# Intersections of brain injury

## Under/unemployment

Brain injury (BI) poses major barriers for individuals to make a living, which can result in loss of income and financial strain. One-third of adults living with BI identify managing money and paying bills as a significant area of concern. Financial and career struggles amount to the most significant obstacles to meeting rehabilitation needs and pose a barrier to community participation.

Low income & brain injury

Multiple studies have established a correlation between poverty and reduced income levels with an elevated likelihood of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Research shows that individuals living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods face a greater risk of hospitalizations due to TBI in comparison to those in more affluent areas.

Career impacts

An Ontario Brain Injury Association report found that 75% of respondents indicated they were employed before their BI. However, 87% indicated that they are not currently employed following a BI.

Effects of under/unemployment

Unemployment and underemployment—which is common after BI—can lead to poor psychosocial outcomes, decreased community integration, and economic dependence.

The way forward

We need to develop holistic, realistic, and individualized plans inclusive of employees, employers and workplaces, aimed to bridge duties and abilities and provide support over the long-term. By prioritizing these areas, we can strive towards fostering greater opportunities for individuals affected by BI, ensuring their meaningful participation in the workforce and broader society.

For more info, visit braininjurycanada.ca