

STATE BUREAU OF EMS HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

July 2011 (exact dates TBD)
Hilton Walt Disney World Resort
1751 Hotel Plaza Boulevard
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830
(407) 827-4000

Please make hotel reservations at the Hilton Walt Disney World Resort by calling (407) 827-4000 by June 14, 2011. The group conference rate is reserved under "CLINCON 2011." Check in time is 3:00 p.m. Cancellation within five days of arrival will result in a penalty of one nights stay. Reserve your room early!!

DATA SECTION

EMSTARS

The Prehospital Data Section continues to make great strides with 122 agencies reporting to EMSTARS, bringing the state repository to over 2.9 million incidents reported. The number of agencies moving to EMSTARS reporting continues to rise each month.

The EMSAC Data Committee continues to play the major advocacy role contributing to the increase in agency data submissions. The Data Committee is committed to the advocacy, education and awareness of the benefits that EMSTARS brings to the quality of EMS service delivery in Florida.

The EMSTARS Project Team continues to work in concert with our federal partners, NEMSIS (National EMS Information System), EMS Advisory Council Data Committee, and the EMS Community to review and analyze the upcoming changes anticipated with NEMSIS 3.0. The Data Committee has completed its initial review of the NEMSIS 3.0 proposed data elements and will be completing its final review as NEMSIS makes the final documents available early 2011. The Data Committee will then complete the draft of the revised Data Set for Florida for EMSAC review and approval in early to mid 2011. It is important to continue to assess the impact this may have on Florida EMS providers to ensure that an appropriate state level implementation strategy is developed for this upcoming Federal mandate.

The Project Team is also working to develop improvements in the data analysis, linkage and reporting capabilities of EMS data through the implementation of the EMSTARS Data Mart. The 2nd iteration of the EMS Data Mart is in progress and includes the initial linking of Agency for Healthcare Administration data (Emergency Department, Hospital Inpatient Discharge, and Rehabilitation data) and Trauma Registry data. The 2nd iteration development and testing is in progress with a goal of moving the Data Mart into a production status during the second quarter of 2011. This solution will provide a fully functional data mart that can be used to support the analysis and decision-making requirements of the business.

The Project Team continues the one-on-one visits with providers to facilitate training and/or implementation assistance as needed. As of January 2011, over thirty agencies have been provided this assistance. In addition, there have been two software specific user group meetings that the project team attended to address implementation/mapping/customer service issues. If your agency is interested in receiving assistance with your EMSTARS submissions or transitioning from aggregate data reporting to EMSTARS reporting at this time or in the near future, please contact [Brenda Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Brenda.Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us) or Stephanie Daugherty at StephanieC.Daugherty@doh.state.fl.us. If your agency needs assistance to transition to EMSTARS reporting, or if your agency has questions / concerns about EMSTARS reporting, please contact us.

NEMSIS UPLOAD / NEMSIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Florida continues to be a “stand out” state with its participation in the national program, NEMSIS. Florida has over 2.4 million incident records in the national database. Florida ranks number two in number of records submitted to NEMSIS.

The NEMSIS National Reporting System based upon the National EMS Data Base is now available! The web-based system can be found on the NEMSIS web site (www.nemsis.org) under the Reporting Tools tab (click on “Reports”, then “National Reports” and then “Access Reports”). You will notice Florida’s data is now incorporated in the national reports.

Visit and use the reports and, most importantly, provide the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (NEMSIS TAC) feedback regarding the usefulness of the reports. They are striving to provide the best possible product and need feedback to enhance the impact of the national reports on the EMS system as a whole.

VENDOR COMPLIANCE

Vendors continue to work toward EMSTARS verification. As of January 2011, 14 vendors are EMSTARS compliant. For additional details on the status of the vendor compliance, visit www.FloridaEMSTARS.com or email Juan Esparza at Juan_Esparza@doh.state.fl.us.

PARTNERSHIPS

The EMSTARS Project Team continues to work in partnership with the EMSAC Data Committee, as well as the other EMSAC committees and constituency groups. The 2010-2012 Strategic Plan was developed in concert with all of these committees. This initiative exemplifies the commitment to identifying and acting upon the numerous opportunities Florida has to lead the nation in improving patient care and patient outcomes.

The team has enjoyed working with all of you over the past several years. Thanks from the Data Section and Project Team!

