



Legislative Assistance Center

Talking Points

- A designated **Trauma Center** is a hospital that maintains higher levels of service than other community hospitals for victims of car crashes, assaults (including gunshot wounds and stab wounds), falls, and all other types of critical injuries.
- Services at a Trauma Center are provided **24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year**. An entire team of **specialized medical personnel**, including a trauma surgeon, is in the hospital prepared to respond at a moment's notice to treat life-threatening injuries and perform immediate life-saving surgical interventions if necessary.
- Trauma Centers are an essential public service that saves lives by providing immediate coordination of highly specialized care for the most life-threatening injuries.
- Trauma systems encompass a regional plan to assure that injured victims get the care that they need.
- Trauma is the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 and 44 and the fourth leading cause of death overall
- Trauma is the leading cause of lost work productivity.
- Trauma costs the nation an estimated \$180 billion per year in emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and socioeconomic costs resulting from 300,000 permanent disabilities annually.
- A Trauma Center is prepared to handle any critical injury 24-hours per day.
- The high degree of readiness that trauma centers must maintain creates hidden costs that the public does not see. Like fire departments and law enforcement, which must maintain personnel and equipment always at the ready, whether in use or not, trauma centers and related hospital facilities (e.g., intensive care unit beds) must be immediately available at all times.
- Survival from severe injuries is directly related to the time from injury to the time of definitive care.
- Trauma care extends through emergency treatment to hospital care, rehabilitation and outpatient care. At a Trauma Center specially trained teams of doctors, nurses, and other health care specialists work together to meet the recovery needs of each patient. Since these specialists treat large numbers of serious trauma victims they are adept at working efficiently as a team to provide the best possible outcome for the trauma victim giving them the best possible chance to regain useful lives
- If Trauma Centers close - they will close for everyone - NOT just the indigent.