

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.



OEMS AHS STAFF

Jamie Gray, BS, AAS, NRP
State EMS Director

Elwin Crawford, MD, FACEP, NRP
State EMS Medical Director

Jeffrey Kerby, MD, PhD, FACS
Trauma Consultant

Alice B. Floyd, BSN, RN, EMT-P
Acute Health Systems Manager

Sara Matthews, RN
CARES Coordinator and Trauma Registrar

Tabatha Ross, BSN, RN
Stroke and Cardiac Coordinator

Gary Varner, MPH, NRP
Senior Epidemiologist

Kezia Laster, MPH
Epidemiologist

ALABAMA TRAUMA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Toll-free emergency: 1.800.359.0123

Business: 205.975.2400

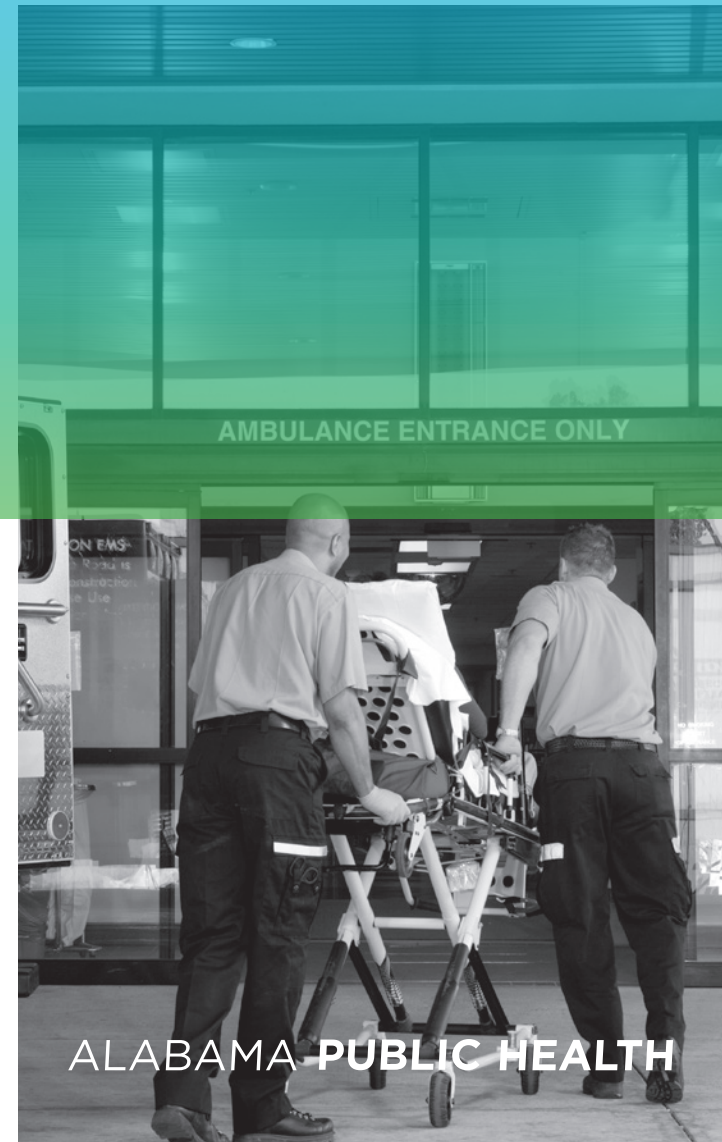
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

208 Legends Court, Prattville, AL 36066

334-290-3088

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

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Air Rotary Wing | 2,000 | 2,105 | 2,263 |
| Ground Ambulance | 11,634 | 10,952 | 11,539 |
| POV | 1,407 | 1,487 | 1,535 |
| Other Transport | 110 | 88 | 131 |
| TOTAL | 15,151 | 14,632 | 15,468 |

TREATMENT PER DESIGNATED LEVEL OF CARE

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| LEVEL I | 9,840 | 9,493 | 9,890 |
| LEVEL II | 2,356 | 2,378 | 2,647 |
| LEVEL III | 2,955 | 2,791 | 2,931 |
| TOTAL | 15,151 | 14,632 | 15,468 |

ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM – COMMON MECHANISMS OF INJURY

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| Ejection from Vehicle | 441 | 363 | 387 |
| Auto Pedestrian | 472 | 485 | 511 |
| Motorcycle/Bicycle | 831 | 885 | 888 |
| Fall | 351 | 317 | 322 |
| Flail Chest | 26 | 26 | 31 |
| Penetrating Injury | 2,384 | 2188 | 2,141 |
| Head Injury (Penetrating) | 389 | 415 | 399 |
| Amputations | 61 | 57 | 49 |
| Long Bone Fractures | 162 | 176 | 162 |
| Trauma Burns | 366 | 357 | 400 |
| Paralyzed Limbs | 172 | 165 | 194 |
| Pelvic Fractures | 206 | 184 | 205 |

