The Missouri Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Needs Assessment gathered information from survivors, family members, and professionals on the needs of and service availability to the Missouri TBI community. The goal of the needs assessment was to systematically identify needs and measure the gaps between current conditions and wanted conditions through participation of these groups.

An intensive needs assessment was done five years ago that involved interviews and focus groups with survivors, their families, and the professionals who serve them. The assessment conducted over the past year was designed to build upon this effort.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

1067 professionals completed the needs assessment survey.

Positions or roles held by professionals:
- Medical personnel (n = 426)
- Rehab personnel (n = 248)
- Military personnel (n = 7)
- Educator (n = 273)
- Community professional (n = 113)

94.5% of professionals served "others in addition to people with TBI".

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Professionals were asked to rate the adequacy of services both 5 years ago and currently. Services rated as working well included:

- TBI education and awareness
- Acute care, rehab
- Information, resources, and referral
- Service coordination/case management
- Medical care
- Continued therapy, support, and counseling
- Support groups
- Service in general
- Timely diagnosis and treatment
- Access to service

**SERVICE ADEQUACY ACROSS YEARS**

1 = Very Inadequate; 2 = Somewhat Inadequate; 3 = Somewhat Adequate; 4 = Very Adequate

**MEDICAL/HOSPITAL SERVICES**

![Graph showing adequacy of medical/hospital services over the years.]

**ACUTE REHAB SERVICES**

![Graph showing adequacy of acute rehab services over the years.]

**BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES**

Professionals listed several barriers in accessing services and supports. The percentage of professionals who noted each barrier are shown below:

- Unaware of services (64.2%)
- Inability to pay for services (63.6%)
- Inadequate insurance (55.9%)
- Cognitive limitations (55.4%)
- Difficulty understanding paperwork (50.5%)
- Location of services (49.9%)
- Lack of insurance (43.9%)
- Lack of transportation (43.3%)
- Financial management (42.7%)
- Physical limitations (40.4%)

**TRAINING**

21.2% of professionals reported internal TBI training through their organization while 50% received training from external sources.

**MOST COMMON COMMUNITY TBI TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- General Knowledge (73.3%)
- Available Services (46.5%)
- Medical and Physical Changes (45.0%)
- Communication and Cognitive Changes (43.4%)

**TBI TRAINING TOPICS RECEIVED MOST FREQUENTLY BY PROFESSIONALS INCLUDE:**

- General Knowledge (75.7%)
- Communication and Cognitive Changes (45.6%)
- Medical and Physical Changes (51.5%)
- Specific Knowledge about Needs (43.0%)

**SERVICE IMPROVEMENT**

In order to better serve people with TBI and their families, professionals suggested the need for:

- More training on TBI specific services, resources, and education
- General knowledge about health conditions of people with TBI
- TBI best practices in acute care

**ADDITIONAL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED:**

- Better inform providers, individuals with TBI, and their families about available resources and supports
- Other services (identification/diagnosis, long-term care plan)