Brenda Clotfelter is the EMSTARS Project Manager and can be contacted by e-mail at Brenda_Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us. Please contact her if you have questions or need assistance with EMSTARS. Visit www.FloridaEMSTARS.com for additional information.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The EMRC has continued its dedication to hold conference calls and face-to-face meetings. This committee has continued to provide a mechanism for statewide EMS data analysis and review for the purpose of providing unprecedented quality improvement for this state and nation.

The EMRC continues to assist the Bureau of EMS and EMS provider agencies in mapping all report queries to assure data elements and data subset elements are appropriate for the report and/or research being examined. During the past three months, the EMRC has reviewed report requests and discussed future quality improvement goals. This committee's concentration has been directed to focus on analysis of EMSTARS data for the purposes of a published study.

The EMRC remains committed to a quality improvement approach to identify benchmarks, best practices, trends, and research opportunities for the Florida EMS Community. If you have questions regarding the EMRC, please e-mail Steve McCoy at Steve_McCoy@doh.state.fl.us.

TRAINING & EDUCATION SECTION

TRAINING

There are 71 schools offering 173 EMT and paramedic training programs. There are currently 492 approved continuing education courses in the state. The following is a breakdown on first time test takers:

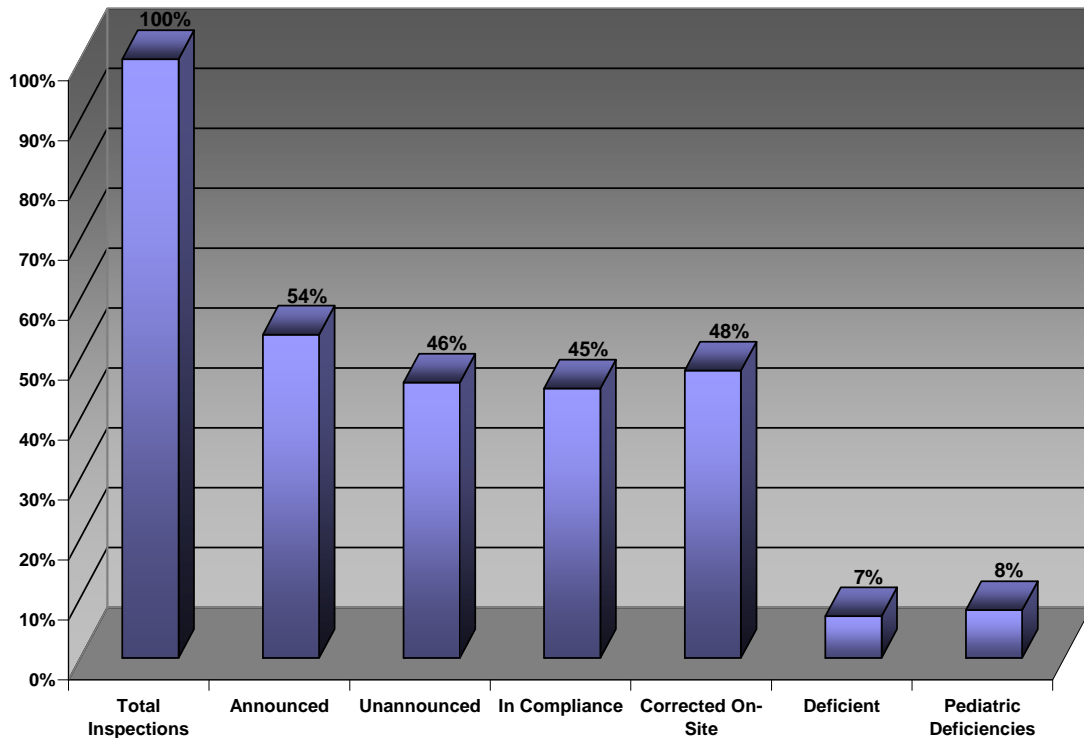
4379 EMTs tested between January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011; 76% passed.

2003 Paramedics tested between January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011; 91% passed.

INSPECTIONS

A total of 134 EMS providers were inspected in 2010. 54% of these inspections were announced while 46% were unannounced. Inspectors are continuing to see deficiencies in pediatric supplies and equipment as well as expired personnel files such as ACLS cards, CPR cards and EVOC certificates.

2010 Compliance Analysis



LICENSURE

There are 268 EMS providers currently licensed in the state with over 4100 permitted vehicles. **The Bureau is consistently receiving applications that are missing documents and/or are incomplete. Please review your application thoroughly for all required information before submitting.**

The following information refers to timely service renewal applications submitted to this department.

