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## Domestic Violence & Traumatic Brain Injury

This tip card provides information on one of the most unrecognized consequences of domestic violence: **Traumatic Brain Injury** (TBI).

## Domestic Violence & Traumatic Brain Injury

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## **Support Services**

Individuals who have sustained a brain injury may work with a team of professionals to get to the support they need. This may include:

Neurologists Neuropsychologists

Therapists Counselors

Psychiatrists Rehab Doctors (Physical Medicine)
Vocational Counselor Case Managers/Social Workers

Programs such as clubhouses and support groups may be able to offer additional assistance.

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## **Assistance & Information**

If you are the victim of domestic violence, call the Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline: **1.800.838.8238** (v/tty).

For more information abut brain injury and resources in Virginia, call the Brain Injury Association of Virginia: **1.800.444.6443.** 

Help, Hope & Healing **Facts About** Causes Signs & Symptoms **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**  Persistent headache Punched in the face or head Domestic violence can cause TBI as a result of being Confusion choked or hit in the head or face. Studies have •Hit in the head with an object Neck pain estimated blows to the head or face occur in 50% •Slowed thinking, acting, speaking or reading to 90% of assauts. (1,2) •Pushed against the wall or other surface •Short - term memory loss Shaken violently There may not be physical signs that a TBI has •Trouble paying attention, concentrating, making decisions, occurred. Many mild injuries do not require a hospital •Falling and hitting the head solving problems stay, yet the effects of the injury can change someone's life forever. •Fatique Strangled/choked Loss of balance TBI can result in physical, cognitive and emotional •Shot in the face or head Blurred vision impairments. Ringing in the ears 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 1 Jackson, H., Philp, E., Nutter, R., and Diller, L. (2002) Traumatic Brain Injury: A Hidden Consequence Signs of TBI resulting from assault may show up for Battered Women, Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 33(1), p. 39-45. immediately or may appear days or weeks after 2Greenfield, L., and Rand, M., Violence by Intimates, NCJ-167237, US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, March, 1998. an attack. injury. Help, Hope & Healina Help, Hope & Healina Help, Hope & Healina Help. Hope & Healina Help, Hope & Healing Help, Hope & Healing Help, Hope & Healina Help, Hope & Healing Help, Hope & Healina