

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 2022



GEORGIA TRAUMA
COMMISSION



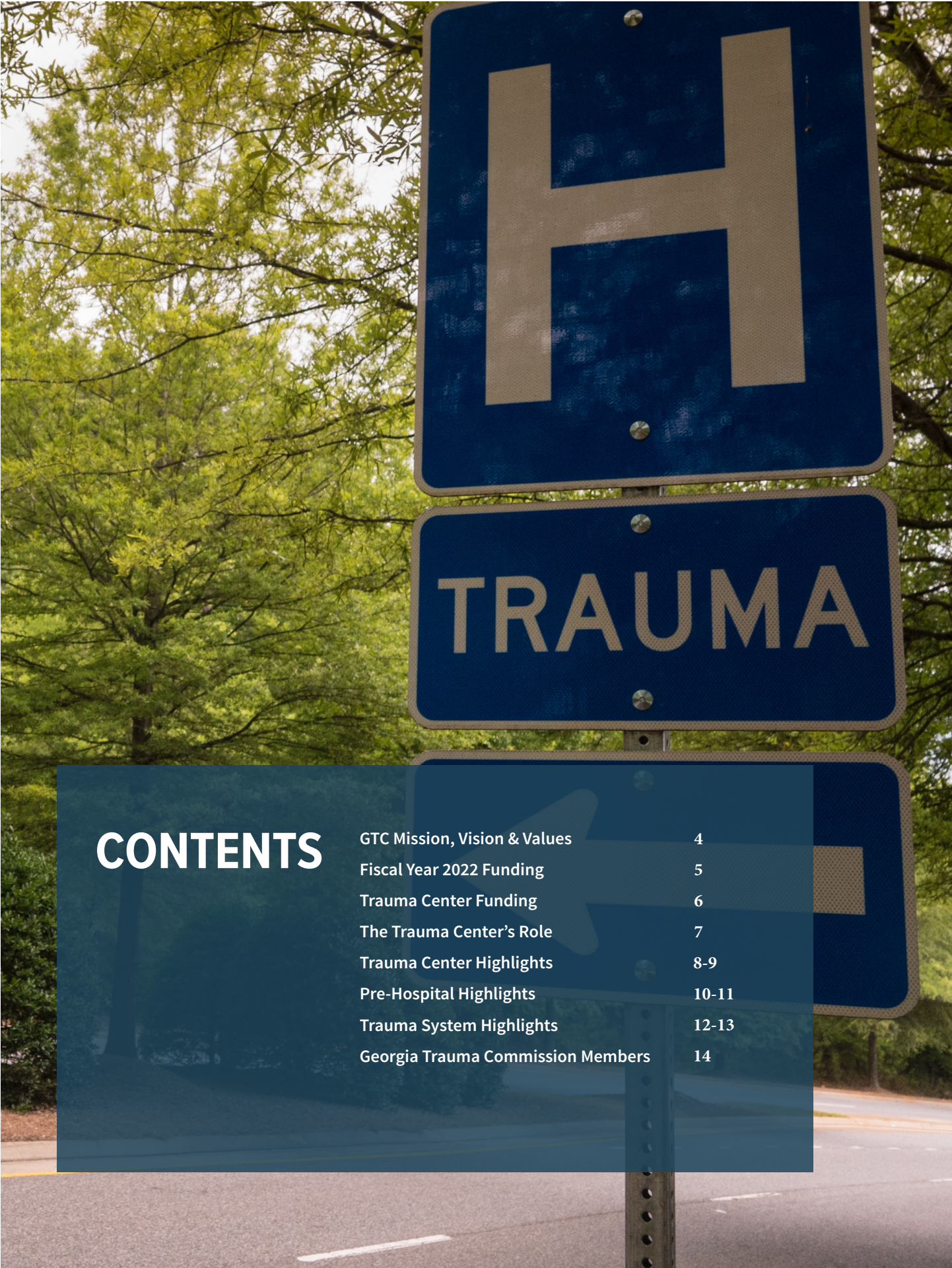
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**GEORGIA TRAUMA
COMMISSION**



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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 inclusion of a diverse stakeholder group

