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What constitutes 'brain injury'?

The term 'hidden disability' very aptly describes Brain Injury (BI) where the residual cognitive and psychological symptoms mean people with BI are regularly seen as being drunk, drugged, inappropriately behaved or mentally ill.

Brain Injury constitutes brain damage acquired since birth either through natural causes or a traumatic incident. The most common natural cause is a stroke but other causes include encephalitis, brain tumours and loss of oxygen to the brain. Traumatic incidents compromise physical damage to the head and/or brain from things such as road traffic and other accidents, assault, and drug or alcohol misuse.

What are the possible effects of BI?

- Anxiety, depression and difficulty controlling anger
- Memory and concentration problems
- Physical disability
- Extreme fatigue
- Loss of senses such as sight
- Relationship issues arising from the above

What are the possible effects of BI?

- There were **348,934** UK admissions to hospital with ABI in 2013-14. That is 566 admissions per 100,000 of the population
- ABI admissions in the UK have increased by **10%** since 2005-06
- There were approximately 956 ABI admissions per day to UK hospitals in 2013-14 or **one every 90 seconds**
- In 2013-14, there were **162,544** admissions for head injury – that equates to 445 every day, or **one every three minutes**
- **Men** are **1.6 times more likely** than women to be admitted for head injury. However, **female** head injury admissions have risen **24%** since 2005-06
- In 2013-14, there were **130,551** UK admissions for **stroke**. That is an **increase of 9%** since 2005-06 and equates to **one every four minutes**

Ref: A report by Headway UK with foreword by Professor Alan Tennant, May 2015

www.headway.org.uk

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