The Georgia Trauma Commission is dedicated to improving the health of injured Georgians by ensuring access to quality trauma care, coordinating key trauma system components, and educating trauma care providers across the multidisciplinary continuum.

ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2021





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GTC MISSION, **VISION & VALUES**

MISSION

The Georgia Trauma Commission is dedicated to improving the health of injured Georgians by ensuring access to quality trauma care, coordinating key trauma system components, and educating trauma care providers across the multidisciplinary continuum.

VISION

The Georgia trauma system will become a top-tier trauma system that provides the highest quality care and education through discovery and innovation.

VALUES

Stewardship Manage resources responsibly and bring value to patients and taxpayers

Integrity Demonstrated through accountability, ethical behavior, transparency, and reliability

Inclusivity

Ensure teamwork, collaboration, and



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are pleased to provide you with the Georgia Trauma Commission's annual report for the fiscal year 2021. With uncertainty around the evolving pandemic, many of our trauma care providers grew emotionally depleted from sustained surges of COVID-19 case transmissions, hospitalizations, and deaths. Trauma workforce retention and redeployment were ongoing threats as healthcare worker fatigue and burnout soared. Our trauma system saw a spike in intentional injuries that likely stemmed from a population unprepared to cope with pandemic-related stresses.

Despite these many challenges, we are grateful for the collaboration and support from our trauma system partners to make trauma care a priority during this unprecedented healthcare crisis. Through these partnerships, the GTC funding focused on workforce education, support of rural trauma care, and enhancing datadriven outcomes measures. In addition, the infrastructure of the GTC has undergone leadership succession enhancements through bylaws revisions that ensure the long-term viability of stakeholder inclusivity and engagement.

The pandemic has taught us valuable lessons about where our trauma system's vulnerabilities exist. Most important is the need for a regional planning approach to managing access for injured patients requiring time-sensitive, life-saving interventions and advanced critical care resources to support recovery. In response to this need, we have established a structure that will enable us to evaluate this approach and proactive solutions to deploy when trauma care demand exceeds capacity. While we are proud of what our system has accomplished to date, we know more work lies ahead.

We look forward to the coming fiscal year focused on optimizing outcomes for Georgia's injured citizens and children.



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Elizabeth V. Atkins, MSN, RN, TCRN **Executive Director**

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Dennis W. Ashley, MD, FACS Chairman

FISCAL YEAR 2021 FUNDING



The GTC's annual budget is allocated based on established funding formulas for critical trauma system infrastructure.

The amended FY 2021 budget provided an additional \$9.1M to the GTC budget supporting the Georgia Trauma System. The GTC distributed amended funds in support of the following trauma system initiatives and enhancements:

- Georgia Trauma risk-adjusted outcomes
 statewide benchmarking platform.
- Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) participation for all nine state-designated level III trauma centers.
- One-time readiness and registry grants for noncontracted trauma centers.
- Increased trauma center readiness funds across all Georgia's designated, funded trauma centers.
- Equipment grants for Georgia's 911 emergency response vehicles.

\$23.5+ MILLION

BUDGETED AND ALLOCATED THROUGH Georgia trauma commission

FY 2021 BUDGET



AFY 2021 BUDGET



STATE OEMST	\$432,183.49
SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	\$695,151.98
EMS	\$2,212,424.95
TRAUMA CENTERS	\$9,857,052.00
OPERATIONS	\$1,068,582.59
GEORGIA TRAUMA FOUNDATION	\$141,500.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS	\$14,406,895.01

TOTAL AMENDED FUNDS	\$9,150,951
TRAUMA CENTERS	\$6,340,068.00
EMS	\$1,370,864.00
SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	\$1,354,850.00
STATE OEMST	\$85,169.00

TRAUMA CENTER FUNDING

The FY 2021 and AFY 2021 funding provided a distribution of over \$16M across all levels of Georgia's trauma, pediatric trauma & burn centers.