AGE CATEGORIES TREATED IN THE TRAUMA SYSTEM

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0–5 (0–4 in 2021) | 273 | 249 | 304 |
| 6–14 | 603 | 617 | 585 |
| 15–24 | 3,044 | 2,875 | 3,101 |
| 25–34 | 3,114 | 2,897 | 3,088 |
| 35–44 | 2,482 | 2,372 | 2,460 |
| 45–54 | 1,923 | 1,847 | 1,906 |
| 55–64 | 1,626 | 1,586 | 1,681 |
| 65–74 | 1,181 | 1,223 | 1,190 |
| 75–84 | 608 | 684 | 820 |
| >85 | 297 | 282 | 333 |
| TOTAL | 15,151 | 14,632 | 15,468 |

THE GOLDEN HOUR

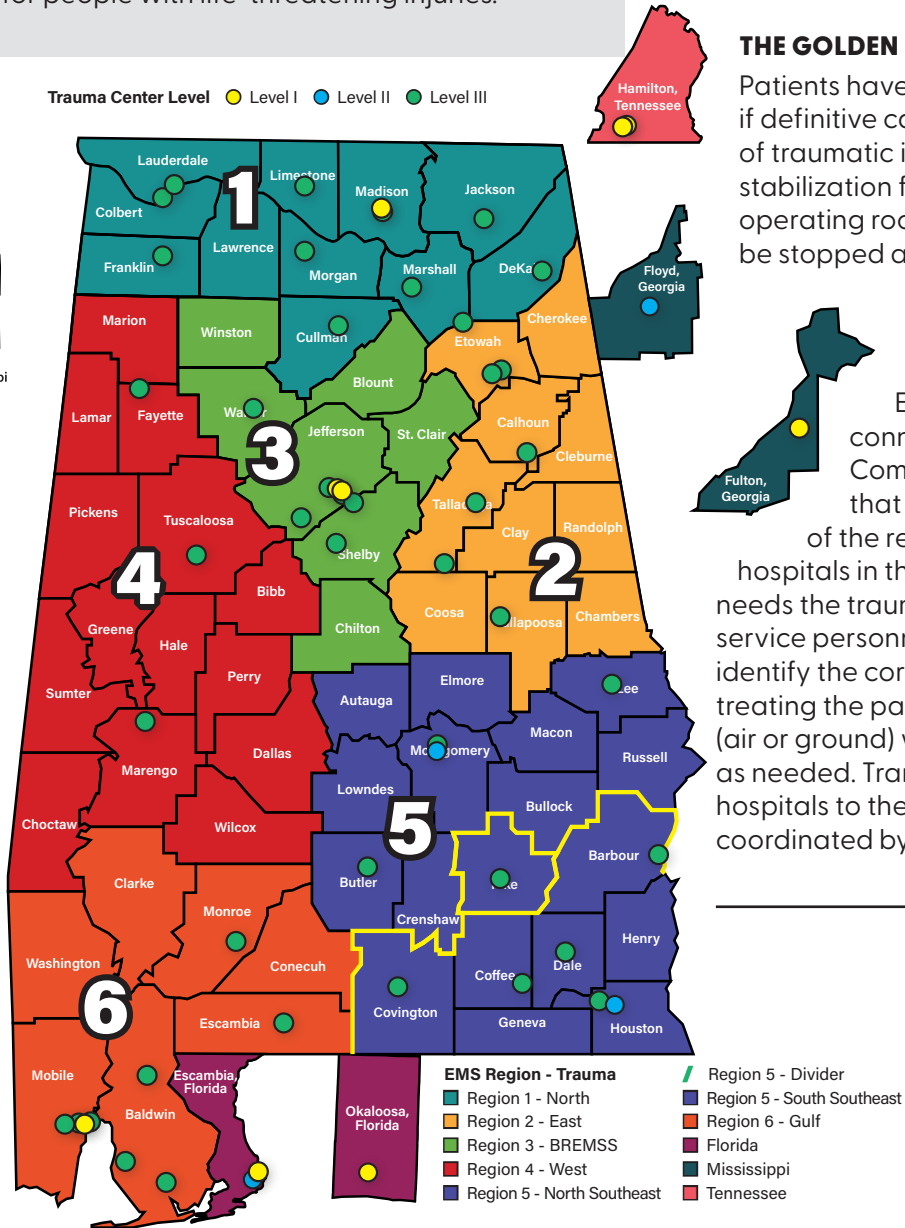
Patients have the best chance for survival if definitive care is available within an hour of traumatic injury. For trauma victims, stabilization frequently occurs only in the operating room where internal bleeding can be stopped and blood volume restored.

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.

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



Data Source - Alabama Trauma Communications Center - January 1 - December 31, 2023. Data pulled 1/24/2024.