

TRAUMA SYSTEM

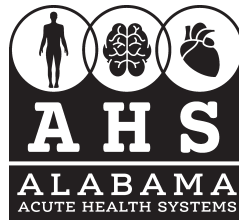
A trauma system involves trauma centers working together with 911, emergency medical services personnel, ambulances, helicopters, and other healthcare resources in a coordinated and preplanned way. This network of care is designed to get seriously injured people to the right resources as quickly as possible, thus preventing the patient from having to go through a lengthy transfer process.

- Trauma Centers are inspected and designated for the level of services they can provide.
- The Alabama Trauma System (ATS) is built around a high-tech communications center that coordinates patient transport from the scene to the appropriate hospital the first time.
- This is done with a computer intranet system and 24/7 staff that maintain up-to-the-minute status of trauma centers and resources.
- The ATS allows trauma centers to be in control of when they are available to accept trauma system patients by changing their status from available to unavailable based on resources.
- Everything is monitored by a Quality Assurance process.

ALABAMA'S TRAUMA SYSTEM

The trauma system started in seven counties around Birmingham (Birmingham Region EMS System – BREMSS) in 1996. Between 1996 and 2005, there were over 23,000 patients treated for major trauma. There was a 12% decrease in death rate from trauma in this area during that time. There was no change for the rest of the state.

The Trauma System expanded state wide. Since 1996, over 255,642 trauma patients were reported to the Alabama Trauma Communication Center (ATCC) and assigned trauma case numbers.



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ALABAMA TRAUMA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

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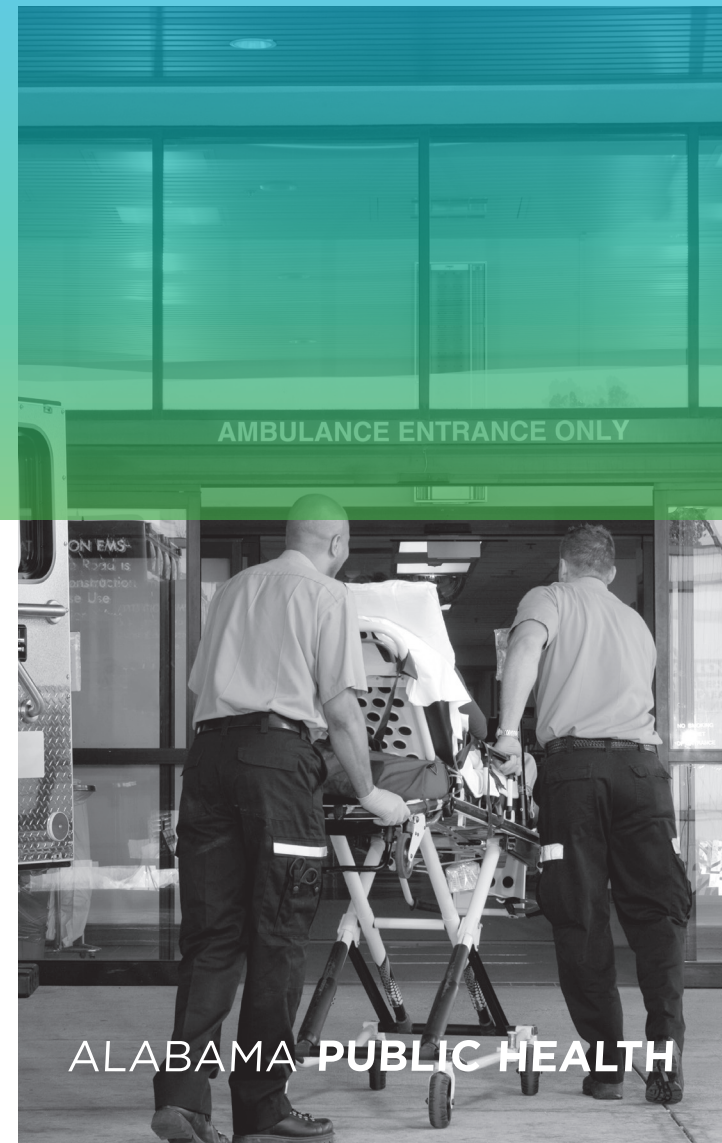
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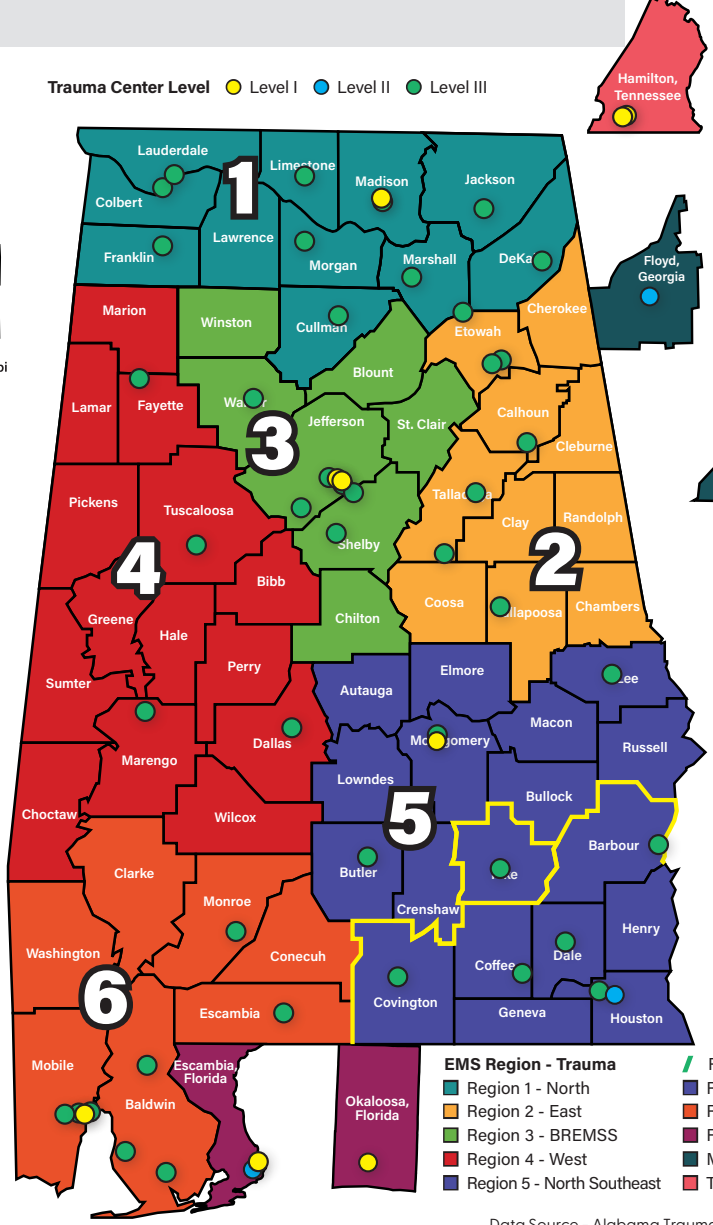
ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM



ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH

TRAUMA CENTERS

Trauma system participation is voluntary. Trauma centers are designated hospitals committed to providing a full range of care for severely injured patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Trauma care includes ready to go teams that perform immediate surgery and other necessary procedures for people with life-threatening injuries.



MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

	2023	2024	2025
Air Rotary Wing	2,263	2,273	2,238
Ground Ambulance	11,539	11,474	12,286
POV	1,535	1,711	1,714
Other Transport	131	146	155
TOTAL	15,468	15,604	16,393

THE GOLDEN HOUR

Patients have the best chance for survival if definitive care is available within an hour of traumatic injury. For trauma victims, stabilization frequently occurs only in the operating room where internal bleeding can be stopped and blood volume restored.

ALABAMA TRAUMA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Each participating hospital is connected to the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) so that there is constant monitoring of the resources and status of all hospitals in the system. When a patient needs the trauma system, emergency medical service personnel will call the ATCC, who will identify the correct ready hospital capable of treating the patient's injuries. Transportation (air or ground) will be directed by the ATCC as needed. Transfer of patients from local hospitals to the correct trauma center can be coordinated by the ATCC.

Alabama is the ONLY state in the United States with the capability to constantly monitor the status and resources of every trauma center, and route the trauma patient to the right hospital, every time. This system is a model for the rest of the nation.

TREATMENT PER DESIGNATED LEVEL OF CARE

	2023	2024	2025
LEVEL I	9,890	9,847	10,083
LEVEL II	2,647	2,979	3,225
LEVEL III	2,931	2,121	2,352
NON-TRAUMA HOSP.	-	602	676
TOTAL	15,468	15,549	16,336

ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM – COMMON MECHANISMS OF INJURY

	2023	2024	2025
Ejection from Vehicle	387	364	330
Auto Pedestrian	511	467	480
Motorcycle/Bicycle	888	885	1,054
Fall	322	469	384
Flail Chest	31	21	41
Penetrating Injury	2,141	2,153	1,854
Head Injury (Penetrating)	399	351	345
Amputations	49	45	62
Long Bone Fractures	162	117	165
Trauma Burns	400	288	319
Paralyzed Limbs	194	159	161
Pelvic Fractures	205	157	190

AGE CATEGORIES TREATED IN THE TRAUMA SYSTEM

	2023	2024	2025
0–5 (0–4 in 2021)	304	303	344
6–14	585	623	629
15–24	3,101	2,884	2,922
25–34	3,088	2,919	2,863
35–44	2,460	2,378	2,512
45–54	1,906	1,938	2,009
55–64	1,681	1,798	1,921
65–74	1,190	1,462	1,534
75–84	820	923	1,112
>85	333	390	551
TOTAL	15,468	15,618	16,397

Data Source – Alabama Trauma Communications Center – January 1 – December 31, 2023. Data pulled 2/24/2026.