Funding supports trauma center readiness, registry, and uncompensated care. Key features of trauma center funding include:

- The performance-based pay program (PBP) assigns a percent at risk to a portion of the trauma readiness funding based on performance metrics.
- Uncompensated care funding (UCC) is allocated to level I & level II trauma centers and burn centers and is based on center-specific historical data, audited annually by a third party, and subject to available funds.
- One-time readiness and registry grant for centers not currently participating in GTC funding.*

		FY 2021 Base Budget Allocations						AFY 2021				TOTAL 2021 FUNDING		
Trauma Center		Y 2021 eadiness	FY 2021 Potent Performance Based Pay		FY 2021 Total Readiness Payments	FY 2021 UCC (CY 2018)	FY 2021 Tota from Trauma Fund	FY 2021 Registry Support	TOTAL FY 2021 FUNDS	AFY 2021 Additional Readiness	AFY 2021 Performance Based Pay Reward/ Reduction	AFY 2021 TQIP Participation Support	TOTAL AFY 2021 FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDINIG FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021
Level IV														
Morgan Medical Center	\$	8,100	\$ 1,9	00	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 12,878.42	\$ (1,000.00	1	\$ 11,878.42	\$ 24,195.42
Emanuel Medical Center	\$	8,100	\$ 1,9	00	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 12,878.42	\$ 137.70		\$ 13,016.12	\$ 25,333.12
Effingham Hospital	\$	8,100	\$ 1,9	00	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 12,878.42	\$ 137.70		\$ 13,016.12	\$ 25,333.03
Atrium Polk Medical Center	\$	8,100	\$ 1,9	00	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 12,878.42	\$ 137.70		\$ 13,016.12	\$ 25,333.03
Memorial Health Meadows Hospital	\$	8,100	\$ 1,9	00	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 12,878.42	\$ (500.00		\$ 12,378.42	\$ 24,695.33
Level III														
J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital	\$	20,000	\$ 30,0	00	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 63,832.19	\$ (2,500.00	\$ 7,879.00	\$ 69,211.19	\$ 130,695.19
Piedmont Walton	\$	20,000	\$ 30,0	00	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 63,832.19	\$ (2,500.00	\$ 7,879.00	\$ 69,211.19	\$ 130,695.00
Crisp Regional Health Services	\$	20,000	\$ 30,0	00	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 63,832.19	\$ (2,500.00	\$ 7,879.00	\$ 69,211.19	\$ 130,695.00
Hamilton Medical Center	\$	20,000	\$ 30,0	00	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 63,832.19	\$ (2,500.00	\$ 7,879.00	\$ 69,211.19	\$ 130,695.19
Advent Health Redmond Hospital	\$	20,000	\$ 30,0	00	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 63,832.19	\$ (5,000.00		\$ 66,711.19	\$ 128,195.00
Level II														
Piedmont Athens Regional	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 88,771	\$ 286,135	\$ 45,331	\$ 331,466	\$ 265,208.23	\$ (9,868.00		\$ 255,340.23	\$ 586,806.23
