

Traumatic Brain Injury in Florida: A Needs and Resource Assessment

About the Project

Project ACTION “Assessing Communities to Identify Ongoing Needs” is a three-year project charged with developing an evolving and dynamic system of services for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) through the creation and implementation of a comprehensive, consumer-directed strategic plan that addresses the needs of Florida's TBI population and their families. This fact sheet highlights the findings from the statewide needs and resource assessment for individuals with TBI in Florida, which was conducted during project year one.

Key Focus Group and Interview Findings

TBI survivors, caregivers, providers and TBI leaders identified these top needs:

- Long-term accessible and affordable housing
- Long-term support and services
- Alcohol and drug addiction services
- Increase access to information and education
- Increase public and professional knowledge of TBI
- Transportation services
- Financial assistance
- Employment services

Concerns for caregivers:

- Long-term life planning
- Barriers to accessing services and information because of HIPAA and guardianship issues
- Inadequately prepared to deal with the behavioral consequences of TBI

Suggestions for Improving Services for Special Populations

Hispanics with TBI

- Provide materials in Spanish
- Involve local churches in outreach activities
- Hire individuals from within the culture to provide services

Individuals with Mild TBI

- Increase education and prevention activities about mild TBI
- Work with professionals to improve the identification and appropriate diagnosis of injuries

Youth with TBI

- Increase support of local school systems to meet the needs of youth with TBI
- Educate and train teachers and staff about TBI and appropriate interventions and strategies
- Build partnerships between school systems and therapists

Rural Residents with TBI

- Increase number of TBI providers
- Promote socialization opportunities to decrease isolation issues
- Use alternative methods to reach survivors in their homes and communities

“I worked with people who had brain injuries before my son's accident. I thought I understood, I thought I had empathy. But the true terror that we felt was absolutely overwhelming.”

—Focus group participant

Project Partners

Brain Injury Association of Florida's

mission is to improve the quality of life for persons with brain injury and their families by creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, support services, and advocacy.

Contact: Valerie Breen, Executive Director, vbreen@biaf.org

Florida Department of Health, Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program

assists individuals with moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury, from time of injury through rehabilitation, in accessing federal, state, third party, and community resources. Contact: Kris Shields, TBI Coordinator, kris_shields@doh.state.fl.us

WellFlorida Council

WellFlorida partners with government agencies, health departments, community-based organizations and nonprofits to build healthy communities through research, grants, program development and strategic planning.

Contact: Jeff Feller, Associate Director, jfeller@wellflorida.org

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Traumatic Brain Injury Fact Sheet



Who Has TBI?

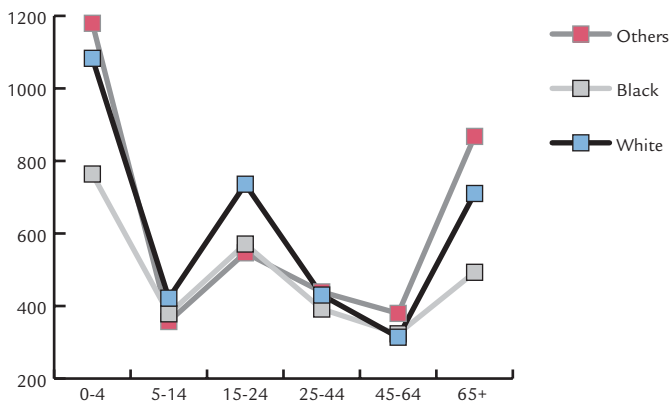
Today about 369,600 people are living with TBI-related disabilities in Florida. By 2015, the number is expected to reach 435,350.

In 2005, about 93,000 TBIs were sustained in Florida (511.5 per 100,000), which resulted in 3,900 deaths, 17,700 hospitalizations and 71,400 emergency department visits.

