

TRAUMA SYSTEM

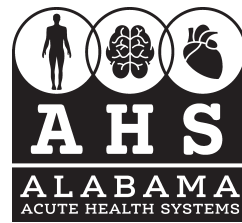
A trauma system involves trauma centers working together with 911, emergency medical services personnel, ambulances, helicopters, and other healthcare resources in a coordinated and preplanned way. This network of care is designed to get seriously injured people to the right resources as quickly as possible, 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 189,325 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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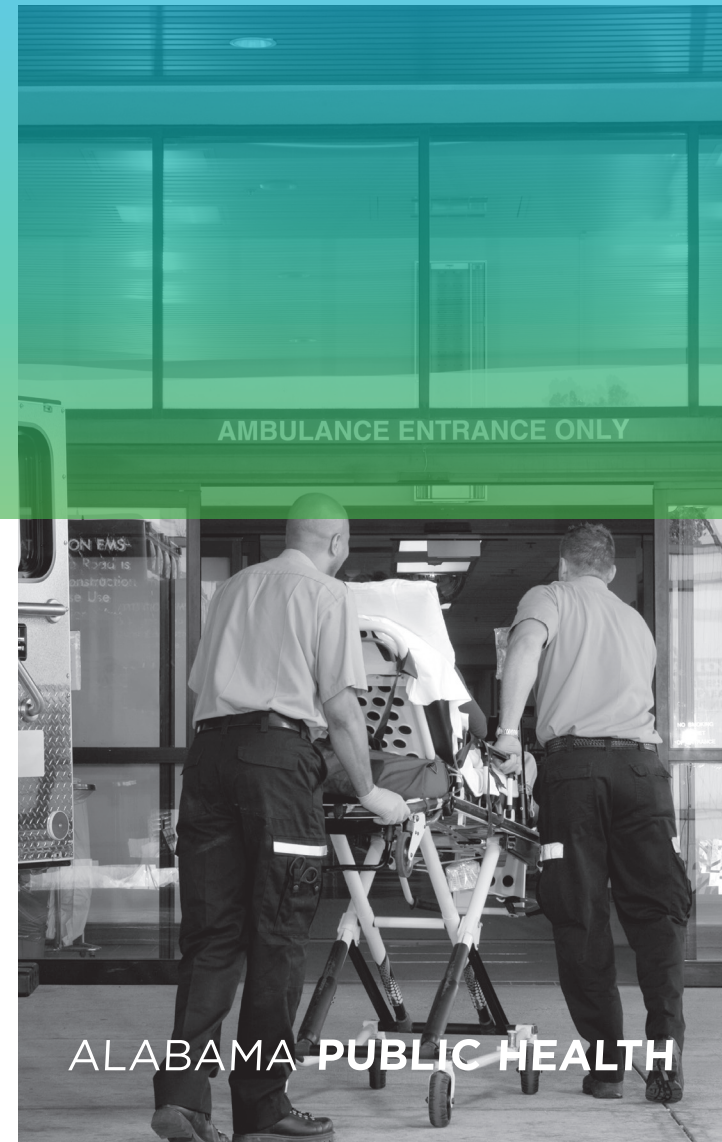
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alabamapublichealth.gov/ems/health-systems.html

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

	2020	2021	2022
Air Rotary Wing	1,863	2,000	2,105
Ground Ambulance	10,858	11,634	10,952
POV	1,359	1,407	1,487
Other Transport	87	110	88
TOTAL	14,167	15,151	14,632

TREATMENT PER DESIGNATED LEVEL OF CARE

	2020	2021	2022
LEVEL I	9,254	9,840	9,493
LEVEL II	1,671	2,356	2,378
LEVEL III	3,247	2,955	2,791
	14,172	15,151	14,632
	TOTAL: 43,955		

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.

ADMISSIONS

Of the 58,313 patients treated in designated trauma centers from January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2022, 28,317 (48.56%) were admitted.

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.