CORE PILLARS

QUALITY

FUNDING

ACCESS

FISCAL YEAR 2022 FUNDING



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

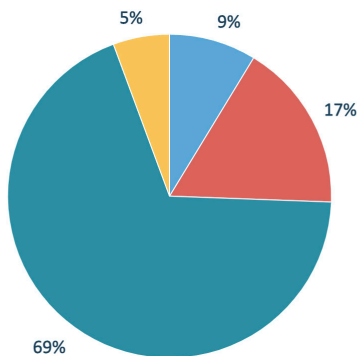
The amended FY 2022 budget provided an additional \$8.5M to the GTC budget supporting the Georgia Trauma System. The GTC distributed amended funds in support of the following trauma system initiatives and enhancements:

- American College of Surgeons Trauma Systems Consultation with Rural Focused Review
- Level III and IV Consultative Visits
- Trauma Registry Web-based Hosting for Level III and IV Trauma Centers
- Increased Readiness Funding System-wide
- Increased funding to support DPH Office of EMS and Trauma
- Equipment grants for Georgia's 911 emergency response vehicles

**\$22.9+
MILLION**

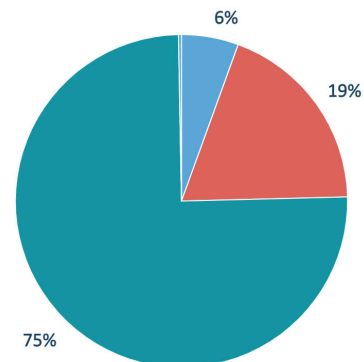
**BUDGETED AND ALLOCATED THROUGH
GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION**

FY 2022 BUDGET



SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	\$1,253,188.82
EMS	\$2,431,142.73
TRAUMA CENTERS	\$9,910,268.00
OPERATIONS	\$811,876.75
TOTAL BASE FUNDS	\$14,406,476.30

AFY 2022 BUDGET



SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	\$474,189.00
EMS	\$1,631,834.00
TRAUMA CENTERS	\$6,429,783.00
OPERATIONS	\$24,233.99
TOTAL AMENDED FUNDS	\$8,560,039.99