Florida Statute 120.52(10)

(10) License means a franchise, permit, certification, registration, charter, or similar form of authorization required by law, but it does not include a license required primarily for revenue purposes when issuance of the license is merely a ministerial act.

Florida Statute 401.26(5)(a)

(5) In order to renew a vehicle or aircraft permit issued pursuant to this part, the applicant must:

(a) Submit a renewal application. Such application must be received by the department not more than 90 days or less than 30 days prior to the expiration of the permit.

Florida Statute 401.251(5)(a)

(5) In order to renew a license for air ambulance service, the applicant must:

(a) Submit a renewal application to the department not more than 90 days nor less than 60 days before the license expires.

Therefore a ground license application must be received in the Bureau of EMS no less than 30 days prior to expiration. An Air Ambulance license application must be received no less than 60 days prior to expiration. If these dates are not adhered to your service will be subject to administrative action.

911 PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR (911 PSTs)

There are currently 2,588 certified 911PSTs in the state and 33 approved training programs. The Bureau of EMS has begun to develop the 911 PST curriculum with a team of subject matter experts and anticipates the draft to be completed by the end of January. Then the test will be developed.

STATEWIDE PLANNING SECTION

MATCHING GRANTS

Beginning December 1, 2010 we started accepting matching grant applications. The deadline is Wednesday, February 16, 2011. View the full announcement at the following website address. <http://www.fl-ems.com/Grants/Grants.html> Also at that website, there is a Power Point training presentation which can be helpful for the development of your application form.

New Initiatives: For the past two years we mailed applications and scoring forms to reviewers and they returned score sheets to us. This improved the previous arrangement of meeting as a group for nearly a week, which eliminated the use of some reviewers who could not commit to the time involved.

A second new initiative is that until last year rural applicants who wanted their application considered for both 90% funding and 75% funding had to send in two application packages, one for each type of review. Last year we started asking for only one application package for the two reviews.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Regarding county grants this year, we shall pay the new county grants to counties in two payments. The deadlines at present are Thursday April 14, 2011 for counties to request the first payment and Wednesday October 12, 2011 to request the second payment. However, before counties can prepare and send their application forms, they must know their budget amounts. The state will send all counties the amounts for their budgets: during January to apply for their first payment and during July to enable their application for the second payment. Check the preceding grant website for details.

EMS GRANTS ACTIVE NOW

Grants which are not active have been completed and are closed. Currently, we have 81 grant projects still in progress under the 2009-2010 grant year. We awarded 64 county government grants last year and we have 52 still active, with the final reports due March 23, 2011. For the rural matching grants (90% funding) 5 of 7 remain open; and regular matching (75% funding) 24 of 28 are open. Final reports for the matching grants are due August 17, 2011.

EMSC GRANT PERFORMANCE MEASURE

The EMSC Program conducted a survey regarding Inter-facility Transfer Guidelines/Agreements (Performance Measures 76-77). The survey began on June 4, 2010 and closed on September 27, 2010. The data collected from hospitals around the state was analyzed in Tampa on September 28-29, 2010 at a workshop hosted by the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC). Survey results are as follows:

- 112 hospitals with emergency departments completed the survey.
- Percentage of hospitals with written interfacility transfer guidelines that include all required components: 61%
- Percentage hospitals with written transfer agreements: 72%

A survey regarding on-line and offline medical direction, as well as essential pediatric equipment (Performance Measures 71-73) launched on November 1, 2010.

The survey close date is February 1, 2011. This survey will provide baseline data required for performance indicators that document activities and achievements of the EMSC program in improving the delivery of emergency services to children. Data collected during this survey period will be analyzed before February 28, 2011. The target audience for this survey was a random sample of licensed EMS provider agencies in Florida as selected by NEDARC.

EMSC FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT

The EMSC program has completed and submitted the EMSC State Partnership program Non-Competing Continuation Progress Report in lieu of a Non-Competing Continuation Grant Proposal as required by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant will begin in March 2011 and ends on February 29, 2012. The primary goals of the grant are: to improve and expand the degree to which Florida EMS has ensured the operational capacity to provide pediatric emergency care; to adopt requirements in Florida for pediatric emergency education for the licensure/certification renewal of EMTs and paramedics; and to improve and expand the degree to which Florida has established permanence of EMSC in the Florida EMS system.

