



Victimization of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury or Other Disabilities:

A Fact Sheet for Friends and Families

What is victimization?

Victimization is harm caused on purpose. It is not an “accident” and can happen anywhere. While anyone can be victimized, people with disabilities are at greater risk for victimization than people without disabilities. This fact sheet provides a general overview of victimization and the risks to people with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other disabilities.

What does victimization include?

- Physical violence with or without a weapon
- Sexual violence of any kind including rape
- Emotional abuse, including verbal attacks or being humiliated
- Neglect of personal needs for daily life, including medical care or equipment

How often does victimization occur?

- In the United States, people with disabilities are 4 to 10 times more likely to be victimized than people without them.
- Children with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be victimized as children without them.

What is known about victimization?

- The two most common places for victimization are hospitals and at home.
- Victims usually know the person who harms them. They can be health care workers, intimate partners, or family members. More men than women cause harm to people with disabilities.

Why are people with a TBI at risk for victimization?

A TBI may cause problems that can increase risk. Known problems include:

- Difficulty understanding risky situations or avoiding risky persons