TRAUMA CENTER FUNDING

The FY 2022 and AFY 2022 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*

TRAUMA CENTER ALLOCATIONS

Contracted Trauma Centers	FY 2022 Base Budget Allocations						Amended FY 2022 Budget Allocations					Total FY 2022
	Readiness	Potential Performance Based Pay	UCC (CY 2019)	Total from Trauma Fund	Registry Support	Total Base Funds	Additional Readiness	Performance Based Pay Reward/Reduction	ACS Trauma Quality Program Participation Support	ESO Registry	Total Amended Funds	
Level I												
Atrium Health Navicent Macon	\$ 67,751.00	\$ 271,005.00	\$ 130,771.98	\$ 469,527.98	\$ 75,451.00	\$ 544,978.98	\$ 471,865.00	\$ 3,416.00	-	-	\$ 475,281.00	\$ 1,020,259.98
Augusta University	\$ 67,751.00	\$ 271,005.00	\$ 299,435.61	\$ 638,191.61	\$ 75,451.00	\$ 713,642.61	\$ 471,865.00	\$ 3,416.00	-	-	\$ 475,281.00	\$ 1,188,923.61
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-Egleston	\$ 67,751.00	\$ 271,005.00	\$ 40,001.11	\$ 378,757.11	\$ 75,451.00	\$ 454,208.11	\$ 471,865.00	\$ 3,416.00	-	-	\$ 475,281.00	\$ 929,489.11
Grady Memorial Hospital	\$ 67,751.00	\$ 271,005.00	\$ 1,491,238.92	\$ 1,829,994.92	\$ 75,451.00	\$ 1,905,445.92	\$ 471,865.00	\$ 3,416.00	-	-	\$ 475,281.00	\$ 2,380,726.92
Memorial Health University Medical Center	\$ 67,751.00	\$ 271,005.00	\$ 706,435.28	\$ 1,045,191.28	\$ 75,451.00	\$ 1,120,642.28	\$ 471,865.00	\$ 3,416.00	-	-	\$ 475,281.00	\$ 1,595,923.28
Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center	\$ 67,751.00	\$ 271,005.00	\$ 278,309.24	\$ 617,065.24	\$ 75,451.00	\$ 692,516.24	\$ 471,865.00	\$ 3,416.00	-	-	\$ 475,281.00	\$ 1,167,797.24
Level II												
Atrium Health Floyd	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 99,006	\$ 302,260	\$ 45,331	\$ 347,591	\$ 283,131	\$ 3,281	-	-	\$ 286,412	\$ 634,003
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-Scottish Rite	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 34,612	\$ 237,866	\$ 45,331	\$ 283,197	\$ 283,131	\$ 3,281	-	-	\$ 286,412	\$ 569,609
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 212,400	\$ 415,654	\$ 45,331	\$ 460,985	\$ 283,131	\$ 3,281	-	-	\$ 286,412	\$ 747,397
Northside Gwinnett	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 219,439	\$ 422,693	\$ 45,331	\$ 468,024	\$ 283,131	\$ 3,281	-	-	\$ 286,412	\$ 754,436
Piedmont Athens Regional	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 114,026	\$ 317,280	\$ 45,331	\$ 362,611	\$ 283,131	\$ (10,163)	-	-	\$ 272,968	\$ 635,579
Piedmont Columbus Regional	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 357,271	\$ 560,525	\$ 45,331	\$ 605,856	\$ 283,131	\$ (20,326)	-	-	\$ 262,805	\$ 868,661
Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 172,806	\$ 376,060	\$ 45,331	\$ 421,391	\$ 283,131	\$ 3,281	-	-	\$ 286,412	\$ 707,803
Wellstar North Fulton Hospital	\$ 40,651	\$ 162,603	\$ 75,660	\$ 278,914	\$ 45,331	\$ 324,245	\$ 283,131	\$ (10,163)	-	-	\$ 272,968	\$ 597,213
Level III												
Advent Health Redmond Hospital	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	-	\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 69,656	\$ (2,500)	\$ 27,115	\$ 6,111	\$ 100,382	\$ 161,866
Crisp Regional Health Services	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	-	\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 69,656	\$ 631	\$ 27,115	-	\$ 97,402	\$ 158,886
Hamilton Medical Center	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	-	\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 69,656	\$ 631	\$ 27,115	\$ 6,111	\$ 103,513	\$ 164,997
J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	-	\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 69,656	\$ 631	\$ 27,115	\$ 6,111	\$ 103,513	\$ 164,997
Piedmont Walton	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	-	\$ 50,000	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	\$ 69,656	\$ 631	\$ 27,115	-	\$ 97,402	\$ 158,886
Level IV												
Atrium Polk Medical Center	\$ 8,100	\$ 1,900	-	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 13,927	\$ 126	-	\$ 6,278	\$ 20,331	\$ 32,648
Effingham Hospital	\$ 8,100	\$ 1,900	-	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 13,927	\$ 126	-	\$ 9,678	\$ 23,731	\$ 36,048
Emanuel Medical Center	\$ 8,100	\$ 1,900	-	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 13,927	\$ 126	-	\$ 9,678	\$ 23,731	\$ 36,048
Memorial Health Meadows Hospital	\$ 8,100	\$ 1,900	-	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 13,927	\$ (200)	-	\$ 6,278	\$ 20,005	\$ 32,322
Morgan Medical Center	\$ 8,100	\$ 1,900	-	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,317	\$ 13,927	\$ 126	-	\$ 6,278	\$ 20,331	\$ 32,648
Burn Center												
Grady Burn Center	\$ 84,689	\$ 84,689	\$ 32,516	\$ 201,894	\$ 37,675	\$ 239,569	\$ 235,849	\$ 1,712	-	-	\$ 237,560.50	\$ 477,129.12
Joseph M. Still Burn Center	\$ 84,689	\$ 84,689	\$ 33,397	\$ 202,775	\$ 37,675	\$ 240,450	\$ 235,849	\$ 1,712	-	-	\$ 237,560.50	\$ 478,010.12
Total	\$ 1,041,592.00	\$ 3,255,732.00	\$ 4,297,324.00	\$ 8,594,648.00	\$ 959,709.00	\$ 9,554,357	\$ 5,985,851.00	\$ -	\$ 135,575.00	\$ 56,523.00	\$ 6,177,949.00	\$ 15,732,306.00

