

Common Causes of Brain Injury:

- Motor Vehicle Accidents (50% of all cases)
- Falls
- Sporting and Recreational Accidents (contact sports, biking, skiing)
- Physical Violence (mugging/assaults, gunshot wounds, shaken baby syndrome)
- Anoxia (loss of oxygen to the brain/suffocation due to such causes as near drowning, cardiac arrest, carbon monoxide poisoning)
- Toxic Ingestion (poison, drug overdose)
- Disease or Illness (brain tumor, aneurysm, infection such as encephalitis, meningitis)

A CONCUSSION IS A BRAIN INJURY!

Some of the Possible Symptoms of Brain Injury:

- Loss of consciousness
- Spasticity/Tremors
- Persistent Headaches
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Mental/Physical Fatigue
- Poor Coordination
- Sleep Disturbance
- Confusion
- Personality Changes
- Dizziness
- Visual Disorders
- Slurred Speech
- Hearing Disorders
- Seizures
- Balance Disorders
- Paralysis
- Mood Swings
- Easily Distracted

Diminished:

- Attention Span
- Level of Awareness
- Concentration
- Information Processing
- Reasoning/Insight
- Problem Solving Skills
- Self Esteem
- Initiative
- Social Skills
- Self Control
- Planning Skills

Difficulties With:

- Memory
- Communication
- Lack of Foresight
- Judgment
- Organization
- Response Time
- Decision Making
- Depression
- Anger/Denial
- Frustration/Anxiety
- Sexual Dysfunction

Headway of WNY, Inc.
2635 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216

THE BEST CURE IS
PREVENTION, THE
BEST PREVENTION IS
AWARENESS

An estimated 5.3 million Americans are living with disabilities resulting from brain injury.



We are a support and advocacy agency for persons with brain injuries, other disabilities and seniors.

Headway of Western New York, Inc.
2635 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216

Phone: 716.408.3100

Fax: 716.882.1289

Email: support@headwayofwny.org
headwayofwny.org

**You are not alone.
Move forward with Headway.**



facebook.com/headwayofwny

What is Headway?

Headway of WNY, an affiliate of People Inc., is a non-profit support and advocacy agency whose **mission is to ensure that individuals in WNY with brain injuries and other disabilities have access to advocacy, resources and support systems to enable them to live as independently as possible. We seek to educate the community about the causes, consequences and means of prevention of brain injury.** Originally started by survivors of brain injury and their families, **Headway wanted to insure that others finding themselves in this life-altering situation would have somewhere to turn for help.** Early in our history, we advocated for more local services to give people an alternative to institutional care. As a result, we were one of the agencies instrumental in beginning the TBI Medicaid Waiver, created to assist survivors of brain injury ages 18-64 to live in the community and avoid nursing home placement. We have been the local regional Resource Development Center, helping to coordinate these services in WNY since 1995. Our success with the TBI waiver program led to an expansion of services, and we now coordinate the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver through the NYS Department of Health to provide assistance in a similar way for people with all types of disabilities who wish to live in the community.

In addition, we offer a range of services, including information, a quarterly newsletter, education, referrals, and peer support. If you need help or further information, call us at 716.408.3100. There is no fee for most services.

Headway is committed to providing services for Veterans and their families, particularly those with Traumatic Brain Injuries. Please call us!

United Way donor designated agency

What is Traumatic Brain Injury?

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an insult to the brain caused by an external force that produces a diminished or altered state of consciousness. It can result in debilitating cognitive and physical impairments which may cause partial or total functional disability or behavioral problems. These impairments may be temporary or permanent. TBI results from a blow to the head, a violent head motion or a violent shaking of the head which results in an open or closed head injury. Open head injuries (i.e. gunshot wound) result when an external object pierces the skull and penetrates the brain tissue. Closed head injuries (i.e. concussion) result when there is an injury to the brain but the skull is left intact. This occurs when the head undergoes a violent motion causing the brain to bump the inside of the skull or brain nerve fibers and blood vessels to stretch, tear or twist. Brain injuries are also the result of certain medical conditions which affect the supply of blood and oxygen to the brain or cause structural and biochemical changes in the brain tissue.

What we do:

Referrals/Resources

We help link individuals to professional services, facilities and programs. A Resource Guide for Brain Injury services is available. Additionally, we publish an informational newsletter and have speakers available on topics of interest.

Support/Support Groups

Support is provided by volunteers on a 1:1 basis in person and by phone. Groups meet regularly to provide support for survivors of brain injury, including groups for peers, caregivers, those dually diagnosed with brain injury and mental health issues, as well as for Veterans.

Education/Advocacy

A Speaker's Bureau is available for talks with schools, community agencies and other groups on topics related to brain injury, awareness and prevention. Headway of WNY is a member of the Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS), a statewide non-profit membership organization that promotes prevention and advocates on behalf of individuals with brain injuries and their families. BIANYS plays a central role in the development of public policy on the federal, state and local level.

Regional Resource Development Center

This is funded through the NYS Department of Health to help develop services for people with brain injuries and other disabilities, and for seniors. Programs include:

- **TBI Waiver Services:** Providing community support to Medicaid eligible individuals ages 18-64
- **Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver Services:** Program to offer Medicaid eligible persons with disabilities, ages 18 and over, a way to live in the community and avoid nursing home placement.

Membership Information

Help support our mission by becoming a member of Headway. Membership helps us continue providing outreach and support in a variety of different ways, including: monthly support groups, in-services, presence at health fairs and other outreach activities throughout the community. Additionally, we publish an informative quarterly newsletter that provides informative, relevant and timely information and covers topics specific to our members' needs and interests.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Help support our mission by becoming a New Member or renewing your Current Membership today!

Membership Type

<input type="checkbox"/> New	___ Individual	\$20
	___ Family	\$45
	___ Professional	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	___ Supporting	\$125
	___ Lifetime	\$250
	___ Corporate	\$350

Please consider supporting our efforts with a Tax Deductible Donation (Headway is a 501c3 Organization):

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make your check payable to:
Headway of WNY, Inc.
2635 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216

Make A Difference... Be A Headway Volunteer

Assistance is welcome in many areas: fundraising activities, recreational events, newsletter preparation, educational presentations and general office work. If you are interested, please call 716.408.3100.