

listening sessions to gather input from community members across Iowa about life after brain injury. Over 90 individuals living with brain injury, family members, service providers and other advocates participated in the listening sessions.

Through a facilitated SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, this report provides a high-level overview of the key themes that emerged. [Read report.](#)

BIAA is Updating the Practical Guide for Families



The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is updating the Practical Guide for Families, and they would like to hear from you!

As they work on incorporating new information, content, and resources to the Practical Guide, they want to know: what worked well for you or your loved one after brain injury? Whether that included installing light switch dimmers to help with light sensitivity or adding labels to your kitchen cabinets to help with remembering what goes where, or adding a wheelchair ramp or roll-in shower to improve home accessibility, they want to know what helped you in your brain injury journey as you or your loved one came home after being in the hospital or inpatient rehab.

[Share your helpful tips](#) and be included in the updated Practical Guide for Families.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to recognize the widespread impact of abuse and honor survivors. Domestic violence can take many forms—physical harm, emotional abuse, financial control, or isolation. Survivors are at especially high risk for brain injury from blows to the head or strangulation, which may cause long-term problems with memory, concentration, mood, and daily functioning. Too often, these injuries go undiagnosed, leaving survivors without proper treatment or support. Recognizing the signs of brain injury and connecting survivors to care is critical for safety and healing. Together, we can break the silence and bring visibility to this hidden issue—learn more, share resources, and stand with survivors.

Written by: Alexis Tharp, BSW, CBIS, BIAIA Neuro Resource Facilitator

[Understanding Domestic Violence as a Cause of TBI](#)

Causing traumatic brain injury as a tactic of abuse has been significantly overlooked, putting people at risk for problems right away – and potentially in the long term. Domestic violence is a common cause of TBI for women in particular, who constitute the majority of victims; however, it is important to

remember that there also exists a spectrum of people who may have TBI from domestic or other types of relationship-related violence. [Learn more.](#)

~~[TBI Among Women and Girls: A Research and Clinical Imperative](#)~~

Women and girls experience traumatic brain injuries (TBI) through a range of mechanisms, yet their experiences have historically been underrepresented in research and clinical practice. On **November 10 from 3 to 4 p.m. ET**, speakers will explore the unique ways TBI affects women and girls, highlighting gaps in epidemiological data, the role of social determinants of health, and the need for biologically informed, life-course-based research. Participants will gain insight into current challenges and opportunities for advancing equitable care, policy, and evidence-based interventions.

[Register here.](#)

[Brain Injury Organizations Release Joint Statement on Improving Communication about Brain Injury](#)

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators and a group of brain injury organizations and advocates have released a joint statement aimed at improving how brain injuries are discussed and understood. The guidance document, titled *Communicating about Brain Injury*, was developed collaboratively by healthcare providers, researchers, and people with lived experience of brain injury.

The statement defines brain injury and its causes, explains that brain injury can become a long-term chronic health condition, and notes that brain injury may sometimes result in disability. The statement also includes 12 things to consider when talking about brain injury. First among ideas to consider is that the traditional classification system of mild, moderate, and severe is overly simplistic and fails to predict long-term outcomes or recovery paths. This follows recent developments in the field of brain injury to introduce a new classification system.

People with brain injuries should be seen as whole individuals and should be actively involved in decisions about their care. This joint statement highlights the importance of recognizing that brain injury effects can be dynamic, sometimes improving or changing over time, and that supportive relationships and lifestyle choices can significantly impact recovery outcomes. The guidance was created by a diverse group of leading brain injury organizations including NASHIA, the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's Brain Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group, the Brain Injury Association of America and their Brain Injury Advisory Council, the North American Brain Injury Society, PINK Concussions, members of the former US Brain Injury Alliance, and the TBI Model Systems.

For more information and to view the statement, visit <https://biausa.org/CommunicatingAboutBrainInjury>.



34th Annual Best Practices in Brain Injury Services Conference

“The Playbook for Change: From Challenge to Triumph”

March 12 - 13, 2026
West Des Moines, Iowa

Scan QR code to submit proposals or use this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/vGX5SCrqXX>



We're looking for presenters who can lead engaging sessions during the

[34th Annual Best Practices in Brain Injury Services Conference](https://forms.office.com/r/vGX5SCrqXX). This is your chance to share your knowledge, tools, and stories! Scan the QR code or use the link below to submit your session proposals:

<https://forms.office.com/r/vGX5SCrqXX>

SAVE THE DATE

Preventing Childhood Injury Conference

Hot Topics in Pediatric and Youth Injury

November 17, 2025
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Iowa Methodist Medical Center
Education & Research Center
1415 Woodland Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

COMING BACK to Des Moines!

Blank Children's Hospital
UnityPoint Health
A Department of UnityPoint Health - Des Moines - Iowa Methodist Medical Center

The poster features a central image of diverse children smiling, surrounded by colorful circles. The text is arranged on a green and blue background.

Join this year's **2025 Preventing Childhood Injury Conference** in Des Moines, Monday, November 17th, 2025. Register today by following this link: <https://events.unitypoint.org/4P1dQRr7/4a2jKhG9dB>

Webinars

FREE CEU opportunities available for these webinars!
Visit our [webinar page](#) to learn more and register.

TALKING WITH DOCTORS OR PROVIDERS MADE EASIER

KELLI CARNAHAN,
Communications/Training Coordinator - ASK Resource Center

WEBINAR
November 20, 2025
12:00-1:00 PM CST

NAVIGATING LIFE AFTER BRAIN INJURY: HOW DISABILITY RIGHTS IOWA CAN HELP

Disability Rights Iowa

WEBINAR
December 3, 2025
12:00 - 1:00 PM CST

Support Groups



Our support groups are where individuals can connect, share experiences, and find encouragement. Together, we provide understanding, resources, and community to help one another navigate challenges and celebrate successes. Visit our [Support Group page](#) for more information.



Educational Topics Survey

What topics related to brain injury would you like to see in upcoming webinars hosted by the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa? Your feedback is valued and appreciated! [Participate in the survey.](#)



Call for Webinar Proposals

The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is looking for presenters to deliver webinars on topics related to brain injury treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and support. Presentations can target professionals or survivors and their loved ones. [Submit proposal](#)

Brain Injury Resource Facilitation



Brain Injury Resource Facilitators are available to serve Iowans; to answer questions and connect those with a brain injury to resources and information. [Learn more about this program.](#) BIAIA is one call away.

[BIAIA Satisfaction Survey](#)



Our mission at the Brain Injury Association of Iowa is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, advocacy, education, research and support. Join us on our platforms to obtain the latest and most relevant information pertaining to brain injury.