

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in the Criminal Justice System

From the Justice & Equity Lab

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Traumatic Brain Injury

Damage to the brain caused by an external force such as a blow to the head, a fall, a motor vehicle collision or a sports-related injury.¹

36-88%

TBI Prevalence in Adult Correctional Population²

12%

TBI Prevalence in Adult General Population³

(Re)arrest⁴

Perceived Non-Compliance⁶

Poor Supervision Outcomes⁵

Misunderstanding Process⁷

TBI and Criminal Justice Involvement

Stigma²

Fear of Judgement⁷

Disciplinary Charges^{6,8}

Complex Language⁷

In-prison Rule Infractions^{6,8}

Behaviour

Impulse control, Emotional (dys)regulation, & Changes in affect

Physical

Loss of consciousness, Dizziness, Balance, & Headaches

Communication

Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, & Thinking

TBI Symptom Domains²

Emotion

Heightened or blunted emotional response, Anxiety, Depression, & Difficulty with facial emotion recognition

Cognition

Attention, Memory, Processing, Reasoning, Problem Solving & Executive Functions

70%

TBI Prevalence Among Justice-Involved Women⁵

64%

TBI Prevalence Among Justice-Involved Men⁵

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