



Trauma Basics

What is trauma?

Trauma is a serious injury or shock to the body from an accident or violence.

What is Emergency Medical Service (EMS)?

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the “front line” of trauma care. It refers to the emergency medical technicians, ground and air ambulances, and advanced life support equipment that provide several critical “pre-hospital” services.

What is a trauma center?

A trauma center is a specialized hospital with appropriate professional staff and equipment available immediately to care for patients who have been severely injured in vehicle accidents, falls, shootings and other incidents.

What is a trauma system?

A trauma system is an organized approach to the management of trauma in a geographic area, such as a state.

Fast Facts

- > Trauma is the # 1 killer of Americans between the ages of one and 44, and the # 3 cause of death across all age groups.
- > Studies report that as many as one third of trauma deaths occurring in areas without an organized trauma care system are preventable.
- > Georgia’s trauma death rate is significantly higher than the national average: 63 of every 100,000 people compared to the national average of 56 per 100,000.
- > If Georgia’s death rate improved to the national average, it would mean a difference of as many as 700 more lives saved every year.
- > Of the estimated 40,000 cases of major trauma each year in Georgia, only about 10,000 are treated in designated trauma centers.

WHY

IT’S ABOUT TIME

GEORGIA NEEDS A **TRAUMA** SYSTEM NOW

GSTAT
GA STATEWIDE TRAUMA ACTION TEAM

The Georgia Statewide Trauma Action Team (GSTAT) is a coalition of hospitals, emergency medical services (EMS) providers, physicians, nurses and others interested in creating a statewide trauma system.

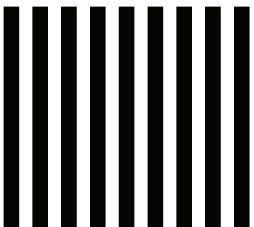
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It's about time... **to save lives.**

The clock begins ticking the instant that the car crashes, the worker falls, or the bullet rips into the victim. A trauma patient's chances of survival increase dramatically if they receive care within the "golden hour" following injury.

Most hospitals with an emergency room are not trauma centers. In Georgia, only 15 of the state's 152 acute-care hospitals are – an alarmingly inadequate number. Georgia needs approximately 25-30 trauma centers.

Georgians in many areas simply do not have fast access to trauma care. As a result, Georgia's trauma death rate is higher than the national average. If Georgia's death rate improved to the national average, it would mean a difference of as many as 700 more lives saved every year.

It's about time... **that Georgia has a statewide trauma system.**

The movement to establish a statewide trauma system in Georgia began 30 years ago, but the specific infrastructure and funding solutions remain unresolved. The keys are establishing an integrated trauma infrastructure throughout the state, and easing the financial burden on the hospitals, physicians and EMS providers who provide an estimated \$275 million of trauma care and services a year without compensation. Those losses discourage hospitals from adding trauma centers and pressure participating hospitals to close trauma centers.

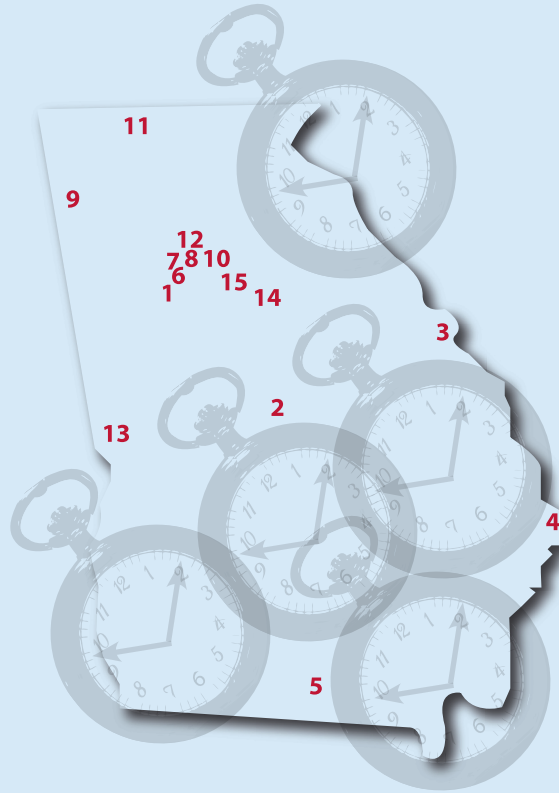
Now it's time for action that will ensure that trauma care will be available for our families, our neighbors and us.

More delay means more lives lost.

The map and gaps

Georgia has 15 designated trauma centers dispersed among ten counties. Of these, four are Level I centers, nine are Level II centers, and two are Level IV centers.

Large areas of Georgia, as indicated by clocks on the map, are inadequately served.



It's about time... **you got involved.**

Now is the time to join together and support development and funding of a statewide trauma system.

To show your support fill in the postage-paid card to the right and mail it in.

Or, go to www.GeorgialtsAboutTime.com to:

- > learn more
- > find out if you live within a "golden hour" of a trauma center
- > sign the e-petition and join the Georgia Statewide Trauma Action Team (GSTAT)

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

To show your support for a statewide trauma system in Georgia, fill out this postage-paid card and drop it in the mail.

I SAY YES

It's about time that Georgia has a statewide trauma system.

To learn more, sign an e-petition and join GSTAT, visit www.GeorgialtsAboutTime.com.