

# NeuroResource Facilitation for Incarcerated Individuals with Brain Injury:

A Demonstration Project to  
Improve Re-Entry



**BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION**  

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**OF PENNSYLVANIA**

[www.biapa.org](http://www.biapa.org)

# Brain Injury in Prisons and Jails

- Studies show 25-87% of inmates report having experienced a Brain Injury (CDC)
- HRSA reports that 60% of inmates have had a history of brain injury prior to incarceration



# Impact of Brain Injury in the Correctional System

- Effects of brain injury can appear to be lack of cooperation or disrespect
  - Failure to respond quickly to directives
  - Inability to initiate requests for assistance
  - Difficulty remembering prior discussions
  - Inconsistent attention
  - Difficulty following directions
  - Difficulty learning routines
  - Difficulty expressing needs
  - Impulsivity, emotional dyscontrol



# Implications for Inmate Population

## Prisoners with brain injuries

- May be miscategorized as having mental illness
- More likely to have disciplinary problems during incarceration or poor adjustment to prison life or rules
- Tend to get kicked out of groups
- Fail at programs or parole



# Why should Brain Injury-Related Problems be Addressed after Release from Jails and Prisons?

- Lack of treatment and rehabilitation for inmates with mental health and substance abuse problems while incarcerated increases probability of alcohol and/or drugs abuse when release
- Brain Injury left untreated can lead to
  - homelessness
  - return to illegal drug activities
  - re-arrest
  - increased risk of death after release

# *NeuroResource Facilitation for Prison Inmates with Brain Injury to Improve Re-Entry*

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant  
Pennsylvania Commission on  
Crime and Delinquency



# *NeuroResource Facilitation for Prison Inmates with Brain Injury to Improve Re-Entry*

## Project goals:

- Identify inmates who have brain injury
- Plan and develop services that will help them to be successful upon release from prison
- Coordinate with Re-Entry staff (DOC, Probation and Parole)
- Follow up post-release to ensure implementation of the plan.



## Parole and Probation

To ensure public safety, offender accountability and victims' rights through effective community corrections.

# Participation Criteria

- Within 6-10 months to maximum date
- Within 6-10 months to minimum date with institutional support for parole
- Willing to participate
- Plan for release to Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester or Delaware County
- Focus on THU, also take referrals from Treatment Specialists



# NeuroCognitive Testing

- Administered to individuals who screen positive for an event that could have caused a brain injury
- Goal is to determine whether there are impairments associated with the events that are likely to interfere with success in the community.



# NeuroResource Facilitation

- Brain injury education and training of corrections staff and community resource organization staff members
- Cognitive support to assist inmate to maximally benefit from the content of the workshops
- Identification of programs in the community that the inmate would like to pursue upon re-entry and determine steps to pursue them
- Determine the inmate's goals and needs regarding a productive daily activity pattern when released from prison.
- Identify community resources to support these goals and facilitate connections to them
- Coordinate Re-Entry efforts with DOC and Parole Staff



Consider appropriateness and assist with applications for:

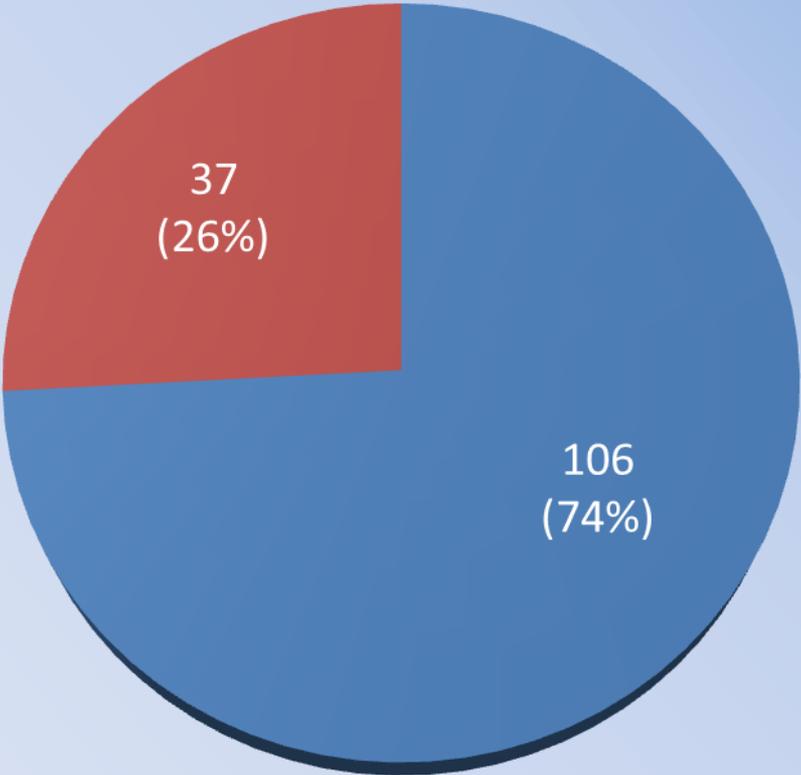
- OVR
- Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services
- PA Head Injury Program
- CommCare Waiver
- OBRA Waiver
- Independence Waiver
- SSI/SSDI
- Veterans Benefits

