



## Facts About Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Domestic violence can cause TBI as a result of being choked or hit in the head or face. Studies have estimated blows to the head or face occur in 50% to 90% of assaults. (1,2)

There may not be physical signs that a TBI has occurred. Many mild injuries do not require a hospital stay, yet the effects of the injury can change someone's life forever.

TBI can result in physical, cognitive and emotional impairments.

1Jackson, H., Philp, E., Nutter, R., and Diller, L. (2002) Traumatic Brain Injury: A Hidden Consequence for Battered Women, Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 33(1), p. 39-45.  
2Greenfield, L., and Rand, M., Violence by Intimates, NCJ-167237, US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, March, 1998.

## Causes

- Punched in the face or head
- Hit in the head with an object
- Pushed against the wall or other surface
- Shaken violently
- Falling and hitting the head
- Strangled/choked
- Shot in the face or head

An individual who experiences multiple brain injuries may experience more problems and symptoms and/or take longer to recover. Also, once the brain is injured, it leaves the person at risk of a second, more serious injury.

## Signs & Symptoms

- Persistent headache
- Confusion
- Neck pain
- Slowed thinking, acting, speaking or reading
- Short - term memory loss
- Trouble paying attention, concentrating, making decisions, solving problems
- Fatigue
- Loss of balance
- Blurred vision
- Ringing in the ears

Signs of TBI resulting from assault may show up immediately or may appear days or weeks after an attack.