Traumatic Brain Injury: A Cause of Recidivism in Men and an Effect of Domestic Violence in Women

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Introduction

- Traumatic Brain Injury: an external force or blow that penetrates the head, damages the brain tissue or disrupts normal brain functioning.
- In the United States, TBI has become a serious health concern. It is estimated that 1.4 million will require an ER visit, 235,000 will require hospitalization and 50,000 will result in death.
- It is difficult to collect data on TBI cases due to most injuries being mild, unreported and individuals choosing not to be examined by a physician.
- Individuals with TBI often become entangled in the criminal justice system and there is an association between TBI and re-offending.
- In addition, there is a relationship between TBI and being a victim of domestic violence.

TBI & Male Recidivism

- Violence and substance abuse associated with TBI can possibly result in an individual being involved in the criminal justice system (Ray & Richardson, 2017).
- Men with TBI are more likely to participate in a violent offense than men without TBI (Ray & Richardson, 2017).
- Minority status, prior arrests, TBI and ethnicity are associated with faster time to re-offend (Gendreau, Little, & Goggan, 1996).
- The strongest indicator of future criminal behavior following the primary years to prison release are participation in prior criminal activity and in the justice system (Gendreau, Little, & Goggan, 1996).

TBI & Female Victims of Domestic Violence

- TBI prevalence is anticipated to be a common consequence of domestic violence (DV) with the majority of injuries being unreported and difficult to detect (Hamburger, Rhodes, & Brown, 2015).
- In investigating the profile of an individual who is likely to become a victim of both domestic violence and TBI, studies indicate that females are more likely than males (Brain Injury Australia, 2018).
- Ninety percent of female DV victims experience head injuries 2 to 5 times a year with 25% reporting hits to the head 20 times or more in the past 5 years (Jackson, Philip, Nuttall, & Diller, 2002).
- In events where DV does occur, women with TBI face challenges and decreased cognitive function resulting in inability to make sound decisions to leave the perpetrator and seek help (Monahan & O’Leary, 1999).
- Women with DV-related TBI were more than 5.9 times likely to experience PTSD (Iverson, Dardis, & Pogoda, 2017).

Results & Discussion

- Upon being released from prison, men with TBI tend to be diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder, recidivate sooner post release, and have several prior arrests when compared to those without TBI (Ray & Richardson, 2017).
- Violence convictions for TBI female offenders were significantly higher in comparison to women offenders without TBI (O’Sullivan et al., 2015).
- 40 percent of females who experienced intimate partner violence suffered at minimum one TBI that resulted in unawareness and ninety-two percent experienced being hit in the head or face (Kwako et al., 2011).

Conclusion

- In conclusion, preliminary research suggests a strong connection between TBI and recidivism in men and TBI and domestic violence victimization in women.
- Further research is needed to determine reasons for the association between TBI and recidivism and domestic violence.

References


