UNDERSTANDING BRAIN INJURY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

What is a brain injury?

A brain injury is a disruption in the normal **functioning** of the brain that can affect the ability to think & solve problems or control behavior, emotions, & reactions



Signs & Symptoms

Fidgeting & squirming in seat; interrupting conversations; responding slowly to questions; talking excessively or off-topic; not following directions

Brain injuries can be caused by lack of oxygen to the brain as a result of strangulation and overdose; by medical conditions, such as strokes, infections, or brain tumors; or by a blow to the head

Difficulty interpreting non-verbal cues; making inappropriate eye contact; violating personal space; poor self-awareness

Research indicates 32% to 72% of justice-involved youth have a history of brain injury.

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/AZ.html

Resource

For more information about brain injury training, resources, and screening tools contact Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska at

844-423-2463



Difficulty remembering more than one thing at a time; difficulty remembering details; difficulty following directions in sequential order; disorganization

Behaving impulsively or aggressively; reacting emotionally or becoming angry easily; defiance or disobedience

WHY SCREEN

FOR TBI?

Accommodations

Awareness & **Understanding:** Provide concrete feedback; avoid the use of humor & sarcasm

> **Organization**: Offer assistance with completing forms; utilize checklists; break complex instructions into steps

Attention: Use verbal cues (e.g., "look" and "listen") and be sure you have eye contact before speaking; reduce distractions & talk in a quiet environment if possible (e.g., single holding cell, patrol car, office or conference room, etc.)

> **Memory**: Provide directions or communicate one point at a time; repeat information if needed; provide information in written form where possible



If an adolescent's TBI goes unsupported...

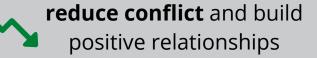




increased risk for mental health and behavioral issues

If an adolescent's TBI is identified & treatment is modified...







NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HEAD INJURY ADMINISTRATORS

MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network & University of Denver Graduate School of Professional Psychology. Cognitive Strategies for Criminal Justice Professionals. Retrieved from

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rz92ae6n5vdpt7yGsgn_8CaWesugx

Crisis Prevention Institute. (2018). CPI's Top Ten De-Escalation Tips. Retrieved from https://www.crisisprevention.com/Blog/CPI-s-Top-10-