Facilitate referral to brain injury providers

# Summary of services to date

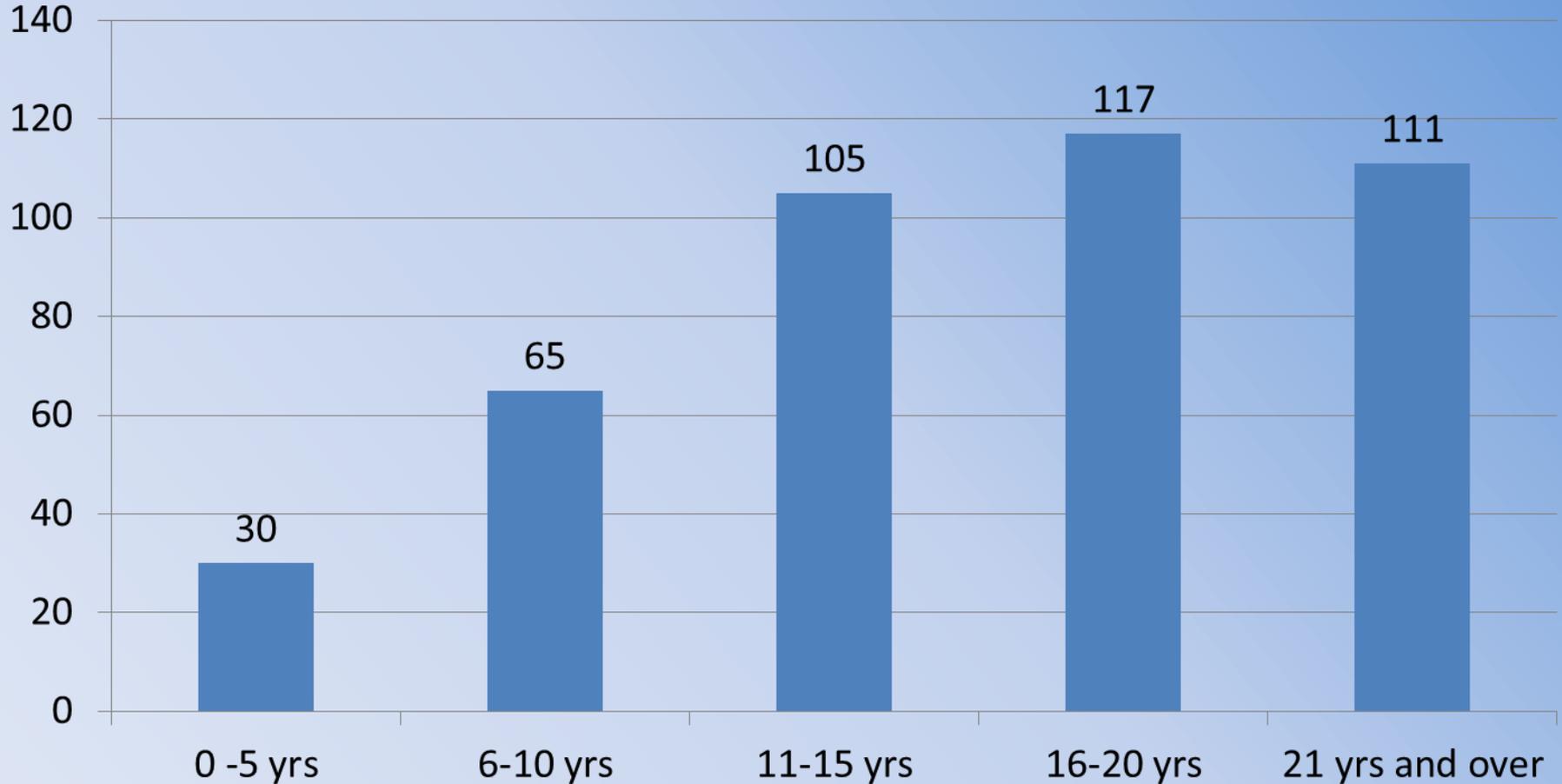
Total served	148
Screened for brain injury	143
Administered NeuroCognitive testing	82
Entered into NeuroResource Facilitation	55

