Struggling with substance use is hard enough on its own, and it can be even more difficult for someone with a brain injury. If you feel your patient or client may have experienced a brain injury, please refer them to the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona. We're here to help.

The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona works with survivors and family members to provide them the guidance and resources they need to navigate life after a brain injury

Call our
Statewide Neuro Info-line
1 (888) 500-9165

or email us at
info@biaaz.org

The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona (BIAAZ) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to working to prevent brain injuries and enhancing the quality of life for brain injury survivors and their families through resources and information.

What began in 1983 as a grassroots effort has grown into a strong statewide presence, providing valuable life-long resources and community support for individuals with all types of brain trauma at no charge.

BIAAZ Highlights:

- Works with Congressional Brain Injury Task Force
- Houses Arizona Brain Health Resource Center
- Hosts Statewide Opioid Use Disorder & Cognitive Impairment Workgroup
- Has Statewide Opioid Use Disorder & Cognitive Impairment Response team with peer support, training, and family wraparound services
- Facilitates Brain Health Advisory Council
- Manages statewide Neuro Info-Line

5025 E. Washington St., Ste 108
Phoenix, AZ 85034
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BIAAZ.org • info@biaaz.org

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AFTER AN OVERDOSE

Caring for Patients & Clients with Lasting Repercussions

Brain Injury Alliance
ARIZONA

Making the invisible visible since 1983

Statewide Neuro Infoline
1 (888) 500-9165
BIAAZ.org • info@biaaz.org

Death is not the only danger of an overdose.

During an opioid overdose, breathing may slow or even stop. This reduces or cuts off oxygen to the brain, which can cause hypoxic or anoxic brain injury.

While Narcan saves lives, some statistics show that up to one-third of people revived with Naloxone have needed to use it multiple times, meaning they may also have experienced multiple brain injuries.

Not only does every overdose increase the risk of death, but the chance of lasting damage to the brain increases exponentially.

If you believe your patient or client has experienced an overdose—

Here are some signs that indicate possible brain injury:

- Foggy Thinking
- Dizziness or Disorientation
- Balance Issues
- Slower Processing Speeds
- Judgment Issues
- Slurred Speech
- Change or Disruption in Sleep Patterns
- Headaches
- Irritability
- Mood & Personality Problems
- Memory Issues
- Trouble Reading/Writing
- Seizures
- Vision and Hearing Issues

Opioid misuse may also increase chance of traumatic brain injuries caused by falls, vehicle accidents, blows by/against an object, assault, intimate partner/domestic violence, and child abuse.

If you believe your client has a brain injury, let the BIAAZ be your partner for screening and free resources. Call us to get started!

Other ways to accommodate brain injury survivors for greater success:

- Observe attention span and capacity for new learning.
- Assess their ability to hear, speak, read and write.
- Consider other ways to communicate.
- Give instructions one step at a time.
- Use planners and set alarms.
- Try a quieter environment or different lighting.
- Non-compliance may be a result of injury, not a lack of willingness.