

Topic

Acquired brain injury (ABI) among men in a high-secure forensic hospital

Key question

What is the relationship between ABI and offending behaviour?

Project aims

ABI is associated with both criminal activity and major mental illness. Forensic psychiatric patients have much higher rates of ABI than the general population. Despite this, to our knowledge, only one previous study had considered the characteristics of forensic patients with a history of ABI.

Therefore, this study aims to expand what we know about ABI and its risk factors in forensic patients. Using data from Waypoint's cohort study of men admitted to the hospital's Forensic Assessment Program, we examined documented reports of ABI among men in forensic care. We identified risk factors and investigated their relationship with aggressive and criminal behaviour.

Activities

- Conducting a retrospective chart review of all admissions to Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care from January 2009 to December 2012 (637 total).
- Collecting data on ABI, psychiatric diagnoses, developmental disadvantage, criminal offending, and in-hospital aggression.
- Assessing risk factors by which men with ABI can be identified.
- Identifying differences related to ABI in offending history and in-hospital aggression.

Helpful terms

- **Acquired brain injury (ABI):** Any injury to the brain sustained after birth.
- **Forensic Assessment Program:** A Waypoint program assessing individuals' fitness to stand trial, criminal responsibility, potential for future risk, etc.

Principal investigator: [N. Zoe Hilton, PhD, CPsych](#)

 WaypointResearchInstitute@waypointcentre.ca

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