

Domestic Violence Hurts the Brain

Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury is when a person's brain is hurt by strangulation or blows to the head while experiencing domestic violence.

This can cause traumatic brain injury (TBI). Most survivors and the professionals who work with them have never considered this.

Victims often can't get medical care and injuries aren't identified, so they can't be treated.

Head trauma affects health, emotions, and thinking in confusing and life-changing ways, and makes it harder to get help.

ODVN and The Ohio State University interviewed survivors in five Ohio DV programs¹

85% of survivors had been hurt in the head

49% were hurt too many times to count

83% had been choked or strangled

71% were choked or strangled more than once



The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury

This project of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network provides statewide, national and international leadership to raise awareness on the emerging area of brain injury caused by domestic violence.

The Center works to increase collaboration among systems and provide training, technical assistance, consultation, research, and resource development for researchers and practitioners.

For more information, contact Founder and Director Rachel Ramirez at rachelr@odvn.org.

¹ Nemeth JM, Mengo C, Ramirez R, Kulow E, Brown A. Provider Perceptions and Domestic Violence (DV) Survivor Experiences of Traumatic and Anoxic-Hypoxic Brain Injury: Implications for DV Advocacy Service Provision. Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma. 2019;28(6):744-763.