

# North Dakota Brain Injury Network

## BRAIN INJURY & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Brain injuries are often referred to as the “silent epidemic” because symptoms are not always immediately evident



### DRUG OVERDOSE CAN CAUSE BRAIN INJURY

A drug overdose causes an individual to receive a lack of oxygen to the brain, which is referred to as a hypoxic brain injury. Damage can occur within minutes of an overdose.

### DO YOU KNOW HOW COMMON BRAIN INJURIES ARE AMONG PEOPLE RECEIVING TREATMENT?

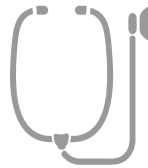
72%

Percentage of individuals in dual treatment for substance abuse and severe mental illness reported a history of at least one TBI

20%

Approximate percentage of individuals that begin using substances after an initial brain injury

### WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS?



### TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS NEED TO BE AWARE OF A HISTORY OF BRAIN INJURY IN INDIVIDUALS

It is important to screen for brain injury upon intake and coordinate an effective treatment plan with a multidisciplinary team of providers that have experience and knowledge about brain injury



### WE CAN HELP AT NDBIN

We can help locate providers, provide technical assistance for individuals you serve, connect individuals and families to resources, and much more



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