“PREHOSPITAL PEDIATRIC PITFALLS” TRAINING DVD

The *Prehospital Pediatric Pitfalls* DVD is a high quality 3-hour neonatal/pediatric training DVD which meets the 2-hour pediatric emergency recertification requirements as approved by your medical director. It was customized for the EMSC program by Peds-R-Us Medical Education, LLC and is geared towards all healthcare professionals who may care for sick or injured children. DVDs will be distributed to a random sample of licensed EMS provider agencies, as selected by NEDARC, that completed the Florida EMSC Pediatric Medical Direction and Equipment Survey.

EMSC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Each EMSC Advisory Committee sub-committee participated in a workgroup session via conference call in early January 2011. Members discussed the current goals of the workgroup, how this aligns with the 2010-2012 EMS Strategic Plan and the future direction of the workgroup. The EMSC Advisory Committee will meet via WebEx on January 25, 2011, 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.

EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

EMSC obtained permissions from the Ohio Department of Health and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to reproduce the Emergency Guidelines for Schools, 3rd Edition, with modifications specific to Florida law and regulations. The emergency guidelines are meant to serve as basic what-to-do-in-an-emergency information for school staff without nursing or medical training when the school nurse is not available. The Emergency Guidelines for Schools, 2011 Florida Edition, has been developed and is available for download at the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS website at www.fl-ems.com – select *EMS for Children*. Hard copies should be available at the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES (FASN)

EMSC has partnered with the Florida Association of School Nurses (FASN) to provide 50 scholarships to their 2011 State Conference on February 4-5 in Orlando, Florida. EMSC will also be represented at the FASN 2011 State Conference by EMSC Advisory Committee members who have volunteered to staff a vendor booth on behalf of the EMSC program.

PEDIATRIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Florida EMSC has offered FREE Pediatric/Neonatal education courses within the state this grant year, with additional courses scheduled.

Completed courses:

Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Course- Seminole Tribe EMS; 22 students
S.T.A.B.L.E. Program Course- Wakulla County EMS; 16 students
Pediatric ITLS Instructor Course- Niceville; 9 students
Pediatric ITLS Provider Course- Niceville; 17 students
NRP Course- Dixie County EMS; 5 students
Sacred Heart, Pensacola- Pediatric ITLS Provider; 26 students
Hendry County EMS- Pediatric/Neonatal Review; 25 students
Flagler County EMS- Pediatric/Neonatal Review; 29 students
Flagler County EMS- Pediatric/Neonatal Review; 21 students
Flagler County EMS- Pediatric/Neonatal Review; 22 students
Highlands County PALS Course

Scheduled courses:

February 1, 2011- Sacred Heart, Pensacola- PITLS Course

If you are interested in having a **FREE** pediatric/neonatal education course offered at your agency, please contact Melissa Keahey, EMSC Program Manager at melissa_keahey@doh.state.fl.us or (850) 245.4440 ext. *2686.

PEDIATRIC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

In an effort to improve the education and training of initial emergency responders across the EMSC continuum of care, complimentary copies of resource materials have been made available to EMS provider agencies, EMS initial training centers and hospital emergency rooms. EMSC has distributed 2000 Kids In Disaster Kits (K.I.D. Kits) and 25,000 START/JumpSTART Triage Cards.

Items still available include:

- o Broselow Pediatric Antidotes for Chemical Warfare Tape

If your organization is interested in receiving the above mentioned items, please contact Melissa Keahey, EMSC Program Manager at melissa_keahey@doh.state.fl.us or (850) 245-4440 ext. *2686.

Funding for these resources was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigation Section within the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services continues to operate in conjunction with Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) in regards to the investigation of complaints against EMTs and paramedics. The Bureau of EMS continues to investigate legally sufficient complaints against the EMS Provider, Training School or 911 PST. Upon completion of the investigative process, all case files are sent to the Prosecution Services Section within the Bureau of EMS. We are excited about our returning prosecuting attorney, Richard McNelis and his legal assistant/Investigator Alyshia Dark.

The Investigation Section has also acquired new duties in creating and processing of Final Orders for EMTs, Paramedics and EMS Providers and Training Schools.