# Screening Results

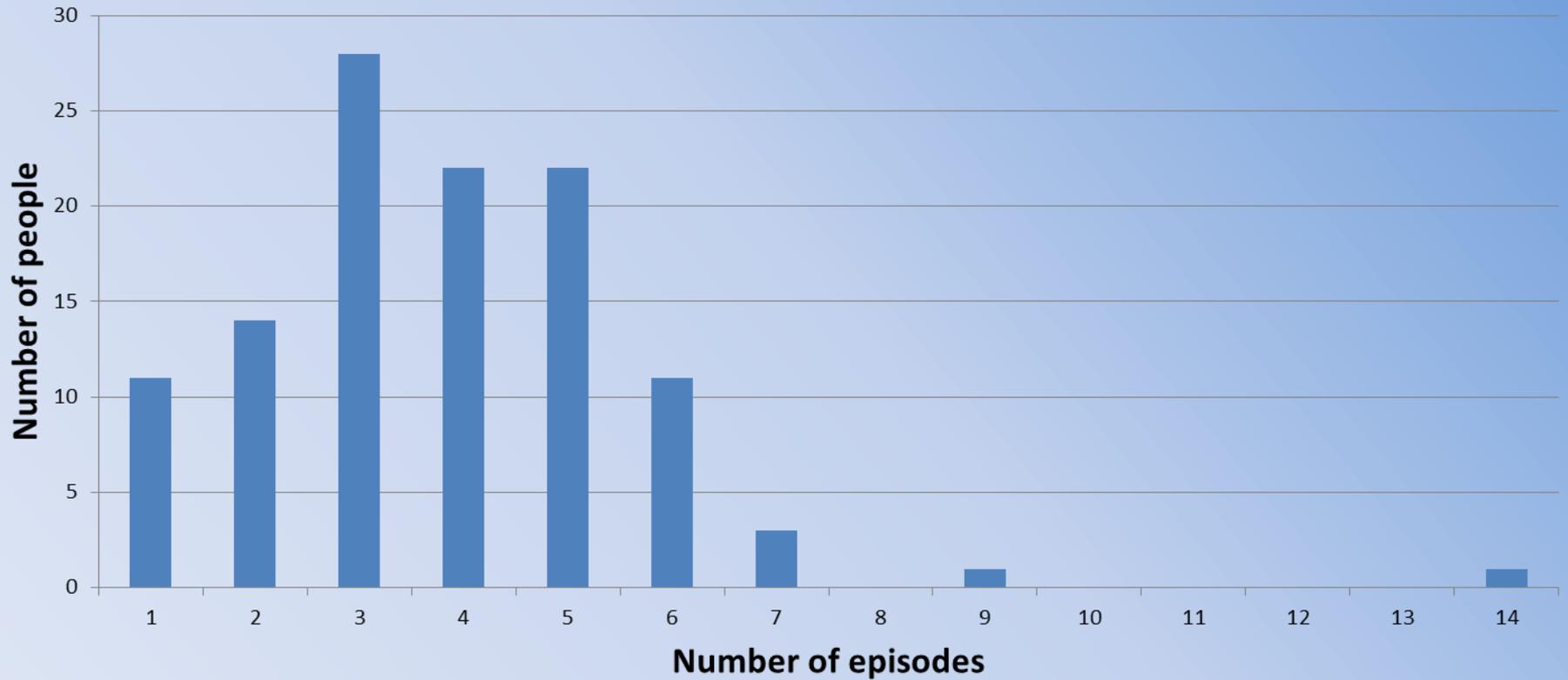


- History of Brain injury
- No History of Brain Injury

# Ages at which episodes occurred (n=428)

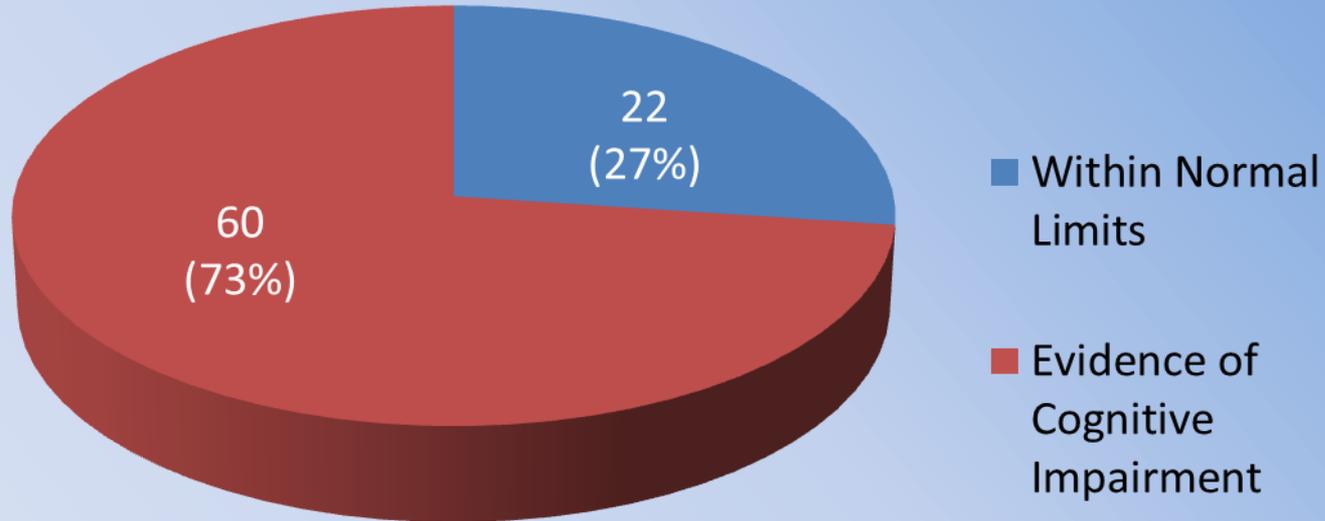


# Number of Episodes Reported



# NeuroCognitive Testing

n=82



# NeuroResource Facilitation

- If an individual is determined to have neurocognitive impairments that will interfere with successful community re-entry, he is provided NeuroResource Facilitation (NRF)

