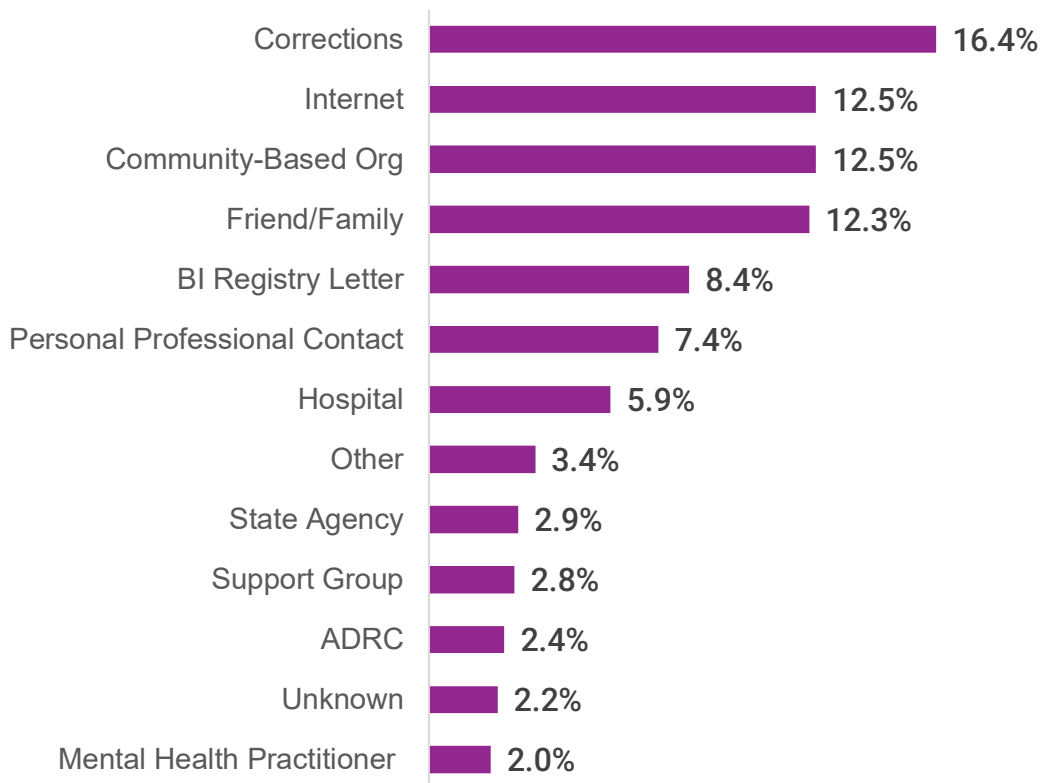
Time Since Injury

Among clients served between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, nearly one-fourth of them started Resource Facilitation Services within a year of their most recent injury (n=325)



Hearing about BIA-NE

Corrections is the most common way people hear about the BIA-NE, likely due to efforts happening in western Nebraska with county jails (n=902)