The next Informal Hearing is scheduled for January 24, 2011 from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Where to Mail Complaints

All complaints against individual **EMTs and/or paramedics** should be sent to:

Florida Department of Health
Medical Quality Assurance
Consumer Services Unit
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-75
Tallahassee, FL 32399

All complaints against **EMS providers, training centers and 911 PSTs** should be sent to:

Florida Department of Health
Bureau of EMS
Investigation Section
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-18,
Tallahassee, FL 32399

2010 OVERVIEW FOR BEMS INVESTIGATION/PROSECUTION

Investigation Section processed in conjunction with MQA:

- 193 Complaints against EMT/Paramedic
- 96 Felony investigations
- 44 Provider/Training school investigations

Prosecution Section processed:

- 13 Default Final Orders (Probable Cause-Discipline)
- 5 Final Orders (Probable Cause-Discipline)
- 8 Closing Orders (Probable Cause-No discipline)
- 32 Closing Letters (Probable Cause-No discipline)

Addendum

Office of Injury Prevention (OIP)

Contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Director, Office of Injury Prevention; Division of Emergency Medical Operations at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 for further information.

PERSONNEL

Staff Changes

- Heather McHenry was promoted to the Safe Kids coordinator position on October 29, 2010. Heather has been with the Office of Injury Prevention, serving as the Administrative Assistant, since September of 2008. Before joining injury prevention, Heather served as an OPS Senior Clerk in the Data Unit of the Bureau of EMS. Her contact information is (850) 245-4440, ext. *2700 or Heather_McHenry@doh.state.fl.us.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

2010 Injury Prevention Award Nominations

- The Office of Injury Prevention (OIP), in partnership with the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC), annually recognizes an influential individual who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention.
- Nine nominations were received this year. Dr. Virginia Dodd, University of Florida was the selected winner.
- The 2010 Injury Prevention Award will be presented at the next Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council meeting.
- For more information about the injury prevention award visit <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Injury/IPAdvisoryCouncilPage.html#injury>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SATELLITE BROADCAST

- The Office of Injury Prevention and the Sexual Violence Prevention Program are collaborating on a distance learning broadcast and webinar which will be held on January 6, 2011, from 9:00 am till noon. The broadcast will provide a general overview of human trafficking for medical and health professionals.
- For more information regarding the broadcast or to request a DVD copy, please contact Leilani Gruener (850) 245-4440 ext. *2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us.

WaterproofFL - "POOL SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY"

- WaterproofFL - "pool safety is everyone's responsibility" is the campaign's brand and tagline. The campaign promotes the use of Layers of Protection - 1. Supervision 2. Barriers and 3. Emergency Preparedness. To reduce the number of drownings among Florida's one to four year olds, this statewide campaign will provide a unified statewide message that can be used by a variety of stakeholders.
- Campaign materials will be available in print and electronic format. The website, www.WaterproofFL.com, and a toll free number, 1-877-362-5033, can be utilized by parents, caregivers, pool owners, and others in learning the steps to protect Florida's children from drowning.
- A statewide campaign kick-off is being planned for March 2011 to coincide with the upcoming swimming season.
- From 2007 to 2009, the number of drowning deaths among Florida's children ages one to four decreased by 13% and the drowning rate for the same population decreased by 16%.
- For more information about the Water Safety & Drowning Prevention Campaign and toolkit, please contact Towana Bonnett at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2452 or Towana_Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us, or Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us.

PROGRAMS & INJURY PREVENTION AREAS

2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan

- The 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan is available on the OIP website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury/reports.html>. Hard copies are also available upon request.
- The 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan serves as a successor to the 2004-2008 Plan, which is considered nationally as a model state plan.
- The goals for the 2009-2013 plan are: Infrastructure (including data and evaluation), Collaboration, Senior Falls, Early Childhood Drowning and Training.
- Data Workgroup - is finalizing activities within the 2010 Action Plan. All data sources in the Florida Injury Surveillance Data System were obtained and formatted, all required data reports and deliverables were completed, and updated injury data is being analyzed and disseminated through the OIP website. The Data Workgroup will meet in early 2011 to finalize their annual report on progress made toward monitoring and evaluating new or additional surveillance data sources. Afterwards, the 2010 Action Plan will be wrapped up and planning for the 2011 Action Plan will begin.

