



# Importance of Brain Injury Screening

At the doctor's office, coma is often the marker of a Traumatic Brain Injury or TBI, but many people with mild brain injuries do not lose consciousness. In particular, youth do not lose consciousness like an adult does. It is a common myth that children are more resilient than adults, when in fact it just takes longer for their symptoms to develop because they are developing skills, rather than maintaining skills like an adult would.

**Some behaviors noted with brain injury, although some individuals may have more subtle symptoms:**

- poor judgement
- problems reasoning
- severe memory difficulties
- explosive temper
- hyperactivity unresponsive to treatment
- new learning problems
- problems making decisions
- extreme impulsivity

**When an individual has sustained multiple mild injuries, it has a compounding effect!**

Not everyone realizes they have a brain injury, even when the symptoms are chronic and impact their daily lives. Individuals may never connect that the problems they are dealing with may be due to a blow to the head—even one that occurred years earlier.

Studies have demonstrated that hidden brain injury is a contributor to increases in **homelessness, involvement with the criminal justice system, substance use and mental health disorders.**

When brain injuries are not identified, symptoms may be inappropriately attributed to other health or behavioral conditions. When this occurs, **appropriate treatment and symptom management is being missed.**

Establishing brain injury screening can help in seeking appropriate services and supports for individuals. This can also help prevent unnecessary hardships for those who are struggling with loss of ability and growing frustrations that can lead to further health problems.

**Contact NDBIN today to schedule your screening training!**

Carly Endres, Senior Project Coordinator  
North Dakota Brain Injury Network  
carly.endres@und.edu • (701) 777-8004



**NORTH DAKOTA  
BRAIN INJURY  
NETWORK**

**www.ndbin.org • (855) 866-1884 • info@ndbin.org**

# Brain Injury Services Roadmap



Who is eligible for NDBIN services? North Dakota residents that identify as having a brain injury.



**1<sup>st</sup> Stop:** Referrals can be made online at: <https://www.ndbin.org/client-referral> or by calling: 1 (855) 866-1884



**2<sup>nd</sup> Stop:** NDBIN (or trained support agency) will implement our brain injury screening

**3<sup>rd</sup> Stop:** If positive screen- continue on with our symptom inventory to help determine symptoms impacting survivor the most



**4<sup>th</sup> Stop:** Sign appropriate Releases of Information (ROI) related to needs from symptom inventory

**5<sup>th</sup> Stop:**  
Continue to receive support services from NDBIN

**6<sup>th</sup> Stop:**  
Talk to your primary provider about a referral for a neuropsychological battery

