

OPIOID USE & BRAIN INJURY

The connection between opioid use and brain injury is two-fold:

- ➔ When too many opioids are taken, a person's breathing can slow or stop. A brain injury can occur after just 5 minutes without oxygen.
- ➔ On the other hand, a person with a brain injury may feel symptoms that increase their likelihood of over-using opioids. In the United States, 70-80% of people with brain injuries leave inpatient rehab with a prescription for opioids.¹ People with moderate to severe injuries are 10 times more likely to die from an overdose.



11,591 South Carolinians were diagnosed with an opioid disorder in 2020. From 2019 to 2020, the number of opioid-related deaths in the U.S. rose **59% - from 876 to 1,400.**²

HOW TO HELP

An overdose may leave a person feeling different than their normal self and can lead to a brain injury. They may also experience temporary or permanent mental and/or physical difficulties.³

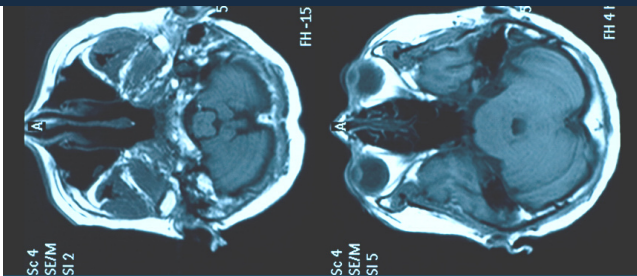
Symptoms of brain injury can include:

- Foggy thinking
- Dizziness and balance issues
- Slurred speech and memory issues
- Seizures
- Hearing and vision loss

BIASC is supporting South Carolinians throughout the opioid epidemic by:

- Conducting a needs assessment
- Providing education and outreach
- Providing information and referral to available community resources

Sources: 1.) Maryland Department of Health; 2.) Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona; 3.) South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control



Brain Injury Association of South Carolina (BIASC) is the “voice” of brain injury in South Carolina. Our mission is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, and advocacy.

BIASC serves the community by offering support, education, and outreach.

RESOURCES

Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

 www.daodas.sc.gov

Department of Health and Environmental Control

 www.scdhec.gov

CONTACT US



opioidoutreach@biaofsc.com



Toll-Free:
1-877-TBI-FACT



www.biaofsc.com