- Goal Team 2 (GT2): Collaboration - On January 6, 2011, the Human Trafficking Awareness satellite broadcast and webcast was held to provide an overview of Human Trafficking for medical professionals. A recording of the broadcast is available through the Office of Injury Prevention. GT2 will be preparing educational segments for the upcoming FIPAC meeting as well as planning the Rural Community and State Resources Pilot Meeting.
- Goal Team 3 (GT3): Senior Falls Prevention - GT3 has been busy developing the Senior Falls Coalition Plan to help guide the activities of the Coalition. In addition, external stakeholders and members of the GT3 have been helping the OIP write for the Senior Falls Prevention Component of the CDC's Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program grant.
- Goal Team 4 (GT4): Early Childhood Drowning Prevention - GT4 was instrumental in the development of the "WaterproofFL" Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Campaign that is now available at <http://www.WaterproofFL.com>. GT4 will be working with OIP on plans for a campaign kick-off event. GT4 is currently working on the 2010 Status Report.
- Goal Team 5 (GT5): Training and Education - The 2010 GT5 Action Plan was concluded with 91% (10/11) of activities completed in full. The IP 101 course, an activity under GT5, was completed and is now available in DVD format. GT5 is currently working on the development of the 2011 Action Plan.
- For more information, please contact Sarah Hinkel-Young at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2736 or Sarah.Hinkel-Young@doh.state.fl.us.

BICYCLE HELMET PROMOTION PROGRAM GRANT

- The Office of Injury Prevention (OIP) has been notified that the Florida Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program Grant continuation grant will be funded \$138,169.00 for the 2010-2011 grant cycle, which is almost a \$5,000.00 increase from the current grant cycle.
- The Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program's goal is to increase bicycle helmet use among children in low-income and underserved communities. Since 2000, over 136,500 helmets have been distributed throughout all 67 counties.
- From 2003-2009, the hospitalization rate for non-fatal traumatic brain injuries sustained in a bicycle crash was reduced by 32% among residents ages 5-14 years old.
- "On average, a \$12 bicycle helmet for ages 3-14 years, generates \$580 in benefits to society" (Children's Safety Network, 2010, p. 4). Total savings since program inception is \$79,170,000.00.

- For more information regarding bike safety and helmet fitting training, please contact Leilani Gruener at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us.

CDC GRANT CORE I AND II EXTENSIONS

- The long-term goal of the Core I grant is to implement the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. Please refer to the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council updates within this document for more information.
- The Teen Dating Violence Grant is being implemented by our sister office in the department, the Sexual Violence Prevention Program. This grant provided funding for 2009-2011 to identify capacity and efforts pertaining to teen dating violence prevention in Miami-Dade County.
- The CDC released a funding announcement for the Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program in late November. This grant opportunity will provide funding for 2011-2016. The grant opportunity included the basic component and five additional component opportunities for Regional Network leader, Surveillance Quality Improvement, Senior Falls Prevention, and Motor Vehicle Policy.
- The OIP is currently writing for the basic component, the Surveillance Quality Improvement component, and the Senior Falls Prevention component. The grant applications are currently in process and due by February 8, 2011.
- For more information, please contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us, or Sarah Hinkel-Young at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2736 or Sarah_Hinkel-Young@doh.state.fl.us.

FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL (FIPAC)

- The October 2010 and January 2011 FIPAC meetings were postponed due to travel restrictions. The next scheduled FIPAC meeting is tentatively planned for March 2011 in Tampa, FL.
- The FIPAC and the Strategic Plan Goal Teams successfully implemented the 2010 Action Plan, the yearly implementation plan for the Strategic Plan's five goals, objectives, and strategies. The 2011 Florida Injury Prevention Action Plan is being developed by Goal Teams based on input and feedback from the 2010 plan.
- For more information, please contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us, or Sarah Hinkel-Young at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2736 or Sarah_Hinkel-Young@doh.state.fl.us.

FLORIDA MINORITY OCCUPANT PROTECTION TASK FORCE

- The Office of Injury Prevention is as a member of Florida Minority Occupant Protection Task Force.
- The University of South Florida received a 2010-2011 Department of Transportation Occupant Protection Grant to promote seat belt usage and occupant protection safety among Blacks and Hispanic in Florida.
- The Florida Minority Occupant Protection Task Force consists of professionals with backgrounds in traffic safety and injury prevention from the Florida Department of Highway Safety, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Health, Safe Kids Florida, University of South Florida and social marketing and legal firms.
- The Minority Task Force 2011 activities will be focused on areas in Osceola, Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties. In 2010, the Task Force piloted intervention and educational efforts in selected Black and Hispanic communities in Tampa, FL. The results of the pre and post surveys taken during this project will be used to develop a statewide campaign encouraging Black and Hispanic drivers and occupants to buckle-up and properly restrain small children in booster seats or appropriate restraints.
- The Task Force's first face-to-face meeting of the new grant year is scheduled for January 28, 2011 in Orlando, Florida.
- For more information on the Florida Minority Occupant Protection Task Force, please contact Towana Bonnett at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2452 or [Towana Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Towana.Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us).