Piedmont Columbus Regional	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 280,274	\$ 477,638	\$ 45,331	\$ 522,969	\$ 265,208.23	\$ 2,420.56		\$ 267,628.79	\$ 790,597.79
Atrium Health Floyd	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 108,566	\$ 305,930	\$ 45,331	\$ 351,261	\$ 265,208.23	\$ (9,868.00		\$ 255,340.23	\$ 606,601.07
Northside Gwinnett	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 160,512	\$ 357,876	\$ 45,331	\$ 403,207	\$ 265,208.23	\$ 2,420.56		\$ 267,628.79	\$ 670,835.63
Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 149,374	\$ 346,738	\$ 45,331	\$ 392,069	\$ 265,208.23	\$ 2,420.56		\$ 267,628.79	\$ 659,697.63
Wellstar North Fulton Hospital	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 42,995	\$ 240,359	\$ 45,331	\$ 285,690	\$ 265,208.23	\$ 2,420.56		\$ 267,628.79	\$ 553,318.63
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 196,587	\$ 393,951	\$ 45,331	\$ 439,282	\$ 265,208.23	\$ 2,420.56		\$ 267,628.79	\$ 706,910.63
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta- Scottish Rite	\$	39,473	\$ 157,8	91	\$ 197,364	\$ 35,305	\$ 232,669	\$ 45,331	\$ 278,000	\$ 265,208.23	\$ 2,420.56		\$ 267,628.79	\$ 545,628.63
Level I														
Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center	\$	65,788	\$ 263,1	52	\$ 328,940	\$ 372,246	\$ 701,186	\$ 75,451	\$ 776,637	\$ 442,013.72	\$ 3,043.82		\$ 445,057.54	\$ 1,221,694.54
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta- Egleston	\$	65,788	\$ 263,1	52	\$ 328,940	\$ 48,233	\$ 377,172	\$ 75,451	\$ 452,623	\$ 442,013.72	\$ 3,043.82		\$ 445,057.54	\$ 897,680.54
Grady Memorial Hospital	\$	65,788	\$ 263,1	52	\$ 328,940	\$ 1,478,258	\$ 1,807,198	\$ 75,451	\$ 1,882,649	\$ 442,013.72	\$ 3,043.82		\$ 445,057.54	\$ 2,327,706.20
Atrium Health Navicent Macon	\$	65,788	\$ 263,1	52	\$ 328,940	\$ 204,277	\$ 533,217	\$ 75,451	\$ 608,668	\$ 442,013.72	\$ 3,043.82		\$ 445,057.54	\$ 1,053,725.20
Augusta University	\$	65,788	\$ 263,1	52	\$ 328,940	\$ 348,807	\$ 677,747	\$ 75,451	\$ 753,198	\$ 442,013.72			\$ 445,057.54	\$ 1,198,255.20
Memorial Health University Medical Center	\$	65,788	\$ 263,1	52	\$ 328,940	\$ 727,731	\$ 1,056,671	\$ 75,451	\$ 1,132,122	\$ 442,013.72	\$ 3,043.82		\$ 445,057.54	\$ 1,577,179.20
Burn Center													\$ -	\$ -
Grady Burn Center	\$	82,235	\$ 82,2	35	\$ 164,470	\$ 31,651	\$ 196,121	\$ 37,675	\$ 233,796	\$ 221,006.86	\$ 1,518.31		\$ 222,525.17	\$ 456,321.17
Joseph M. Still Burn Center	\$	82,235	\$ 82,2		\$ 164,470	\$ 74,467	\$ 238,937	\$ 37,657	\$ 276,594	\$ 221,006.86	\$ 1,518.31		\$ 222,525.17	\$ 499,119.17
Total	\$1	,015,482	\$ 3,166,0		\$ 4,181,492	\$ 4,348,054	\$ 8,529,545	\$ 959,688	\$ 9,489,233	\$ 5,599,314.93	\$ -	\$ 39,395.00	\$ 5,638,709.93	\$ 15,127,942.80
	L F	Y 2021	FY 2021 Potent	tial	FY 2021 Total	FY 2021 UCC	FY 2021 Tota	FY 2021	TOTAL FY	AFY 2021	AFY 2021 Performance	AFY 2021 TQIP	TOTAL AFY 2021	TOTAL FUNDINIG FOR

