

Brain Injury Screening through the Area Agency on Aging in Rural Nebraska

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Purpose

The purpose of this project is to:

- ▶ Provide information to service coordinators at the Area Agency on Aging about brain injury
- ▶ Train service coordinators on the use of a brain injury specific screening tool
- ▶ Gain feedback from the service coordinators about the process
- ▶ Present data regarding how many AAA clients had potential brain injuries (e.g., number, severity)

Methods

► This project consisted of 5 parts:

- 1) The researchers conducted BI education and administered the pre/post misconception survey.
- 2) The researchers conducted the BI screening tool training.
- 3) The service coordinators utilized their BI education and screening tool training by administering the OSU TBI-ID to clients.
- 4) Researchers conducted follow-up interviews with the service coordinators three-months after **completion of screening tool training and screening of AAA clients.**
- 5) ***Follow-up education was completed about: services available for BI survivors, the scope and purpose of SLP services and provided a list of local therapy providers.**

Methods-Continued

- ❖ Misconceptions Survey (Gouvier, Prestholdt, & Warner, 1988)
 - Modified for Service Coordinators
 - **25** true/false statements about brain injury and the recovery process **in results says 11**
- ❖ OSU TBI-ID screening tool
 - Consists of 6 questions.
 - Structured interview format is designed to elicit lifetime history of TBI.
 - Avoids misunderstanding about what a TBI is by asking about injuries, then determining if a TBI may have occurred.
 - Provides richer information about history than simple “yes/no” (e.g., number, severity, effects, timing, etc.)
- ❖ OSU TBI-ID Training Slides

Results - Service Coordinators

- ▶ Service Coordinator Participants increased their knowledge of BI in the areas of:
 - Recovery process, BI sequelae, Disorders of consciousness
- ▶ On the pre/post survey scores increased from 6.42 average to a 9.0 (out of 11)
 - That the screening would be easy to do on an on-going basis with all clients. “It would be just another form...” “Once you’ve done it over and over I don’t see it not being user friendly...”
 - *That they would like more information about what services are available for people with BI.
 - They cited minor changes to the OSU TBI-ID **form** that would make it more ‘user friendly’.

Results-Screening for TBI

- ▶ AAA Clients
- ▶ Response of “Yes”, indicating an injury and *potential* Brain Injury (BI)
 - Incidences: 45/99 (45%)
- 4 more participants reported “dazed” or “memory gap” symptoms bringing our total of certain TBI survivors to 14/ 28 (50%).

Time Unconscious	Severity	# of Participants
<30 min.	mild BI	7/28 (45%)
30 min.-24 hrs	Moderate BI	2/28 (7%)
> 24 hours	Severe BI	1/28 (3.6%)

Data Collection In Progress Positive Screens

- ▶ North Platte: 183 participants
 - ▶ 76 participants with positive screens
 - ▶ 42% with positive screens
 - ▶ 21 participants with 2 or more injuries
- ▶ Scottsbluff: 231 participants
 - ▶ 38 participants with positive screens
 - ▶ 16% with positive screens
 - ▶ 6 participants with 2 or more injuries

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