

TBI in the Youth Justice System

Did you know...



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): a disruption in the normal function of the brain caused by a bump, blow, jolt to the head, or penetrating head injury.

Every 3 minutes someone sustains a TBI.
A concussion is a TBI.

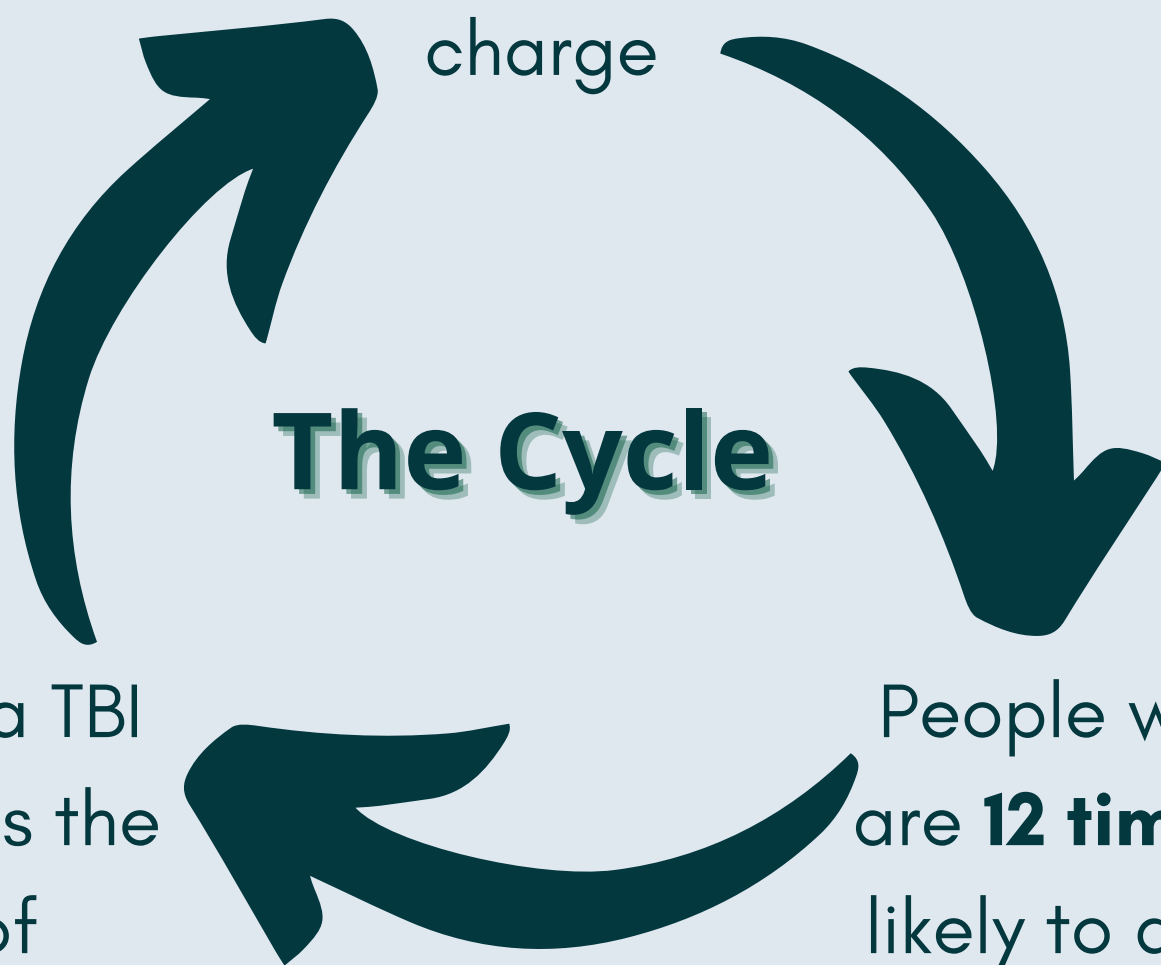


Young adults (18-28) with a history of TBI are **2.5 times** more likely to be incarcerated than those without TBI in Ontario.

As many as **50%** of youth in the justice system internationally have a reported history of TBI.



People with TBI are **14 times** more likely to incur a serious charge



Having a TBI increases the risk of recidivism by **69%**

People with TBI are **12 times** less likely to achieve discretionary release

Communication Challenges

- Missing or misunderstanding what is implied vs. stated
- Missing verbal or nonverbal social cues, including facial affect (emotion) cues
- Failing to understand complex sentences or complex ideas expressed orally or in writing
- Delayed or slow responses to questions; slow reading, writing, or speaking
- Simplification of spoken and written output, e.g., simple sentences, basic vocabulary
- Inappropriate comments, including comments that are off topic or on previous topics

Prevalent comorbidities with TBI : housing instability, mental health issues & substance use.

How can we help?



Have important conversations in a quiet room with limited distractions



Provide a brief summary of the main points after each section of the conversation



Speak slowly, calmly and use shorter sentences



Use visual aids such as pictures or maps or draw out a timeline



Instead of 'Did you understand', ask the individual 'tell me what you understand'



Write some notes to give to the client if they think it will be helpful



Let the individual know they can ask for repetition or clarification any time



Set up realistic reminder strategies



Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation
Fondation ontarienne de neurotraumatologie



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