TRAUMA CENTER ALLOCATIONS

Non-Contracted Trauma Center*	FY 2021 Readiness	FY 2021 Potential Performance Based Pay	FY 2021 Total Readiness Payments	FY 2021 UCC (CY 2018)	FY 2021 Total from Trauma Fund	FY 2021 Registry Support	TOTAL FY 2021 FUNDS	AFY 2021 Additional Readiness	AFY 2021 Performance Based Pay Reward/ Reduction	AFY 2021 TQIP Participation Support	TOTAL AFY 2021 FUNDS*	TOTAL FUNDINIG FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021
Level III												
Fairview Park Hospital	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ 69,363.00	\$ 69,363.00
Piedmont Catersville	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ -	\$ 69,363.00	\$ 69,363.00
Wellstar Cobb Hospital	\$-	\$ -	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ -	\$ 69,363.00	\$ 69,363.00
Level II												
Doctors Hospital of Augusta	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$ 242,695.00	\$ 242,695.00
Augusta University-Children's Hospital	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$ 242,695.00	\$ 242,695.00
Total	\$-	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ 693,479.00	\$ 693,479.00
											tone time	readiness and registry gra

THE TRAUMA CENTER'S ROLE

Is a trauma center the same as an emergency department?

Emergency departments treat various illnesses and injuries, from broken bones to strokes and heart attacks, and much more. Trauma centers handle the most severe life or limb-threatening injuries such as car crashes, brain injuries, serious falls, assaults, gunshot wounds, and severe burns. The trauma team includes trauma surgeons, emergency medicine physicians, anesthesiologists, neurosurgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, radiologists, and trauma nurses. Trauma team members respond at a moment's notice to a dedicated trauma bay with state-of-the-art resuscitation equipment. Trauma centers ensure trauma patients have priority access to diagnostic tests such as CT scans, ultrasounds, and blood products in the resuscitation bay.



In Georgia, there are four levels of trauma centers:

- 1. Level I: The center provides total care, from prevention through rehabilitation. These also offer a teaching program for medical residents, as well as ongoing research.
- 2. Level II: The center is similar to a Level I trauma center but may not offer teaching or research. Levels I and II treat both children and adults.
- **3.** Level III: The center is smaller than Level I and II centers, but provides prompt care to injured patients
- **4. Level IV:** The center provides trauma care and life support before patients are transferred to a higher-level trauma center.

EMERGENCY ROOM

TRAUMA CENTER

- Possible broken limbs
- Signs of a heart attack
- Fainting
- Signs of a stroke
- Severe stomach pains
- Loss of consciousness
- Shortness of breath

- Gunshot wounds
- Severe car crash injuries
- Major burns
- Serious falls
- Stab wounds
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Blunt trauma

To care for the most serious injuries, the trauma center must have the equipment, doctors, and nurses who specialize in the care of critically injured patients available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

VS.

TRAUMA CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



TRAUMA CENTER PERFORMANCE & QUALITY OUTCOMES

Designated Trauma Centers are a critical component of a functional trauma system. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Verification, Review & Consultation program provides an objective, external review of a trauma center's resources and performance. A team of trauma experts completes an on-site review of the hospital. The team assesses relevant features of the program, including commitment, readiness, resources, policies, patient care, and performance improvement. By fiscal year-end, nine Georgia trauma centers have achieved ACS Verification. By June 30, 2024, all levels I, II, and III trauma centers must be ACS verified to be eligible for funding.





PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

In partnership with Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma, trauma center performance reporting evolves each fiscal year with a focus on high quality patient outcomes.

PREHOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS



EMS EDUCATION

Prehospital personnel provide the vital link between injury and transport to definitive care for trauma patients.

They face a difficult, often hazardous work environment; EMS systems' recruitment and retention are perennial challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified these challenges. Like other healthcare providers, prehospital personnel must have access to high-quality education and simulation to ensure optimal patient outcomes, foster professional growth, and achieve an engaged workforce. In partnership with the Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association (GEMSA), the Georgia Trauma Commission has funded over 100,000 prehospital continuing education hours throughout Georgia.





EMR/EMT

Trauma skills labs, EMS Instructor, EVOC Instructor, Farm Medic, Auto Extrication, Ropes for EMS, PHTLS, EPC, GEMS, ITLS, TECC, Axioms of Leadership

Both



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

The ongoing partnership between GEMSA and the Georgia Trauma Commission has proven to be a successful model for ensuring access to high quality prehospital education and skills training.

PREHOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EQUIPMENT GRANTS

GEORGIA EMS REGIONS

GRANT AWARD AMOUNTS BY EMS REGION

Region	FY 2021 Grant Funds
Region 1	\$ 109,480.62
Region 2	\$ 74,666.26
Region 3	\$ 295,978.91
Region 4	\$ 87,181.18
Region 5	\$ 109,463.95
Region 6	\$ 74,011.00
Region 7	\$ 47,131.56
Region 8	\$ 108,196.43
Region 9	\$ 143,252.06
Region 10	\$ 38,647.98
Total	\$ 1,088,009.95

'Over \$1M

was made available to Georgia's ambulances to purchase life-saving equipment to care for trauma patients. Extrication devices, splints for fracture stabilization, portable radios, stretchers & intravenous access kits are just a few examples of equipment purchased by 911 emergency providers enabling them to provide trauma care to the citizens of Georgia.

