

How do you reach us?

For more information on the Acquired Brain Injury Partnership Project, please contact:

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Did you Know?

- > Every year there are approximately 16,000 hospitalizations as a result of traumatic head injuries.²
- > Every day in Canada there are approximately 42 hospital admissions for traumatic brain injuries.²
- > Twice as many males as females experience brain injuries.
- > Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) has provided funding for the Partnership Project since 1996.
- > Saskatchewan Health and SGI provide funding for the Community Injury Prevention Grants Program.
- > The ABI Partnership Project hosts an annual brain injury conference called “Brain Trust”.

1. SP Research Associates. (1992). *Planning for the Needs of People with Acquired Brain Injury in Saskatchewan*. Regina, SK: Unpublished.
2. Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2006). *Analysis in Brief: Head Injuries in Canada: A decade of change*. Available from www.cihi.ca

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Partnership Project

“A Strategy for
Services”

... serving individuals with
acquired brain injury, their
families and their
communities

What is an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)?

An acquired brain injury (ABI) is the result of damage to the brain by injury or illness. A blow to the head, disease, infection, lack of oxygen, penetration of the skull, violent shaking (e.g., Shaken Baby Syndrome, whiplash), and substance abuse can all cause an ABI.

The actual injury to the brain results when bruising, bleeding, swelling, fever, lack of blood/oxygen, shearing/tearing of cells, and/or increased pressure occurs.

Some possible symptoms/effects of an ABI include:

- > memory loss;
- > attention deficits and problems with concentration;
- > problem solving deficits;
- > anxiety or depression;
- > behavioral or personality changes;
- > poor balance, paralysis, problems sitting or walking;
- > decreased motor control;
- > change in vision, hearing, taste, smell and/or touch;
- > headaches;
- > seizures;
- > emotional outbursts; anger/impulse control problems; impaired speech;
- > loss of consciousness; and
- > death

How Severe is the Injury?

There is no completely accurate way to predict how fully a person will recover from a brain injury. Often the injury will be diagnosed as mild/concussion, moderate or severe. This diagnosis helps to estimate the level of recovery.

For traumatic brain injuries, the assessment of severity is based on the survivor's ability to respond to others (as measured by the Glasgow Coma Scale), or to remember new information (as determined by post-traumatic amnesia).

An ABI can lead to either local or diffuse damage. Local damage is said to happen when only one area of the brain is affected. In this case, the survivor may only experience a few changes. Diffuse damage is when several areas of the brain have been affected. The survivor usually realizes many changes due to this more global damage.

The severity and result of an ABI will vary depending on the amount and location of the brain damage. Symptoms/effects may be short term or long term, and may require life long support and monitoring.

What is the Acquired Brain Injury Partnership Project?

Saskatchewan Health and Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) have established a unique partnership to create a coordinated and integrated continuum of community-based services for individuals with an acquired brain injury and their families.

These services and programs enable clients, families and caregivers to receive education, rehabilitation, life enrichment, residential and vocational services as close to their home communities as possible. There are a number of programs located throughout the province, including three outreach teams. These services are delivered by Regional Health Authorities and Community-Based Organizations.

Injury prevention programs have been funded throughout the province in an attempt to prevent some of the approximately 2,200 brain injuries that occur in Saskatchewan each year.¹ A community grant program was developed to enable groups to establish, enhance and/or deliver programs that address issues in their communities related to traffic safety and injury prevention.

“The only cure for brain injury is prevention.”