

Press Release: TBI and Violent Behavior in Females

Men are often thought to be more aggressive and violent than women. Regardless of whether this is true or not, male and female brains are equally fragile in violent situations. There is abundant research on males who suffer from traumatic brain injury (TBI) and their subsequent increase of aggressive behavior. However, to look the other way, this recent study by Michelle O'Sullivan et al. reviewed the relationship between traumatic brain injuries and violence in females.

TBI is the most common form of an altered mental state. Previous research on causes and consequences of neurodisability in males showed a positive correlation between males with TBI and violent behavior. Therefore, due to the lack of research on females with the same affliction, O'Sullivan et al. systematically reviewed the strength of observed research of the relationship.

The databases PsychINFO, Scopus, and PubMed were used to find 153 articles, though only six met the correct criteria. Three of the six articles found a positive relationship between violence and TBI in females specifically. The remaining found no significant difference in gender in the context of post-TBI violence. This suggests that females display similar behavior as males after experiencing a TBI.

Other factors that could attribute to this conclusion are psychiatric comorbidities and childhood abuse; therefore, it is to be concluded that the lack of evidence suggesting an association between post-TBI violence in women is insufficient. However, key findings from this study indicate the necessity for further research to understand possible correlation.