FLORIDA SPECIAL NEEDS OCCUPANT PROTECTION PROGRAM

- The Office of Injury Prevention (OIP) has been notified that the Florida Special Needs Occupant Protection Program continuation grant will be funded \$105,791.00 for the 2010-2011 grant cycle. The OIP is waiting on confirmation of grant award from DOT to officially start 2011 grant activities.
- This grant provides specialized car seats to eight children's hospitals. These seats are loaned to families for the safe transportation of children with acute special health care needs who are unable to use a regular child safety seat.
- Current program sites are located in following cities: Ft. Myers, Gainesville, Hollywood, Miami, Orlando, Pensacola, St. Petersburg, and Tampa.
- Tallahassee Memorial Hospital submitted an application to become a Special Needs Program site. If the site application is approved, this will be the second program site in the Florida Panhandle area.

- During the 2009-2010 grant cycle, over 441 Special Needs seats and restraints were distributed to the eight program sites. These sites have loaned 453 seats and restraints so far this grant cycle.
- Three of the current program sites are participating as a long-term loaner program. A long-term loaner program will allow seats and restraints to be loaned for twelve months or more.
- For more information, please contact Towana Bonnett at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2452 or [Towana Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Towana.Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us), or Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 or [Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa.VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us).

IMPAIRED DRIVING COALITION

- The Office of Injury Prevention is a member of the Department of Transportation's Impaired Driving Coalition.
- The Coalition is comprised of agencies and organizations responsible for components of Florida's impaired driving system and/or that work to impact the effects of impaired driving. The Coalition was formed to draft a Strategic Impaired Driving Plan for Florida and to oversee implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- The last meeting was held on December 1-2, 2010 at the Florida Public Safety Institute.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2729 or [Kyla Shelton@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Kyla.Shelton@doh.state.fl.us).

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COALITION

- The Office of Injury Prevention is a member of the Department of Transportation's Motorcycle Safety Coalition.
- The Motorcycle Safety Coalition aids in the implementation of Florida's Motorcycle Strategic Safety Plan, which is designed to provide a comprehensive strategy to address motorcycle safety issues by identifying goals, strategies, action steps, and performance measures for key program areas.
- The next meeting will be January 12-13 in Tampa, Florida.
- The Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition is the recipient of this year's Governors Highway Safety Association's Peter K. O'Rourke Special Achievement Award which recognizes notable achievements in the field of highway safety by individuals, coalitions, organizations, nonprofit groups, businesses, government agencies, universities or programs.
- Visit <http://www.ridesmartflorida.com/> to review some of the coalition's efforts.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2729 or [Kyla Shelton@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Kyla.Shelton@doh.state.fl.us).

SAFE KIDS FLORIDA

- Heather McHenry is the new Safe Kids Florida Coordinator.
- The OIP is working with Safe Kids USA to update the Safe Kids Florida Lead Agency Coalition Agreement.
- Safe Kids Florida consists of ten local coalitions covering Alachua, Bradford, Broward, Columbia, Collier, Dade, Dixie, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hillsborough, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia counties and seven chapters covering Bay, Brevard, Clay, Duval, Lake/Sumter, Leon, Marion, Nassau, St. Johns, Osceola counties.
- Safe Kid Florida has representation in 34 counties which represents over 85% of Florida's 0-14 year old population.
- In 2009, the childhood unintentional injury fatality rate in Safe Kids counties was 30% lower than the rate in non-Safe Kids counties which corresponds to 116 fewer deaths than expected had the fatality rates been the same.
- For more information about Safe Kids Florida, please contact Heather McHenry at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2700 or [Heather McHenry@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Heather.McHenry@doh.state.fl.us), or Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 or [Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa.VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us).