55 individuals entered into NRF

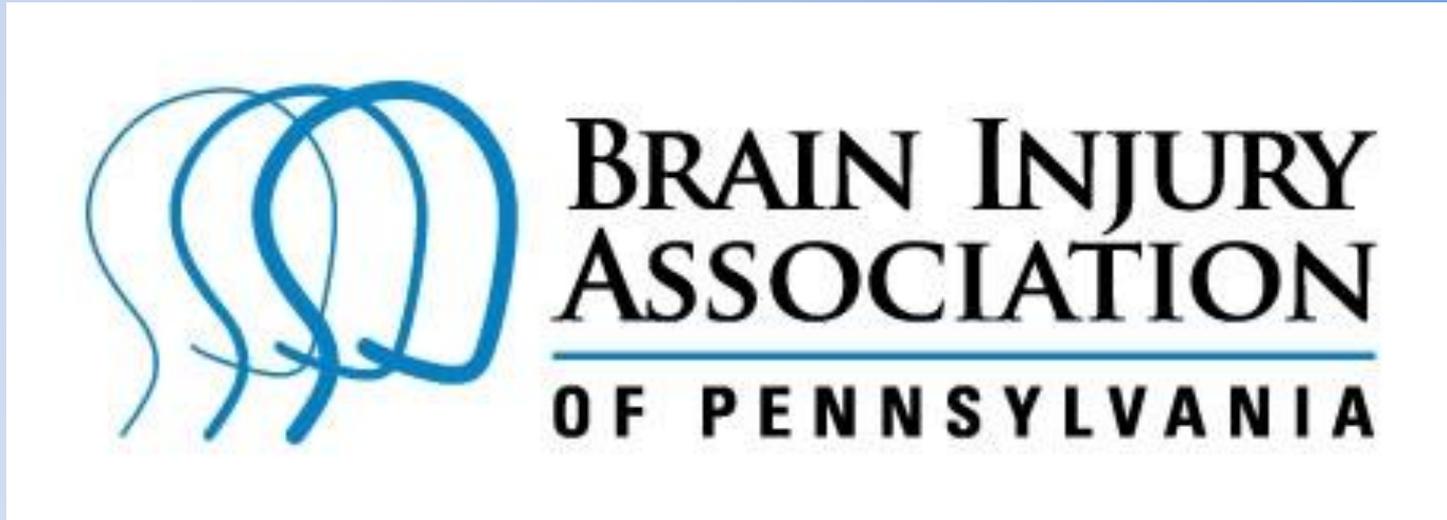
30 Pre-release (55%)

25 Post-release (45%)

- Some individuals are provided NeuroResource Facilitation for the purpose of supporting them in groups or work

# Case Examples

# For Further Information:



[www.biapa.org](http://www.biapa.org)

Toll Free Brain Injury Resource Line  
**1-800-444-6443**