Women who live with an abusive partner may be subject to frequent unreported and untreated physical violence involving the head. Such violence may lead to traumatic brain injury (TBI).

1 in 2

Women are more likely to seek shelter than medical attention after a violent incident due to safety concerns.

TBI IS ASSOCIATED WITH:

- Memory Problems
- Physical symptoms (nausea, dizziness, pain, ringing in ears, vision problems, headaches)
- Mood changes (anger, depression)
- Difficulty sleeping

Repeated TBIs may lead to longer recovery times and have more serious consequences.

WOMEN WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES ARE BEST SUPPORTED BY:

- Allowing time for rest in a quiet dark place
- Keeping meetings brief and to a minimum
- Encouraging her to seek medical attention
- Providing travel assistance to attend appointments outside of the shelter
- Offering to accompany her to appointments
- Reviewing safety plans often and in detail
- Providing notebooks, calendars, agendas to support her efforts to be organized
- Being realistic about her abilities and limitations. Everything may take longer and she may be easily frustrated.
- Seeking support from local brain injury association

In Ontario call 1-800-263-5404 · Obia.ca

Shelter teams understand that women who have experienced intimate partner violence related traumatic brain injury may have trouble:

- Assessing danger
- Making decisions related to safety
- Remembering and getting to appointments
- Learning new information
- Managing substance use
- Adapting to living in a shelter

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