

Abstract—ACRM 2009

**Title:** Brain Injury X-Posed: The Survivor's View

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**Objectives:** To gain an understanding of the issues, concerns, and strengths of brain injury survivors living in the community

**Design:** Action research using “photovoice,” for which researchers and participants co-create knowledge as they plan, implement, and disseminate the results of their research

**Setting:** A brain injury survivor support group in Framingham, MA

**Participants:** Eight acquired brain injury survivors injured three to 31 years prior. Five are women, three are men. Six survived TBI; two survived brain tumors

**Intervention(s):** Participants took photographs to answer study questions, discussed their photos, wrote narratives for selected images, and grouped their photos under themes. The study encompassed ten meetings from September-November 2006.

**Main Outcome Measures:** The study was not intended to measure lived experience with brain injury, but rather to understand it from the perspective of its survivors

**Results:** The participants' exhibit “Brain Injury X-Posed: The Survivor's View” has 50 photographs and narratives under 9 themes: The Journey, Lost Dreams, Chaos, Challenges, Strategies, My Advocacy Story, Comfort and Support, Acceptance, and Hope for the Future.

**Conclusions:** Participants led the research conversation and became “active players” in the research process. Study data indicate that healing from brain injury can be a gradual process that continues over many years.