

## Facts About Pennsylvania's Trauma Centers

**Trauma centers provide highly skilled teams of medical specialists to provide care during and after an occurrence of trauma. Trauma centers operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.**

Trauma is any injury caused by physical force and is often the result of a motor vehicle crash, a fall, gunshot, fires/burns, stabbing or blunt assault.

Trauma teams include a trauma surgeon, emergency physician, trauma nurses, personnel from radiology, blood bank, and other health care professionals. Up to 16 physicians in specialties ranging from neurosurgery to obstetrics/gynecology are on standby, and nursing teams are ready in the operating room and critical care units.

- There are 32 accredited trauma centers in Pennsylvania.
- Trauma is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Pennsylvania.
- In Pennsylvania, the most common cause of injuries is from falls, motor vehicle crashes, and acts of violence.



### Trauma Centers Care For Injured Patients

- Since 1985, 485,714 patients have been treated in Pennsylvania trauma centers, with a statewide average of 25,000 trauma patients treated each year.
- A Pennsylvania Department of Health study indicated there is a 30 percent less chance of death for trauma patients transferred to an accredited trauma center.
- In Pennsylvania, in 2007, nearly 95 percent of the 33,235 trauma patients treated survived.<sup>1</sup>

### Pennsylvania's Trauma Centers:

Abington Memorial Hospital  
Albert Einstein Medical Center  
Allegheny General Hospital  
Altoona Hospital  
Aria Health, Torresdale Campus  
Community Medical Center  
Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center  
Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Geisinger Medical Center  
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center  
Hahnemann University Hospital  
Hamot Medical Center  
Lancaster General Hospital  
Lehigh Valley Hospital  
Pocono Medical Center  
Robert Packer Hospital  
Schuylkill Medical Center-East Norwegian Street  
Schuylkill Medical Center-South Jackson Street-Pottsville  
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
St. Luke's Hospital  
St. Mary Medical Center  
Temple University Hospital  
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
The Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh  
The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center  
The Reading Hospital and Medical Center  
The University of Pennsylvania Medical Center  
The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Northwest  
The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Presbyterian  
The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Mercy  
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital  
York Hospital

## Financial Perspective on Trauma Care

- While trauma centers are subject to various levels of coverage by commercial insurers, over 50 percent of trauma cases are now covered by Medicare and Medicaid.
- Trauma centers have higher levels of uncompensated care than other hospitals. In Fiscal Year 2007, trauma centers contributed 53 percent of all uncompensated care costs among hospitals<sup>2</sup>.
- The average Pennsylvania trauma center spends \$1.35 million per year on specialists, equipment, staff, training, and education to meet the standards for compliance for accreditation. These costs are separate and distinct from the trauma center's role as a tertiary or teaching facility.



## The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF):

- Develops standards based on the American College of Surgeons guidelines for trauma centers to assure quality patient care for trauma patients.
- Surveys trauma centers, assures regulatory compliance by accredited trauma centers, and promotes optimal outcomes for all trauma patients in Pennsylvania.

## What Needs to be Done:

- Maintain current level of funding.
- Increase access to trauma services in rural areas.

### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, PTOS Trauma Registry, 2006

<sup>2</sup>HAP analysis of Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council data