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The Correlation between Traumatic Brain Injury and Incarceration Among Adult Males in the United States

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The Correlation between Traumatic Brain Injury and Incarceration Among Adult Males in the United States

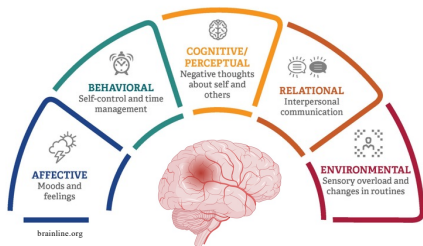


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Background

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) interferes with the normal function of the brain
 - Altered mental status
 - Emotional control
 - Aggression and violent behavior
- Increasing TBI-related hospitalization and death over the past decade
- Prevalence of TBI among young male in the U.S.: 3.2 million
- TBI in prison:
 - Male incarcerated population: 93%
 - More than 46% with TBI
 - 100% prevalence of TBI among death row



Methods and Materials

- Databases:
 - PubMed, SCOPUS, EBSCOhost, and Google Scholar
- Searched terms:
 - “Traumatic brain injury” and “Male incarcerated population” and “U.S.”
 - “Violence” and “TBI” and “Prison population in the U.S.”

Results

Among the incarcerated male population,

- TBI increases the prevalence of:
 - Alcohol and substance abuse
 - Homelessness
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Domestic violence
- TBI associated complications
 - Attention deficit disorders
 - Antisocial and uninhibited behavior
 - Harsher punishment
 - Longer sentences
 - Higher rate of re-incarceration



Conclusion

- The negative impact of TBI on health, mental capacity, and behavioral status
- Direct correlation between TBI and incarceration rate among adult male
 - Higher with more aggressive charges
- Criminalization due to underlying TBI instead of receiving proper treatment
- Solutions:
 - Identifying and treating TBI within the community
 - Instituting a partnership between the judicial system and healthcare providers to care for offenders with TBI
 - Implementing thorough medical and physical examinations prior to incarceration
 - Establishing more rehabilitation facilities

Discussion

Multidisciplinary approach of this review serves as a resource for:

- Educating officers, medical professionals, social workers
- Understanding Inmates’ challenges
- Addressing inmates’ needs
- Avoiding further damage to offenders’ psychological and social well-being

Limitations

- Self-reported data
- Difficulty accessing correctional facilities
- Lack of data on the impact of socioeconomic status
- Lack of data gathered by modern methods such as MRI



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