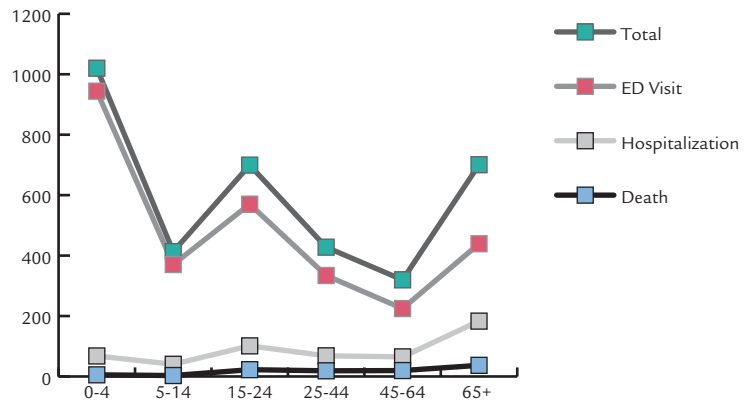
What Is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?

TBI is defined as a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain. TBI can cause a wide range of functional changes—short or long-term—affecting thinking, language, learning, emotions, behavior and/or sensation. Memory loss, difficulty with judgment and recognition of limitations, anxiety and/or depression, loss of social networking, feelings of isolation, slowness or difficulty with speech, decreased physical coordination, decreased anger management, decreased safety awareness, and difficulty initiating, planning and completing tasks can be some of the consequences of TBI.

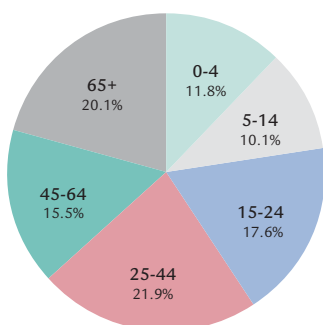
TBI Rates in Florida by Race and Age Group, 2005*



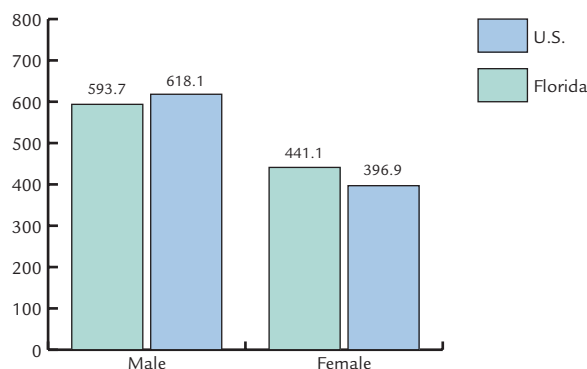
TBI Rates in Florida for Total TBI, Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations and Death***



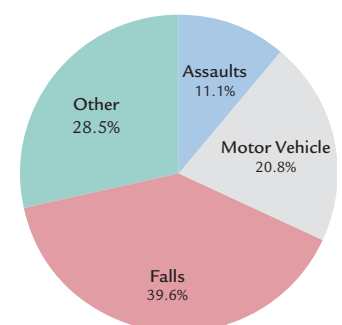
Total TBIs in Florida by Age Group, 2005*



TBI Rates for Florida and the US by Gender**



Total TBI in Florida by Cause, 2005*



*Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2005; State of Florida, AHCA, Detailed Discharge Data, 2005; State of Florida, AHCA, Emergency Department Data, 2005; State of Florida, Department of Health, CHARTS, accessed Feb 2007. **Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2005; State of Florida, AHCA, Detailed Discharge Data, 2005; State of Florida, AHCA, Emergency Department Data, 2005; Traumatic Brain Injury In the United States: ED Visits, Hospitalizations and Deaths, 2006; State of Florida, Department of Health, CHARTS, accessed Feb 2007. ***Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1999-2005; State of Florida, AHCA, Detailed Discharge Data, 1999-2005; State of Florida, AHCA, Emergency Department Data, 2005; State of Florida, Department of Health, CHARTS, accessed Feb 2007.