



# Brain Injury & Substance Use

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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 It?

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.



[ndbin.org](http://ndbin.org)



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Information contained in this flyer comes from Corrigan et al., 1995; Kreutzer et al., 1996, Corrigan, J D, and J J Deuschle. "The presence and impact of traumatic ..." Brain Injury Journal, Mar. 2008, pp. 223-231.