



Trauma System Stabilization

An Investment in Georgia's Health and Economic Prosperity

Trauma doesn't have to end in tragedy...

A Heavy Cost, Too Many Lives Lost

- Traumatic injuries are the **#1 cause of death** of Georgians aged 1 to 44.
- For every **one** Georgian who dies from trauma, **2.2 are severely disabled**.
- Lost wages, tax revenue, and productivity from fatal traumatic injuries cost Georgia's economy **\$83 billion** in 2020.

Georgia's Trauma Care Network is Working

In 2007, the Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Trauma Commission to “**establish, maintain, and administer a trauma center network**.” In 2008, a one-time appropriation of **\$60 million funded critical trauma care infrastructure**. Ongoing earmarked funding followed from **Super Speeder** fines (2010) and **fireworks excise taxes** (2015).

With these appropriations, Georgia is developing a top-tier trauma center network.

- Georgia **more than doubled** the number of designated trauma centers statewide.
- **84%** of Georgians now live within the “Golden Hour” of a Level I or II trauma center.
- The percentage of severely injured patients treated at a trauma center rose from **64%** to **93%**.

This initial investment is already saving lives.

- The injury-related death rate in Georgia dropped from **16% worse** than the national average to about **6% better**.
That's an additional **1,803 lives** saved in 2020.
- Lower rates of mortality and severe disability in 2020 have preserved an estimated **\$5.4 billion** in lifetime personal income, and **\$636 million** in lifetime tax revenue.
- **ROI of \$22.60** per dollar invested in Georgia's trauma care network in 2020, even better than the **\$7.30 per dollar** invested in the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

But Our Progress is Precarious

While Georgia's network of trauma centers has come a long way since 2007, **many challenges remain and threaten our gains.**

- With the closing of the **Atlanta Medical Center**, Georgia **lost one of only five Level I trauma centers.**
- Modest increases in funding for trauma center readiness and uncompensated care **have not kept pace** with the rise in costs.
- The **opioid epidemic, particularly fentanyl overdoses**, continue to drive the injury-related death rate upward, here and nationwide.

We Can Triumph Over Trauma

The \$61 million **Trauma System Stabilization Proposal** will secure the strides we've made toward the **top-tier trauma care network** envisioned in the General Assembly's 2007 legislation.

- **Reliable readiness offsets** to support trauma centers' financial resilience.
- **Start-up grants** for new candidate trauma centers.
- **Increased funding** for rural trauma centers.

It's an investment that will help extend trauma care to every corner of our state, saving lives and livelihoods while fortifying the foundation of **Georgia's health and economic prosperity.**

Together, we can triumph over trauma.



trauma.georgia.gov
(706) 841-2800