

Borderline Intellectual Functioning

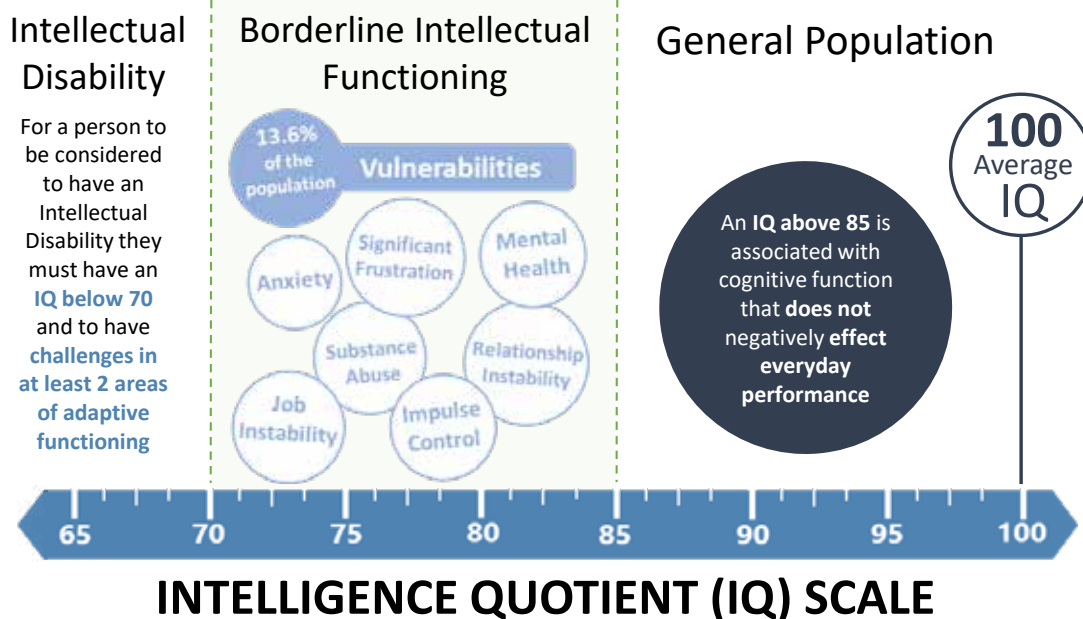
What is Borderline Intellectual Functioning

Borderline Intellectual Functioning is characterised by below average IQ but above that for a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability. This is a very vulnerable group of people who often go unrecognised as having support needs.



An often unrecognised disability

Borderline intellectual functioning is a cognitive impairment that has significant effects on the daily lives of people who experience it however it is very often unrecognised within general society and certainly within the Criminal Justice System. This can occur for a number of reasons; lack of understanding and recognition of indicators on a societal level, the person themselves may not know what it is that causes them challenges and if they do know then it can often be purposely masked due to embarrassment or a desire not to be labelled.



Justice • Respect • Persistence

A person with Borderline Intellectual Functioning MAY...

- Not understand why they have challenges
- Feel embarrassed
- Have delays in speech and writing
- Have difficulties with memory
- Have challenges linking action to consequence
- Have had difficulties at school
- Struggle to retain employment, particularly in stressful or fast-paced jobs
- Appear to act impulsively

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & borderline intellectual functioning are often linked

• **anxiety & depression** coupled with challenge linking **action & consequence** can increase vulnerability to drugs of **ADDICTION**

why do things ALWAYS seem harder for me?



People living with **Borderline Intellectual Functioning** benefit significantly from support during complex interactions including **police, court and legal** contexts

Borderline Intellectual Functioning and the Criminal Justice System

People who live with Borderline Intellectual Functioning are vulnerable as both victims and offenders. Whilst not necessarily having the same deficits in daily life skills (adaptive functioning) as people with Intellectual Disability, this group can be susceptible to offending without realising or understanding the consequences of certain behaviours or decisions. Likewise this group are often taken advantage of directly (fraud, violence) or utilised as accomplices. People who have Borderline Intellectual Functioning may not realise they need support or may not want support through a desire not to be labelled. They may also have learned ways to mask their disability in order to avoid labelling or embarrassment.

Justice • Respect • Persistence