Non-Contracted Trauma Centers*	Readiness	Potential Performance Based Pay	UCC (CY 2019)	Total from Trauma Fund	Registry Support	Total Base Funds	Additional Readiness	Performance Based Pay Reward/Reduction	ACS Trauma Quality Program Participation Support	ESO Registry	Total Amended Funds	Total Base + Amended
Level II												
Augusta University-Children's Hospital	\$ 197,364	-	-	-	\$ 45,331	\$ 242,695	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 242,695
Doctors Hospital of Augusta	\$ 197,364	-	-	-	\$ 45,331	\$ 242,695	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 242,695
Level III												
Fairview Park Hospital	\$ 50,000	-	-	-	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	-	-	-	\$ 511	\$ 27,626	\$ 89,110
Piedmont Catersville	\$ 50,000	-	-	-	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	-	-	-	\$ 511	\$ 27,626	\$ 89,110
Wellstar Cobb Hospital	\$ 50,000	-	-	-	\$ 11,484	\$ 61,484	-	-	-	\$ 6,111	\$ 33,226	\$ 94,710
Total	\$ 544,728	-	-	-	\$ 125,114	\$ 669,842	-	-	-	\$ 7,133	\$ 88,478	\$ 758,320

*One-time readiness grant

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

VS.

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.

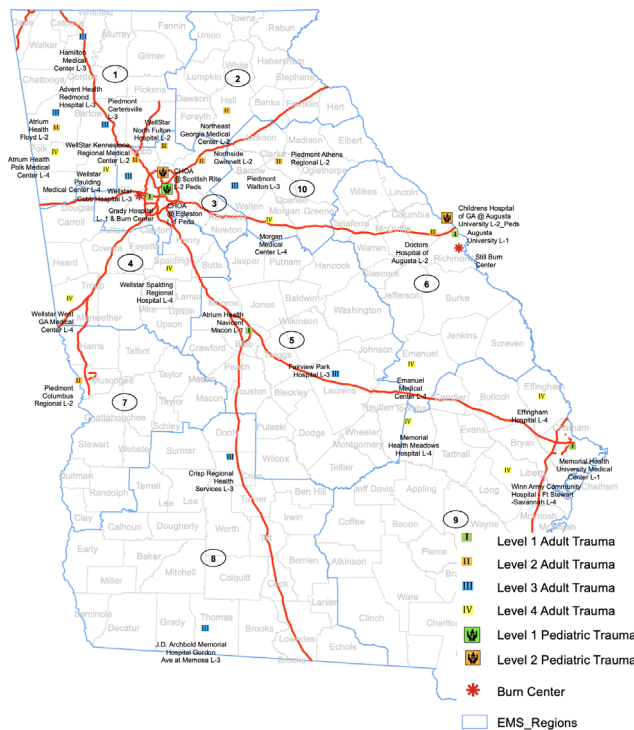
TRAUMA CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



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. This year, the Georgia trauma system was fortunate to welcome three designated level IV trauma centers Wellstar Paulding, Wellstar Spalding, and Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center. By fiscal year-end, three additional trauma centers achieved initial ACS verification. Georgia now has a total of twelve ACS-verified trauma centers in the state.



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.

TRAUMA CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



LEVEL III AND LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER READINESS COSTS SURVEY

Readiness costs are expenses incurred by trauma centers to maintain essential infrastructure. Although the components for readiness are described in the American College of Surgeons' Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient, the cost associated with each component is not well defined. Previous studies describe readiness costs for level I and II trauma centers based on these criteria. Led by the rural trauma committee, comprised of leaders from the level III and level IV trauma centers, and in partnership with Warren Averett, the Haley Model Trauma Center Readiness Cost Assessment Survey Tool was deployed to the centers in October of 2021. Results from this work were presented at the 81st Annual Meeting of the AAST and Clinical Congress for Acute Care Surgery on September 21, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. We are indebted to the work of the late Leon L. Haley, MD, MHSA, for pioneering our efforts to quantify trauma center readiness costs.

