

Time Use Following Severe Acquired Brain Injury

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Introduction:

Acquired brain injury (ABI) is a leading cause of disability and mortality worldwide. Approximately 438,300 Australians are living with ABI and experience ongoing disability, 157,500 of which have a profound or severe activity limitation. Due to increasing survival trends and the life expectancy of people with ABI being comparative to the general population, these numbers, and the cost on health and disability services, are set to rise.

Aging with a profound disability poses further complexities and for this population there is very little time use data available. Time use research yields information on occupational engagement and the contributing factors, providing health professionals with information to improve the health and participation outcomes of people with ABI as they age.

Objectives:

- 1. Determine how people over 50 years of age with severe ABI living in the community use their time.
- 2. Explore the barriers and /or facilitators to participation that influence the time use of this population.
- 3. Examine the social and physical environments of this population.

Methods:

We performed a pilot study using multiple case-studies. The participants were four individuals with severe ABI, living in the community and key informants/caregivers. A semi-structured interview was completed with the key informants, including the occupational settings scale of the Occupational Performance History Interview-II (OPHI-II). Additionally, each participant had a time use diary recorded over 7 days on their behalf by primary carers. The Care and Needs Scale (CANS) was completed to examine the support needs of participants. Qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis, and Time use, OPHI-II, and CANS data was analysed using descriptive statistics and fisher's exact test.

Results:

Individual results for time use, occupational environments, and occupational participation will be presented. Categorical results will be presented, and Time use data will be compared to Australian Bureau of Statistics normative time use data for the general population.

Conclusion:

The results of this study have implications for health professionals in beginning to understand the time use of older adults with ABI living in the community, and the multifaceted factors that impact upon their participation.