

From: DOH COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Subject: FL DOH FOCUSED ON TREATMENT OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES
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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOCUSED ON TREATMENT
OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES**

TALLAHASSEE— The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today highlights the results of a comprehensive statewide traumatic brain injury (TBI) needs and resource assessment conducted by the Department's Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program. Each year, more than 93,000 Floridians experience mild, moderate or severe brain trauma. The cumulative number of survivors of brain injury in Florida is approximately 370,000 and expected to rise to 435,350 people by 2015.

"Florida is focused on not only recognizing traumatic brain injuries, but forging workable solutions," Florida State Surgeon General Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., said.

The study, in cooperation with the Brain Injury Association of Florida and the WellFlorida Council, identified obstacles in treating brain injuries including lack of access to specialized services, rehabilitation, therapies and long-term services and supports, along with lack of coordination among services and organizations.

The Florida Department of Health's Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program is using the study to detail a plan addressing barriers to treatment.

"We are utilizing the report to help us craft a public awareness campaign, develop TBI materials, and engage community organizations," TBI Coordinator Kris Shields said. "This is a multi-year, community and agency effort."

The mission of the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program is to provide all eligible residents who sustain a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury the opportunity to obtain the necessary services enabling them to return to their community. For more information visit www.floridashealth.com <<http://www.floridashealth.com/>> ,

www.biaf.org <<http://www.biaf.org/>> , www.wellflorida.com
<<http://www.wellflorida.com/>> , or contact TBI Coordinator Kris
Shields toll-free at (866) 875-5660.

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