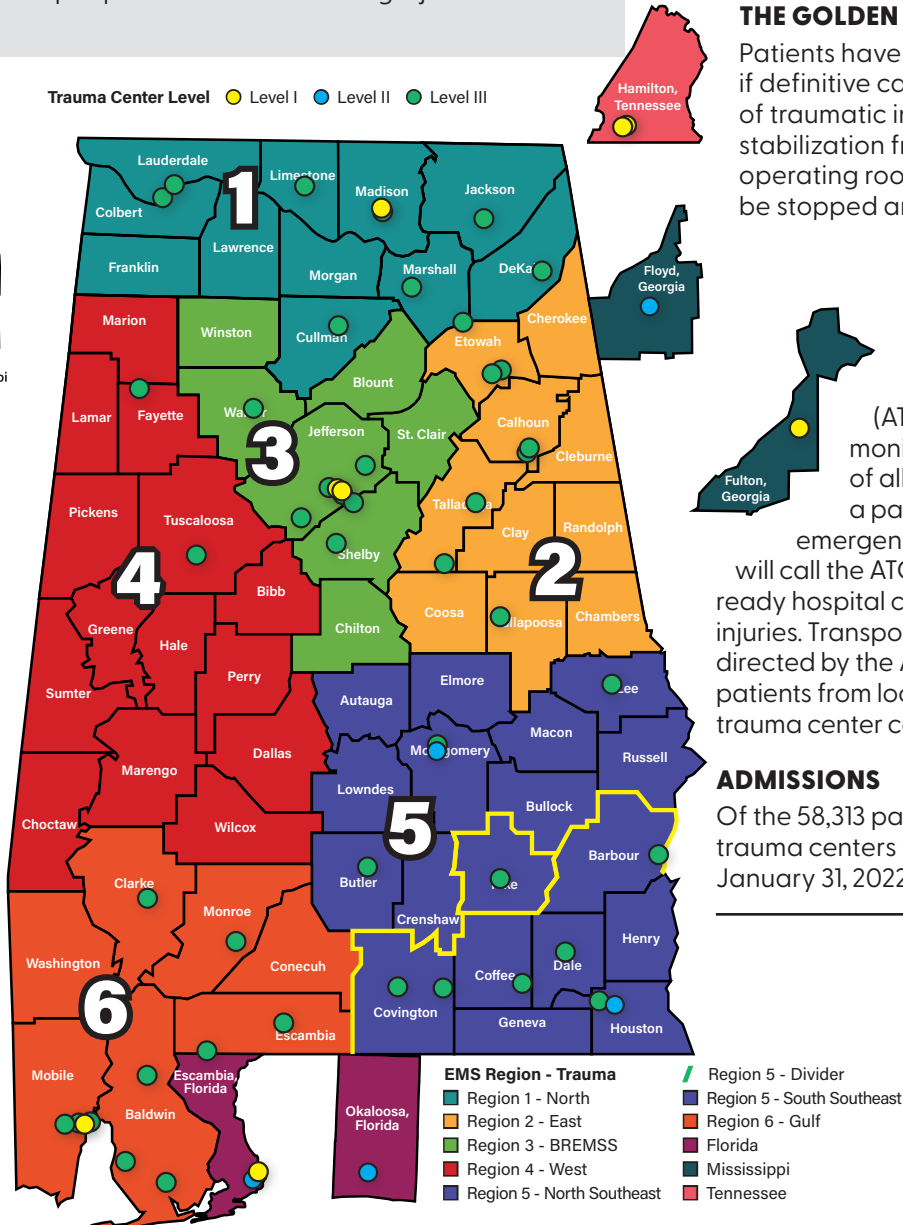
ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM – COMMON MECHANISMS OF INJURY

	2020	2021	2022
Ejection from Vehicle	449	441	363
Auto Pedestrian	479	472	485
Motorcycle/Bicycle	860	831	885
Fall	424	351	317
Flail Chest	32	26	26
Penetrating Injury	2,289	2,384	2188
Head Injury (Penetrating)	309	389	415
Amputations	63	61	57
Long Bone Fractures	165	162	176
Trauma Burns	415	366	357
Paralyzed Limbs	173	172	165
Pelvic Fractures	169	206	184

AGE CATEGORIES TREATED IN THE TRAUMA SYSTEM

	2020	2021	2022
0–5 (0-4 in 2021)	377	273	249
5–14	599	603	617
15–24	2,887	3,044	2,875
25–34	3,034	3,114	2,897
35–44	2,226	2,482	2,372
45–54	1,788	1,923	1,847
55–64	1,512	1,626	1,586
65–74	1,028	1,181	1,223
75–84	566	608	684
>85	233	297	282
TOTAL	14,250	15,151	14,632

Trauma Center Level ● Level I ● Level II ● Level III



Data Source - Alabama Trauma Communications Center - January 1 - December 31, 2022. Data pulled 4/21/2023.