LEVEL III AND LEVEL IV TRAUMA READINESS COSTS RESULTS

<p>14 Participating Centers 8 Level III 6 Level IV</p> <p>American College of Surgeons' 2014 Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient criteria</p>	Level III Trauma Centers		Education and outreach were the lowest reported costs
	Average	\$1,715,025	
	Highest Cost	Clinical Medical Staff	
			"Halo effect" of newly developed infrastructure for state-wide initiatives in rural trauma centers
Level IV Trauma Centers		Reported costs underscore the need for more funding for the trauma system	
Average	\$81,620		
Highest Cost	Administrative		

The results from the survey indicated the average readiness cost for a level III trauma center is \$1,715,025 and \$81,620 for a level IV, underscoring the need for additional trauma center funding to meet the requirements set forth by the American College of Surgeons.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Warren Averett has been a valued partner since 2008 conducting audits for the Commission's uncompensated care payment program. In 2017, the partnership extended to include trauma center readiness cost efforts. Data are collected, aggregated and validated by Warren Averett to optimize consistency in reporting.

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.



3500+
STUDENTS



100,000+
CONTACT HOURS



92%
COMPLETION RATE



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

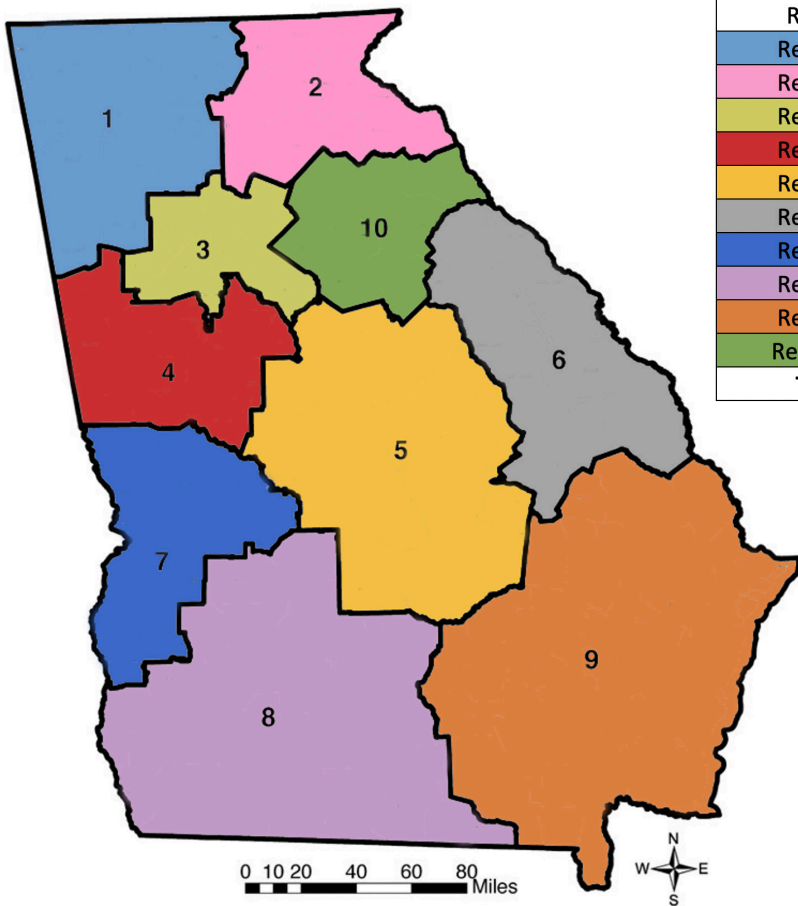
The ongoing partnership between GEMSA and the Georgia Trauma Commission has proven to be a successful model for ensuring access to high quality prehospital education and skills training.

PREHOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EQUIPMENT GRANTS

GEORGIA EMS REGIONS



 EMS Regions

GRANT AWARD AMOUNTS BY EMS REGION

Region	AFY 2022 Grant Funds
Region 1	\$ 198,799.14
Region 2	\$ 129,456.00
Region 3	\$ 463,145.41
Region 4	\$ 148,599.67
Region 5	\$ 182,328.78
Region 6	\$ 111,254.05
Region 7	\$ 83,008.20
Region 8	\$ 166,835.55
Region 9	\$ 216,950.90
Region 10	\$ 95,599.64
Total	\$ 1,795,977.34

Over \$1.7M

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.

TRAUMA SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS



GEORGIA
QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM

GEORGIA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (GQIP)



*S. Rob Todd, MD, FACS, FCCM,
GQIP Medical Director*

The Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) underwent a reboot in FY 2022 with both structural and leadership changes. GQIP welcomed Samuel R. Todd, MD, FACS, FCCM to the helm as Medical Director of GQIP. Dr. Todd hails from Texas, where he served as Chief of the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center. He was recruited to Atlanta, Georgia area in 2019 where he currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief of

Acute Care Surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital.

GQIP workgroups were established around the areas of opportunity identified in our TQIP benchmark report, including acute kidney injury, traumatic brain injury, and opioid use. Opioid use is a key focus in the public health sector; the focus of this workgroup is to develop multimodal pain management guidelines to decrease opioid usage in the trauma patient population. All workgroups consist of multidisciplinary stakeholders from Georgia trauma centers, including trauma surgery, anesthesiology, critical care medicine, pharmacy, and neurosurgery. The GQIP workgroups are the main engine that drive quality initiatives. The full GQIP committee convenes quarterly to hear workgroup updates, discuss successes, opportunities, and next steps. With AFY 2021

funds, the GQIP collaborative will further enhance its outcomes measure capability by launching a risk-adjusted benchmark platform in partnership with ArborMetrix.



Pictured left to right: Gina Solomon, MHA, BSN, RN, CCRN, TCRN, GQIP Director; J. Sharma MD, FACS, FACE, NSQIP Medical Director; Jesse Codner, MD MSc, Inaugural GQIP Research Fellow

Dr. Jesse Codner, the inaugural GQIP Research Fellow, completed his 2-year term at the end of FY22. Funded by a Georgia Trauma Commission grant, the GQIP Research Fellow works with trauma and surgical collaboratives to advance quality initiatives and perform relevant research projects. The fellowship goals include preparing a 2nd or 3rd-year surgical resident for an academic surgery career and developing their expertise in quality and safety program implementation. Our inaugural fellow

successfully secured NIH funding through a TL1 grant that supported his pursuit of a master's degree in clinical research, disseminated GQIP research widely through numerous publications and presentations, and worked closely with collaborators across the state to support a broad range of GQIP projects. Our second Fellow, Dr. Eli Mlaver, started working with the collaborative in July 2022 and continues to advance GQIP-sponsored research.



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



GQIP WINTER MEETING AND LEADERSHIP RETREAT

As part of performance-based pay criteria, funded trauma centers are required to attend a collaborative meeting twice a year. In FY 2022, the Georgia Trauma Commission was able to facilitate the first full in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic. Trauma leaders, including Trauma Center Executive Leaders, Trauma Medical Directors, and Trauma Program Managers, traveled from across the state to network and discuss quality initiatives and system issues.

As part of the meeting, the Georgia Trauma Commission provided a Finance Workshop presented by the Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA). Attendees were provided invaluable information to help them understand how to optimize revenue opportunities within their organization. Educating trauma center leaders on financial best practices supports the goal of ensuring the trauma fund remains the payor of last resort.

In addition to the Finance Workshop, GQIP reviewed the fall performance matrix, which provides centers an overview of trauma risk-adjusted outcomes in comparison to the national average benchmark. GQIP has various work groups assigned to areas of need and focus, such as traumatic brain injury, acute kidney injury, and opioid management. The Georgia Trauma Commission, with the support of the Georgia Trauma Foundation, will continue to connect centers twice a year to provide tools and information to improve trauma quality care in the state of Georgia.



TRAUMA CENTER
Association of America
ADVOCACY • FINANCE • OPERATIONS

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

The Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) is dedicated to securing the economic viability of trauma centers and systems across the country. In FY 2022, the Georgia Trauma Commission approved a one-time funding allocation for Level IV centers to secure a one-year TCAA membership.



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

FY2022 COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

Consultant
LAW Corp

John C. Bleacher, MD, FAAP, FACS

Retired Attending Pediatric Surgeon
Chairman, Georgia Trauma Foundation

Victor L. Drawdy, NRP

Program Director
Air Evac Lifeteam

James Smith, MD, FACEP

Emergency Department Medical Director
Northside Hospital Gwinnett

Courtney Terwilliger

Public Safety Coordinator
Emanuel County

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

Chief Nursing Officer
Grady Health System



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION
