Epidemiology of traumatic brain injury in Portugal: 2000 - 2004
São Luís Castro (Ph.D.)
Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto (Portugal)

The epidemiology of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in Portugal has been studied for the years 1994, 1996 and 1997 (Santos, de Sousa, & Castro-Caldas, 2001). Specifically relevant for rehabilitation was the finding that even though the rate of incidence remained constant in 1996 and 1997, 137/100 000, mortality decreased; thus, potentially more individuals might be in need of, or benefit from, physical and/or neuropsychological rehabilitation. Furthermore, over the last fifteen years or so, extensive public campaigns have promoted safety in car driving and in work environments. It is therefore important to have available more recent epidemiological data of TBI in Portugal. In this talk, I will report results from a study that used the same method as the above mentioned one (data of hospital admissions and total mortality) to analyse the incidence of TBI for the years 2000 to 2004.

TBI caused by work injuries and rehabilitation
Fernando Barbosa (Ph.D.)
Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto (Portugal)

Data from recent observational studies points out that approximately 17% of all traumatic incidents in Portugal are due to work injuries (Sequeira & Tavares, 2003). In a large national study, 6.4% of 815 individuals victimized by work injuries reported Traumatic Brain Injury (Oliveira et al., 2006).

Demographic, social, individual and general clinical data from this sub sample of TBI victims is presented, evidencing its relevance to rehabilitation practices.

Bearing in mind that there are diverse TBI rehabilitation programs, implying different resources, these facts and figures may be useful either to program managers or field professionals. For example, cost-efficacy measures or intervention strategies that are more adjusted to individual needs may be promoted based on this study.