SAFE MOBILITY FOR LIFE COALITION

- The Office of Injury Prevention is a member of the Department of Transportation's Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. The last meeting was held September 28, 2010 in Tallahassee, Florida.
- The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition's mission is to improve the safety, access and mobility of Florida's aging road users by developing a comprehensive strategic plan to reduce injuries and crashes among this vulnerable population.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2729 or [Kyla Shelton@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Kyla.Shelton@doh.state.fl.us).

SENIOR FALLS PREVENTION

- Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits for Florida's senior population.
- On September 22, 2010 OIP held the National Falls Prevention Awareness Day broadcast for health care professionals. This broadcast provided important information to encourage professionals to raise awareness about senior falls prevention initiatives. The broadcast was held via satellite and webcast and had national viewers.

- The Office of Injury Prevention is working with FIPAC partners to apply for new grant opportunities from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance Senior Falls Prevention awareness and events throughout the state.
- For more information regarding falls prevention, please contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 or [Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa.VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us), or Sarah Hinkel-Young at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2736 or [Sarah Hinkel-Young@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Sarah.Hinkel-Young@doh.state.fl.us).

SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL

- In 2009, 2,854 Floridians lost their lives to suicide, a rate of seven people per day.
- The Statewide Suicide Prevention Office is located in the Office of Drug Control, Executive Office of the Governor. Governor Rick Scott decided to eliminate the Office of Drug Control as of January 3, 2011. The Suicide Prevention Office will continue to operate for another 60-90 days, when a decision will be made whether the office will continue and if so, within what agency.
- Suicide Prevention Day will be late March 2011 at the Capital. It is a statewide annual event in which the and Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition are joined in Tallahassee by advocates, survivors, grassroots organizations, other state agencies, and youth to bring suicide to the forefront as a public health issue.
- The National Council for Suicide Prevention is organizing the mental health and suicide prevention communities to spread the word about the Take 5 to Save Lives campaign. The campaign asks supporters to take 5 steps (www.take5tosavelives.org)
 - 1) Learn the signs
 - 2) Join the movement
 - 3) Spread the word
 - 4) Support a friend
 - 5) Reach out if you need help
- New online free training options are available at the Office of Suicide Prevention site: <http://www.helppromotehope.com/events/school.php>. New Suicide Prevention course (free) assists learners in identifying risk and protective factors. It also presents effective preventive measures. The course is based upon suicide research and practice recommendations that are widely accepted among mental health professionals.
- Training is also available on Florida's Baker Act, the law that governs involuntary examination and treatment of individuals who present a threat to themselves or others because of mental illness.
- All of the courses can be found at <http://www.bakeracttraining.org/>.

- Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Director, Office of Injury Prevention, represents the Department of Health on the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, whose next meeting will be January 12, 2011. More information may be found at <http://www.helppromotehope.com>
- For more information, please contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us.

DATA

Injury Data Reports

- 2005-2009 injury death, hospitalization, and emergency department data for each of Florida's 67 counties are available on the Office of Injury Prevention website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury/injurydata.html>.
- 1970s-2009 injury death data is available on the Florida CHARTS website at <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/Domain2.aspx?Domain='04'>.
- County-level School-Aged Child and Adolescent Profiles, which include injury indicators, are available on the Florida CHARTS website at <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1031552>.
- County-level Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles, which include injury indicators, are available on the Florida CHARTS website at <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1013450>.
- 1999-2009 injury death and hospitalization, and 2005-2009 emergency department data, customized for specific projects, are available upon request.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2729 or Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us.

SAFE STATES DISASTER EPIDEMIOLOGY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)

- The Office of Injury Prevention is a member of the Safe States' (formerly the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Director's Association [STIPDA]) new Disaster Epidemiology SIG.
- Safe States has recommended that each state and territory establish and maintain expertise in disaster epidemiology and disaster injury prevention and mitigation. In keeping with this recommendation, the Disaster Epidemiology Special Interest Group (SIG) has been developed within Safe States to focus on injury epidemiology issues related to disasters. The scope of interest is the use of injury epidemiology tools and approaches in disaster settings to gain improved epidemiologic insights for public health action.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2729 or Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us.

SAFE STATES POISONING INJURY SURVEILLANCE WORKGROUP

- The Office of Injury Prevention is a member of the Safe States' new Poisoning Injury Surveillance Workgroup (ISW7).
- The workgroup's first conference call was held July 29th. The workgroup will meet monthly across the next year or two to develop consensus recommendations for poisoning surveillance definitions and techniques. The next call will be January 3, 2011.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4440, ext. *2729 or Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us.