More than 90% of all injuries from domestic violence are to the head, neck, or face.

At least 30% of domestic violence victims report a loss of consciousness from abuse.

2/3rds of victims report they have long lasting problems from head injuries.

Women who seek medical attention for head injuries are 7.5 times more likely to be victims of abuse than women with other bodily injuries.

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**Facts about TBI and Domestic Violence**

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**How does DV cause TBIs?**

- Hitting the head with an object.
- Punching, kicking, or hitting the face or head.
- Shaking and whiplash.
- A push down stairs or on to the floor.
- Loss of oxygen from strangulation, suffocation, or attempted drowning.
- Banging head on the wall or headboard during assault.

**Side Effects of TBI**

- Depression, anxiety, loss of emotional control
- Difficulty communicating, inability to get along with others
- Increased risk taking, increased impulsivity
- Memory loss, impatience, socially inappropriate behavior
- Disorganization, poor motor function, personality changes
- Sleep disorders, headaches, migraines, hearing and vision changes
- Can mimic symptoms of trauma from abuse and/or mental illness so it can be difficult to identify

**When working with someone who may have a traumatic brain injury:**

- Be patient and minimize distractions
- Write down information to help with memory loss
- Assist in prioritizing goals
- Focus on one issue at a time
- Give the patient breaks in conversation to recover
- Use Yes/No questions when possible
- Ask if the injury is the result of domestic violence
- Provide resources for victims and survivors of domestic violence
- Provide support and validation

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**The Network**

**Traumatic Brain Injury from Domestic Violence**

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- but only 1 in 5 women seek treatment