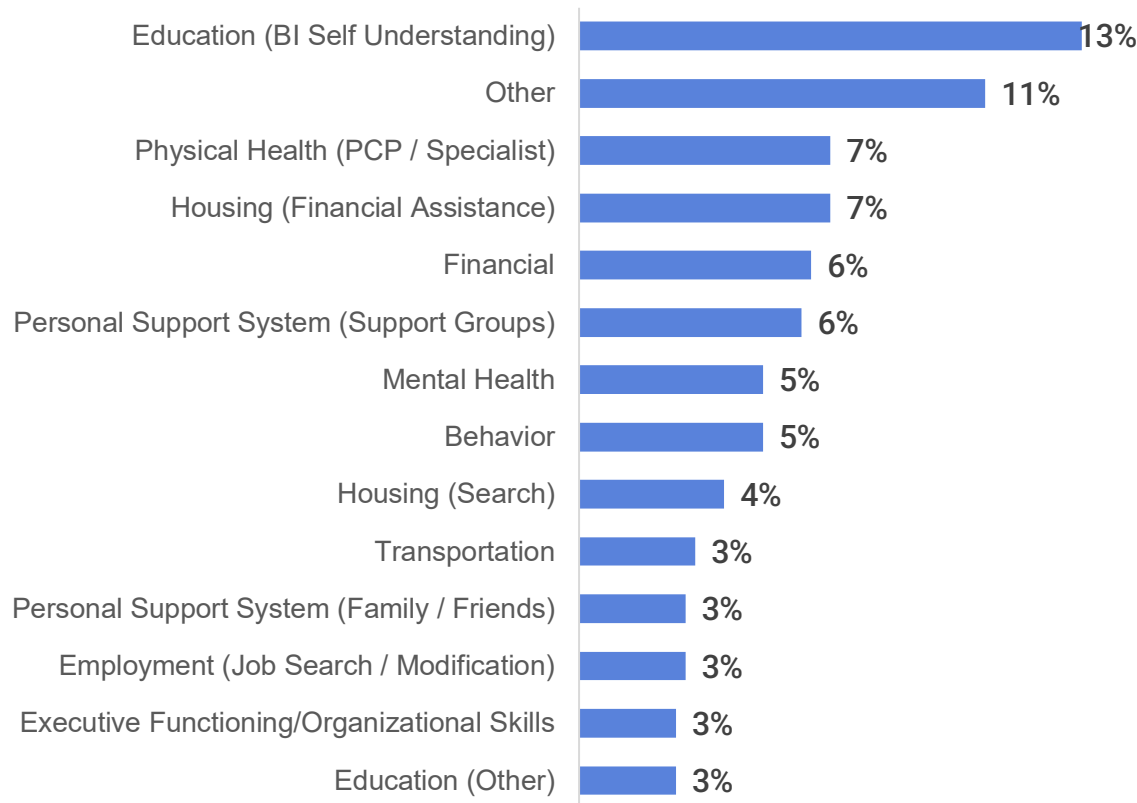


The following were reported at least once but less than 15 times, making it less than 2%:

- Domestic Violence Shelter
- Media - Other
- Agency on Aging
- Skilled or Long-Term Care Nursing Home
- Presentation/Event
- Primary Care Provider
- School
- Veteran's Affairs
- US-BIA Affiliates
- Legal
- Media - TV
- Early Development Network

Areas of Need

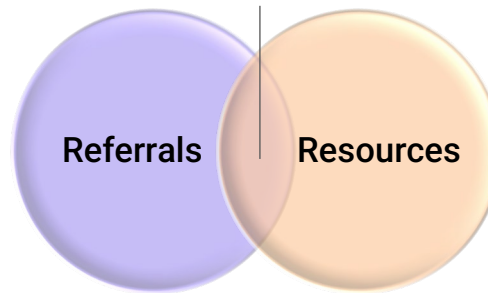
The most common area of need among clients related to needing to better understand their brain injury and its impact on their life (n=397)



Referrals & Resources

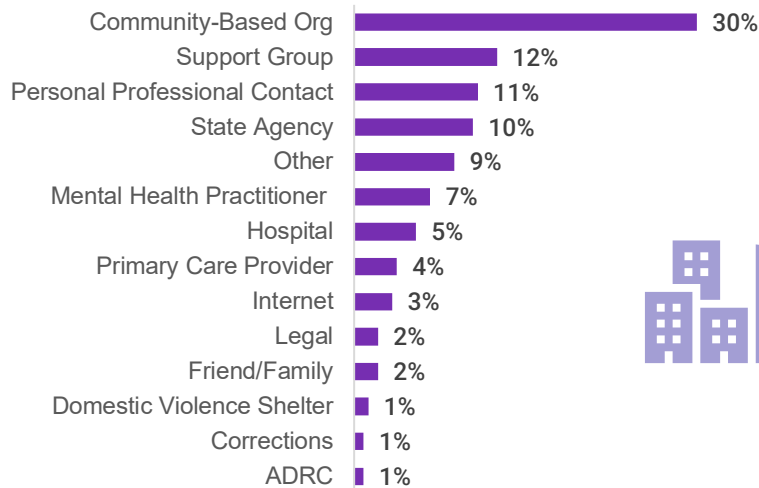
Resource Facilitators also provide their own expertise based on previous training, skills, and life experiences.

Referrals connect a client to a specific person or organization in which they can receive services or additional support.



These are informative or self-directed activities that a client can choose to use. Examples include a website link, handout, recorded training, or pamphlet.

The most common referral provided to clients was to community-based organizations (n=243)



Clients were referred to
112
different organizations

124



resource shares were
documented between July 1,
2022 and June 30, 2023

Building Systems Capacity

Populations at High Risk

Nebraska Data

- Victims of Domestic Violence- 58%
- Youth in Juvenile Detention- 67%
- Mental Health Programs- 77%



Modified OSU-Brain Injury Screening Tool

A script as you talk to someone about the possibility of a brain injury

- This screening tool *is not a medical evaluation and does not provide a diagnosis.*





Symptoms Questionnaire

<https://mindsourcecolorado.org/juvenile-symptom-questionnaire/>

- Memory Concerns
- Delayed Processing
- Attention
- Inhibition
- Physical and Sensorimotor
- Language
- Organization
- Mental Flexibility
- Emotional

DEFICIT	PROBLEMS ARISING	MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
	The person may...	You can...
Speed of Information Processing	• Take longer to complete tasks • Take longer to answer questions • Be unable to keep track of lengthy conversations	• Make allowances and give the person extra time • Present only one thing at a time • Not interrupt or answer for the person • Verify that the person is keeping up with the conversation
Fatigue	• Tire quickly (physically & mentally) • Have reduced tolerance/ability to cope • Become irritable • Have other problems exacerbated	• Encourage the person to take breaks • Schedule more demanding or essential tasks when the person is at their best
Mental Tracking	• Have difficulty following instructions • Lose track of what they are thinking or doing • Get information confused	• Keep activities short and uncomplicated • Ask specific or direct questions • Provide reminders of the next step or task
Memory	• Have difficulty learning new things • Be forgetful • Lose items • Have difficulty recalling what they've learned	• Repeat information as necessary • Encourage use of external memory aids (journals, calendars, time tables, etc.) • Maintain 'special places' for belongings • Give reminders and prompts to assist recall
Attention	• Appear not to listen and miss details • Forget what people have said • Have difficulties concentrating • Be unable to cope with more than one thing at a time • Be easily distracted • Change the subject often or get bored	• Shorten instructions/activities so they can be completed • Write down instructions accurately and in a way that can be easily understood later • Encourage the person to engage in only one activity at a time • Reduce external distractions • Bring the person's focus back to current task
Problem Solving	• Have difficulty working out solutions to problems • Be unable to generate new ideas • Have a disordered approach to problemsolving	• Help identify an achievable outcome for the task; ensure there is a purpose • Avoid giving open-ended tasks • Assist the person to break a task down into smaller components (one thing at a time) • Reduce the demands made upon the person

Communication	• Have trouble initiating conversation • Have trouble understanding non-verbal communication/body language; take statements literally	• Encourage participation by asking “What do you think about that?”; use open-ended statements such as “Tell me about...” • Give verbal cues to communicate intent of conversation • Use simple and direct language and avoid talking in abstract terms; avoid sarcasm
Planning & Organizing	• Have difficulty preparing for a task • Be unable to work out the steps involved • Have problems with organizing thoughts and explaining things to others	• Provide a written structure or guideline outlining the steps in order • Help develop a timetable (weekly, daily) to establish a routine of activities • Encourage the person to take time/think before they speak
Reasoning	• Have a rigid and concrete thinking style; take statements literally • Are resistant to change • Have simplistic understanding of emotions • Show poor judgment and poor decision making skills	• Explain changes in routine in advance, giving reasons • Avoid using emotional undertones • Provide real-life examples when offering explanations
Self-Monitoring	• Show poor adherence to rules • Not realize they have made errors • ‘Hog’ conversations; be verbose; keep talking when others are not interested • Have a lower tolerance for frustrating situations	• Provide feedback promptly and in a respectful manner when errors occur • Create and use signals to let them know when they are talking too much • Encourage taking turns in conversations • Gently redirect behavior to a different topic or activity

Content courtesy BIA-VA



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Wish List

Training Gaps

- Brain Injury Training
 - BI-specific training for medical professionals
 - Clients/patients be provided BI-specific handouts at medical appointments or upon discharge from the hospital
 - Partner with Advocacy Organizations (BIAA, USBIA) in your state to assist with training for community providers

Community-Based BI Program Data Evaluation

10 States (BIAA and USBIA) are using Salesforce to collect data on

- Cause of injury
- Gender
- Race/ethnicity

The potential of also getting data from

- Areas of need

States using Salesforce are:

- Colorado, Nebraska, Vermont, Arizona, Arkansas, North Dakota, New York, New Jersey, Iowa, and Maryland



Thank you for your attention. Questions?

Peggy Reisher, MSW
402-890-0606 (cell)
peggy@biane.org