EMS Regions

TRAUMA SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS



GEORGIA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (GQIP)

The Georgia Quality Improvement Program rebooted in FY 2021 with structural and leadership changes. Workgroups were established around the most significant areas of opportunity identified in our TQIP benchmark report: acute kidney injury, traumatic brain injury and a key focus in the public health sector, opioid use. The workgroups consist of multidisciplinary stakeholders from Georgia trauma centers

including anesthesiology, critical care medicine, pharmacy, and neurosurgery. GQIP workgroups are the main engine that drive quality initiatives; the full GQIP group convenes quarterly to discuss successes, opportunities, and next steps. With AFY 2021 funds, the GQIP collaborative will further enhance its outcomes measure capability in partnership with ArborMetrix.



ArborMetrix, a fully integrated registry solution, covers three primary pillars: (1) efficient ingestion of data foundational to propel quality improvement; (2) transforming that data through advanced, riskadjusted clinical analytics; and (3) presenting data back through interactive customized reports that support the needs of the Georgia trauma system's quality improvement initiatives.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Driving engagement and advancing GQIP's mission with a clinically rich registry that achieves measurably quality improvement and impactful research.

TRAUMA SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

THE CHALLENGE

Spring 2016 TQIP Benchmark Report - Georgia Trauma Centers

- Significant underperformance in seven of the eight riskadjusted major hospital events by cohort
- Odd ratios with confidence intervals in all seven cohorts were well above the median
- Many in the 9th and 10th decile







- A conceptual model was developed to integrate GQIP activities with participation in the ACS verification process and trauma center designation.
- Trauma center participation was tied to funding through the performance-based pay program.

Historically, state entities such as GQIP, the state's funding entity, and the state's trauma center regulatory agency operated in silos & lacked alignment resulting in suboptimal outcomes. All three agencies collaborated on a model to ensure alignment and provide an enduring framework.

CHANGE MEASUREMENT



Fall 2021 TQIP Benchmark Report - Georgia Trauma Centers

Decile

all cohorts in the benchmark No high outliers in any of

By spring 2021, an

- the eight risk-adjusted major hospital events by cohort
- Odds ratios with confidence intervals in all eight cohorts cross the median
- Many under the 7th decile



Trauma System Partner Alignment

- Maintaining alignment for the . system leadership partners is vital for sustaining progress.
- Using a conceptual model enhances each partner's understanding of their role and impact on the system.
- The model provides a stable, • legacy framework that sets clear expectations to endure through leadership succession.



Patient Cohort

solated Hip

Elderly Blun

TRAUMA BY THE NUMBERS





86% of Georgia Citizens...

now live within the 60 minute "Golden Hour" - this is the first hour after a traumatic injury occurs and skilled interventions begin. It often means the difference between life and death, or life-long disability.



70% of adults and 98%...

159

COUNTIES

of pediatric severely injured patients are being treated at a designated trauma center.



88% of severely injured patients...

who suffered a traumatic brain injury were triaged to a designated trauma center.



15 DESIGNATED TRAUMA CENTERS





33 DESIGNATED TRAUMA CENTERS

57,701 SOUARE MILES

PEOPLE

10.7 M



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Dennis W. Ashley, MD, FACS, FCCM

Chair ___

Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair of Surgery Professor of Surgery Mercer University School of Medicine Director of Trauma Atrium Health Navicent

James R. Dunne, MD, FACS Vice-Chair

— Chief of Trauma & Surgical Critical Care Memorial University Medical Center

Regina S. Medeiros, DNP, MHSA, RN Secretary/Treasurer

— Trauma Program Director Augusta University Health

James L. Adkins Jr., BA, EMT-P

Executive Southstar Emergency Medical Services

John C. Bleacher, MD, FAAP, FACS

Attending Surgeon Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Section Chief, General Pediatric Surgery Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Scottish Rite

Victor L. Drawdy, NRP

Program Director Air Evac Lifeteam

James Smith, MD, FACEP

Emergency Department Medical Director Northside Hospital Gwinnett

Courtney Terwilliger

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Emanuel Medical Center

Michelle Wallace, DNP, RN, TCRN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Chief Nursing Officer Grady Health System



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION