



2019 TRAUMA ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from Executive Director



It has been an incredible year for the Trauma Program at Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Gainesville. The program continues to achieve local, regional and national accolades for the progressive processes and treatments utilized to provide the best care for our patients.

A few highlights of 2019 include achieving one of the highest recognitions in trauma care by becoming nationally verified by the American College of Surgeons as a Level II Trauma Center, expanding the trauma surgery team to seven double-boarded surgeons and partnering with the American Trauma Society's Trauma Survivor Network to offer recovery resources to our trauma survivors.

Although no one expects to be a trauma patient, traumatic injuries are a reality. In fact, injury is the third leading cause of death across all age groups in the United States. NGMC's Trauma Program works hard to combat these statistics through injury prevention efforts and through education and training for the teams who care for our patients.

This 2019 annual report allows us to highlight NGMC's Trauma Program and recognize all they are doing to advance trauma care in our region. I hope you enjoy reading and stay safe.

Regards,

Angela Gary, MSN, MHA, RN, NE-BC, TCRN
Executive Director, Trauma & Emergency Services

American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Verification

In December of 2018, a team from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) Verification Review Committee visited NGMC Gainesville for a two-day evaluation of the Trauma Program. This intensive site visit is the final step on the path of becoming an ACS-verified trauma center.

NGMC's Trauma Program leadership and multiple stakeholders from across the organization prepared for a year for the survey visit. The ACS focuses on three main categories as they evaluate a program: administrative support for the program, medical staff support for the program and performance improvement activities.

In January of 2019, NGMC was recognized by the ACS-COT as a verified Level II Trauma Center. There are approximately 400 verified trauma centers nationwide and only six others in the state of Georgia.

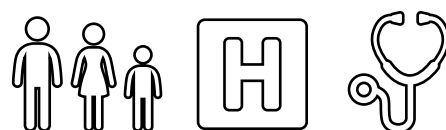
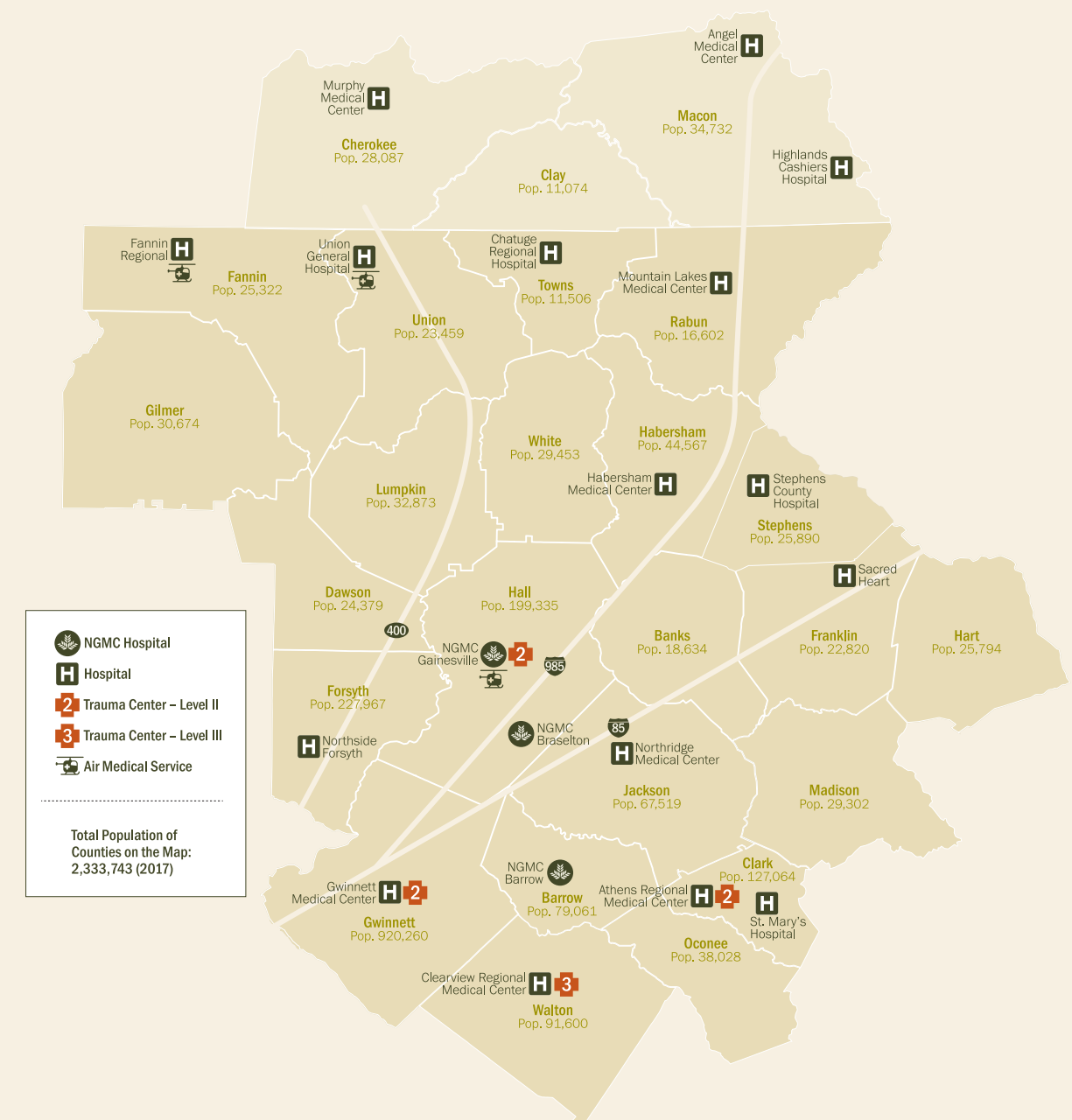
NGMC Gainesville was designated as a Level II Trauma Center by the Georgia Department of Public Health's Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Office in 2013. Now, verification by the ACS confirms NGMC provides the resources necessary to address the trauma needs of all injured patients.



THE
COMMITTEE
ON **TRAUMA**

**VERIFIED
TRAUMA
CENTER**

NGMC Trauma Service Area



Trauma Survivor Story

On April 2, 2019, 18-year-old John Mott, a resident of Hayesville, North Carolina, had just dropped off one of his friends at home near Young Harris College shortly before 6 p.m. when he was involved in a two-vehicle crash.

Paramedics responding to the crash quickly realized that John's injuries were severe, and he was flown from the scene in Towns County by Air Life 14 to Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Gainesville.

"I don't remember the accident or anything that happened afterwards, but it was something that has changed my life," said John. "I know that I'm lucky to be here today."

Knowing the severity of his injuries, the trauma team met the air crew and John in the Emergency Department and rapid interventions followed, including intubation and blood product administration. He was admitted to the Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit for further stabilization and resuscitation.

Over the next days, John remained in critical condition. He underwent multiple operations with the Orthopedic Trauma and Reconstructive Surgery and Vascular Surgery teams. His injuries were extensive and included multiple pelvic fractures with disruption of the pelvic ring, a right pubic ramus fracture, a right foot open metatarsal fracture, a diffuse axonal brain injury, sprain of ligaments of the cervical spine and deep lacerations to the right foot and the peritoneal area.

"John's surgeons and nurses at NGMC Gainesville were remarkable," said Mary Mott, John's mother. "I stayed with him every day and night while he was in the hospital. The staff watch out for family members as much as they watch out for patients. They were concerned with my well-being and checked on me constantly."

Each of John's injuries alone were severe, but combined, they set the stage for a long road to recovery. His orthopedic injuries caused him to be non-weight bearing, and his cervical sprain required a cervical collar for several weeks.

"Seeing your child go through these things is something no mother ever expects, and the unknowns were scary," said Mary. "If I ever had any concerns or questions, the staff always kept me informed and encouraged me to sit with them to go over his progress. They explained what I didn't understand and didn't sugar coat anything, but they were kind."



One of the most difficult injuries he faced, however, was not easy to see. John had a traumatic brain injury (TBI) which requires extensive rehabilitation to overcome. After discussing with John's mother, the trauma team made a referral to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta for John's TBI rehabilitation. John was fortunate to be accepted and he transferred to the Shepherd Center on April 27, 2019.

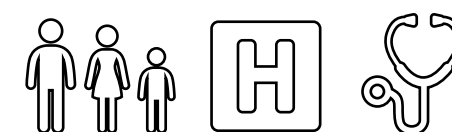
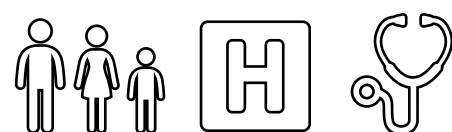
After extensive inpatient care at the Shepherd Center, John was discharged the last week in May right before his high school graduation, which was the first time he was able to return home in almost two months.

"When I showed up to graduation, all of my friends were shocked and excited," said John. "I was shocked too because I didn't know if I would be able to make it to that day. Even though I could walk on my own at that point, I decided to walk across the stage with my cane because it looked cool."

The Monday following his graduation, John returned to Atlanta to begin the Shepherd Pathways outpatient rehabilitation program and was released on July 3, 2019.

While John is still limited on some physical activities, he is now back to doing the things he loved before the accident – like bowling and playing golf. He has high hopes for the future and is currently enrolled in college courses.

"I plan to finish college and become a physical therapy assistant because I want to help others the way many others have helped me throughout my recovery," said John. "It's much easier to relate to someone who has been through what you've been through. I want to be that person for others, and I'm looking forward to seeing what's to come."



Trauma and Acute Care Surgeons

NGMC has seven dedicated trauma surgeons who are dual boarded in general surgery and surgical critical care. These surgeons are located in-house and are available to provide emergent interventions whenever needed.



Charles Richart, MD, FACS, FCCM



Daniel R. Anderson, MD, FACS



Cecil Brown, MD, FACS



Michael Cormican, MD



Nathan J. Creel, MD



Brian Gibson, MD, FACS



Gregory R. Strauther, MD, FACS



Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Advanced Practice Providers

NGMC is fortunate to have six advanced practice providers to support our trauma surgeons. Each of these providers has been specially trained to care for the critical needs of our trauma patients.



Kelsey Bradford, AGACNP-BC



Kris Hook, PA



Kyle Gibson, AGACNP-BC



Nicole Moulder, ACNP-BC



Tonya Scott, AGACNP-BC



Adam Smith, AGACNP-BC



Multidisciplinary Trauma Liaison Team

According to the ACS-COT, a trauma center is required to have a Multidisciplinary Trauma Peer Review Committee (MTPRC) made up of liaisons from all of the subspecialty groups that are involved in trauma care. The MTPRC meets monthly to review trauma cases to assure optimal care was provided. Each liaison provides the expertise needed to fully explore all potential opportunities for improvement. These liaisons also participate on the Multidisciplinary Trauma Systems/Operations Committee (MTSOC), with the goal of improving the systems and processes utilized across the trauma continuum of care, from outlying hospitals to EMS to the trauma center here at NGMC.



Brandon Bruce, MD
Orthopedic Surgery Liaison



Richard Trent, MD
Anesthesia Liaison



Cory Duncan, MD
Emergency Medicine Liaison



Jon Horn, MD
Radiology Liaison



Karl Schultz, MD, FACS, FAANS
Neurosurgery Liaison



Trauma Services

NGMC's trauma program is equipped with essential staff to manage daily operations. Each of these staff members are committed to continuous improvement in trauma care at NGMC.



Angela Gary, MSN, MHA, RN
Executive Director, Trauma & Emergency Services



Jesse Gibson, MBA, BSN, RN
Trauma Program Manager



Linda Greene, CSTR
Trauma Registry Coordinator



Monica Guerrero
Trauma Administrative Coordinator



Denise Hughes, BS, CAISS
Trauma Registrar



Donna Lee, MSN, RN
Trauma Nurse Navigator



Elaina Lee
Safe Kids Coordinator



Jessica Mantooth, BSN, RN
Trauma Educator



Kathy McDanel, CPC
Trauma Registrar



Jackie Payne, BSN, RN
Trauma Outreach & Injury Prevention Coordinator



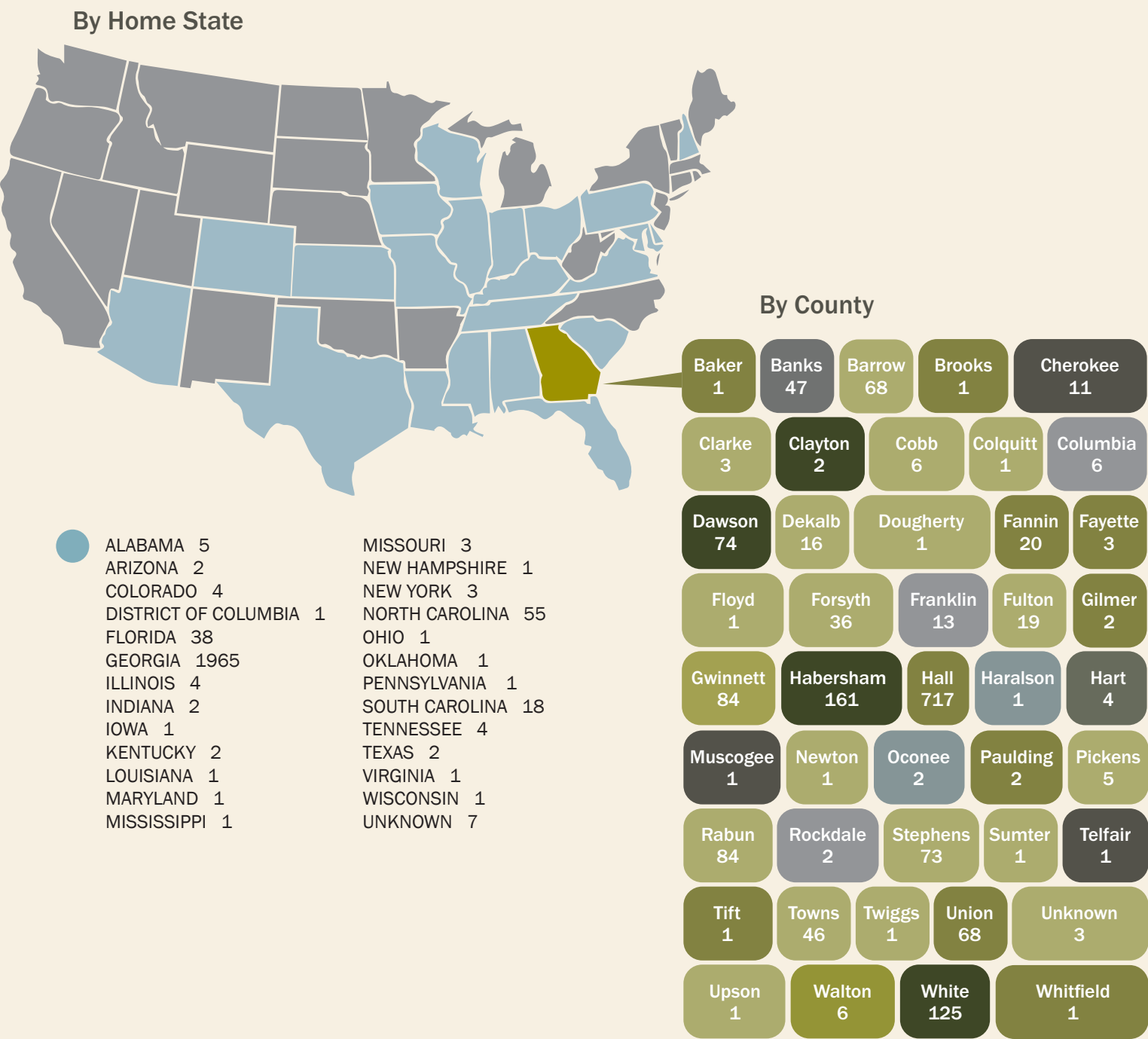
Maria Silva, HIMT
Trauma Registrar



Laura Wolf, MA, BSN, RN
Trauma PI Coordinator

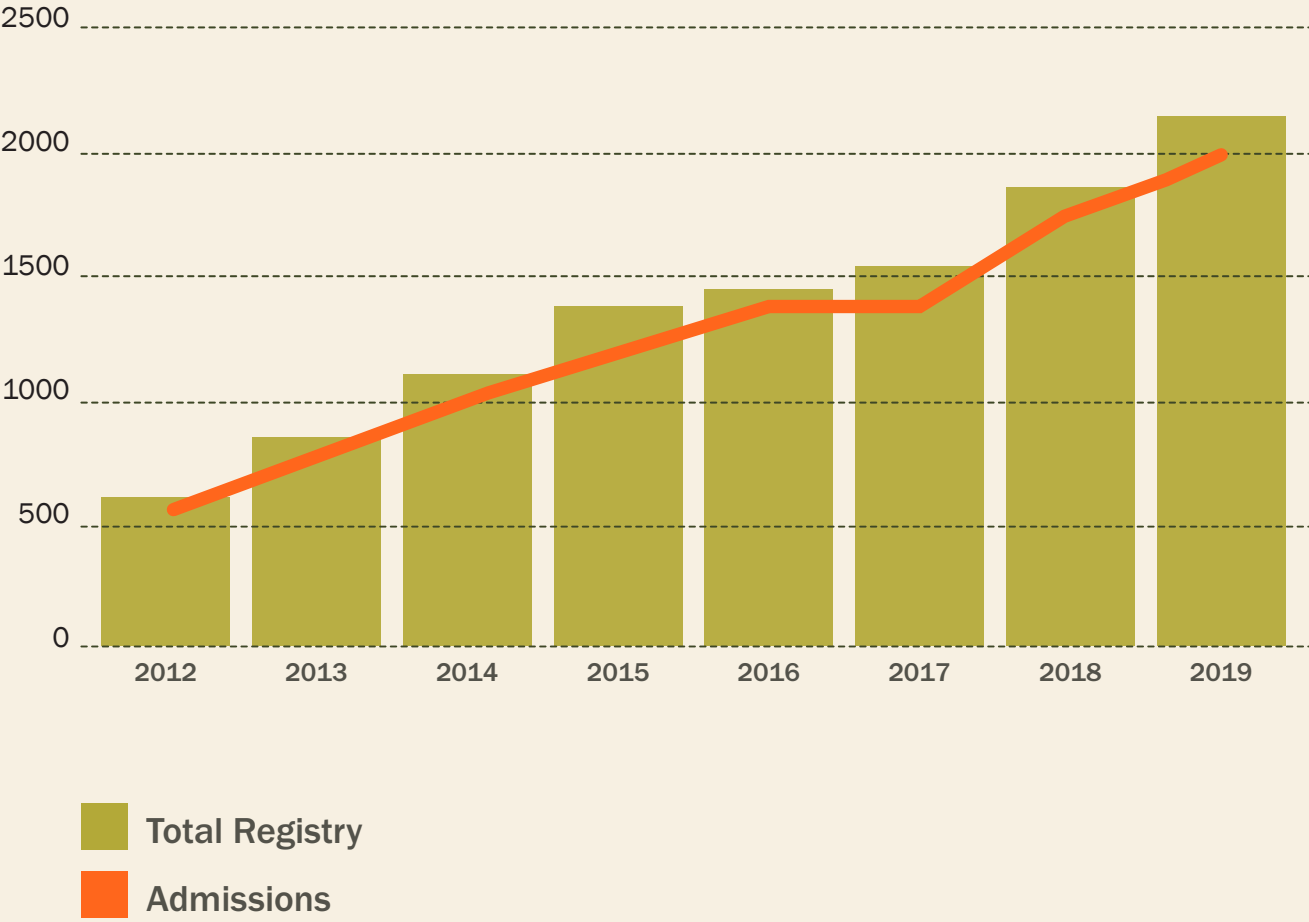


Distribution of Patients FY19



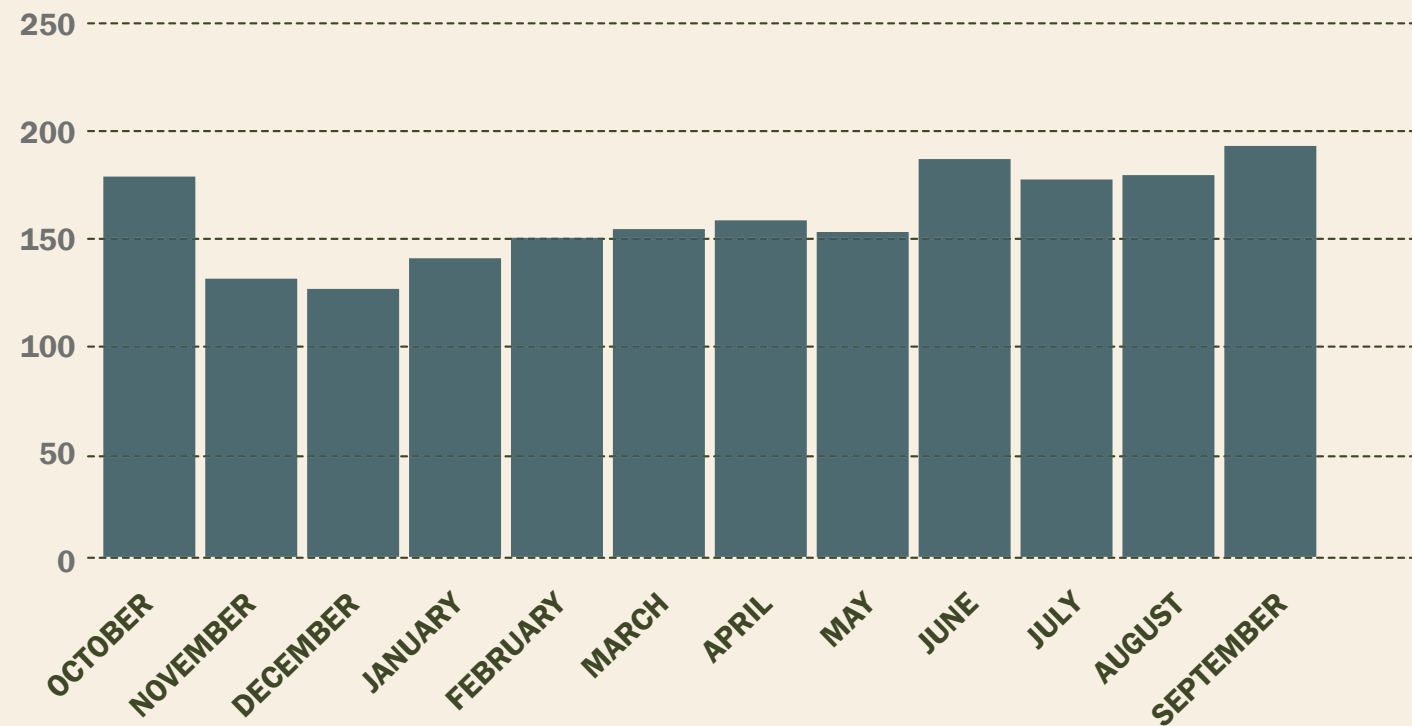
Volume and Statistics

Trauma Registry Volume and Admissions per Year



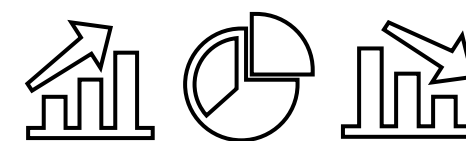
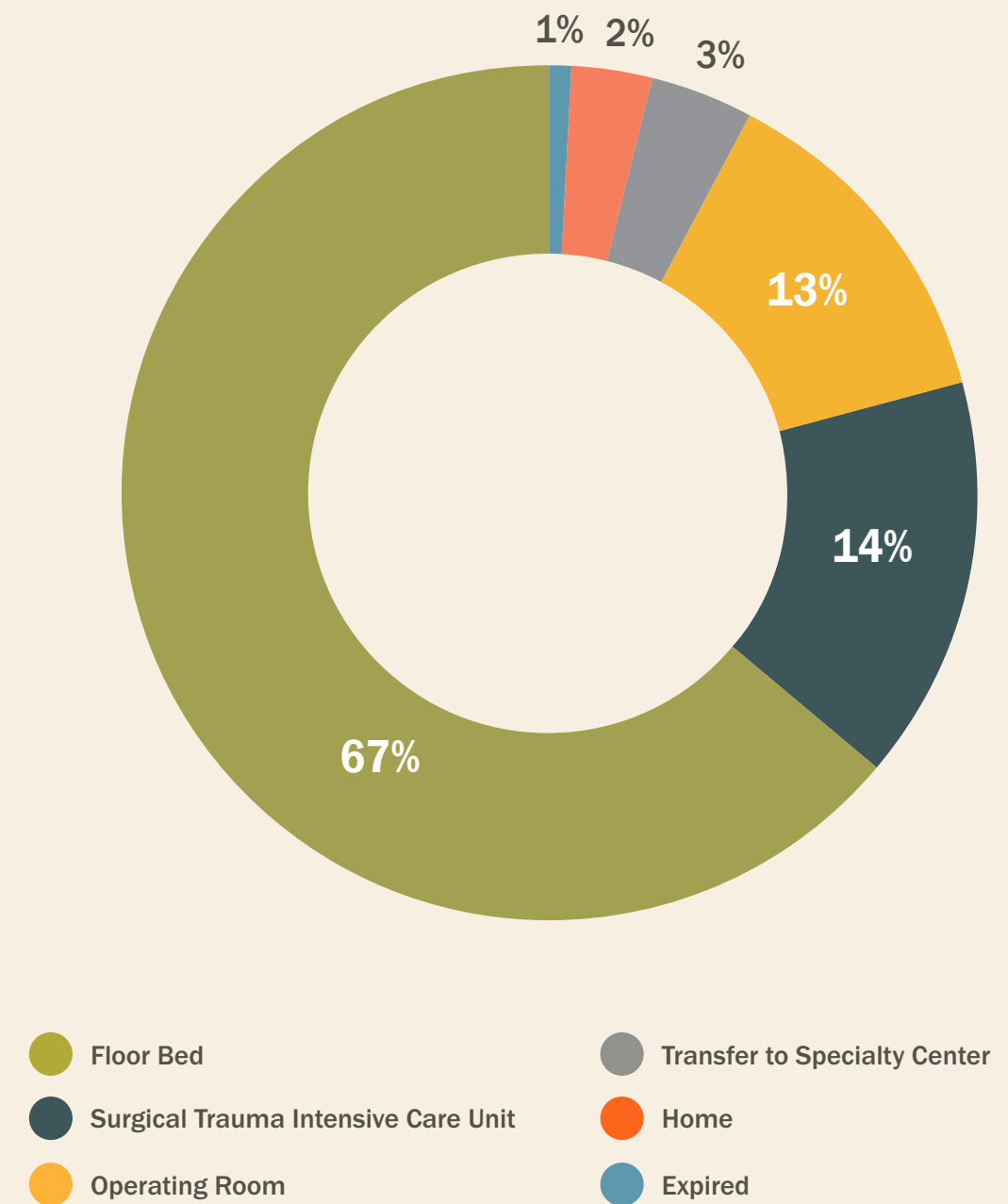
Volume and Statistics

Trauma Admissions per Month (FY 2019)



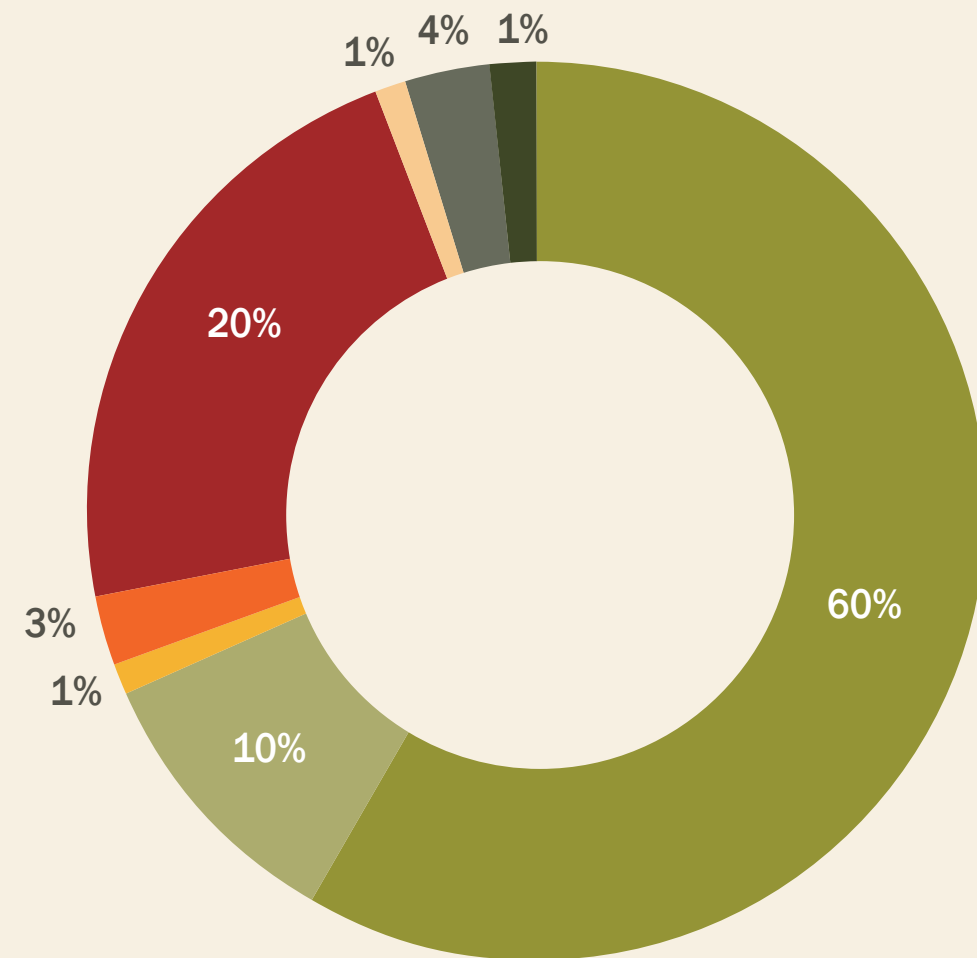
Volume and Statistics

Emergency Department Disposition



Volume and Statistics

Hospital Disposition

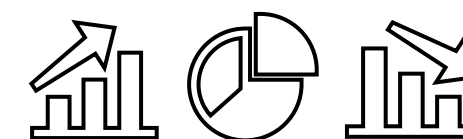
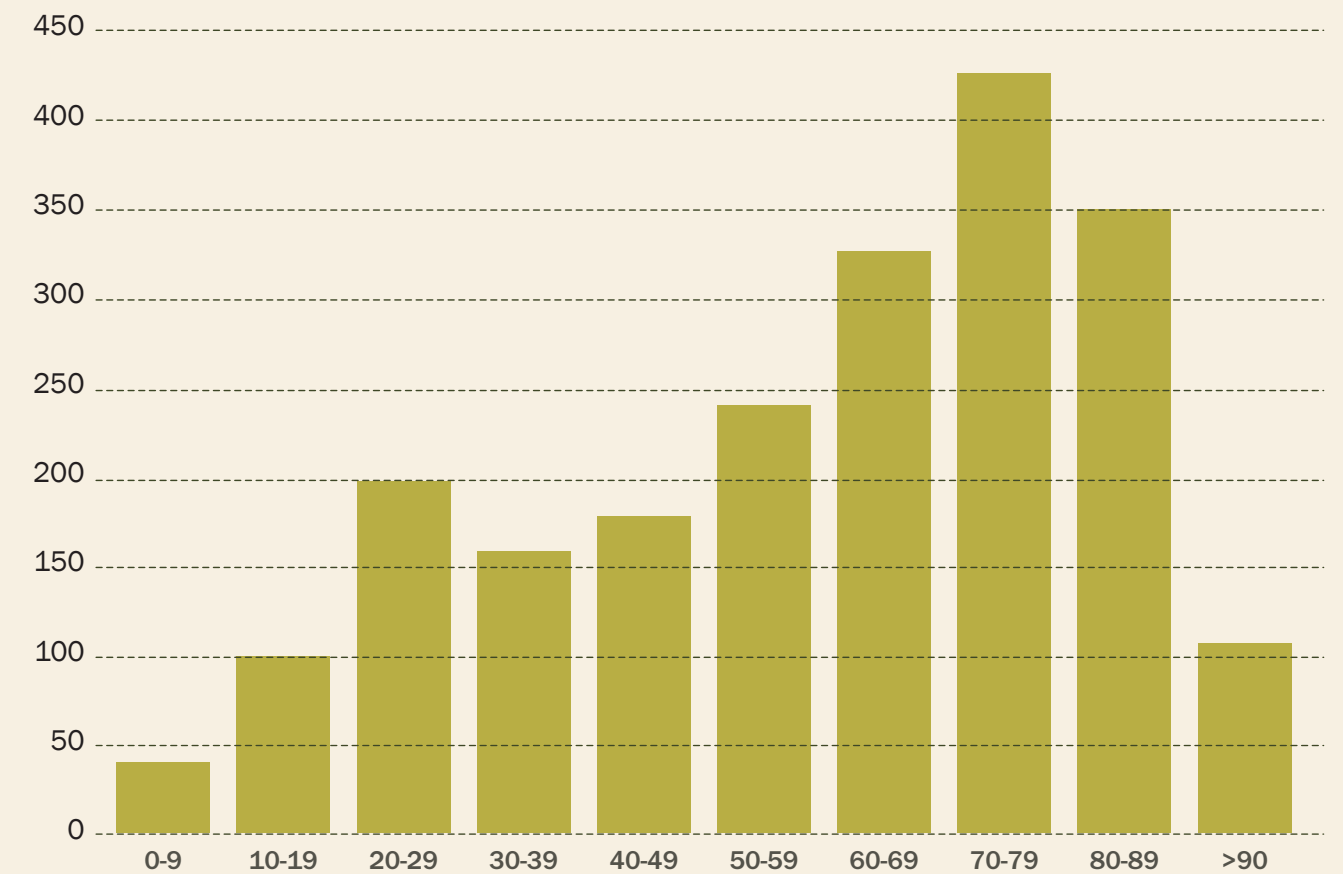


- Home with no services
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Home with home health
- Expired
- Inpatient Rehab
- Hospice
- Long Term Care
- Other specialty hospital (psychiatric, etc.)



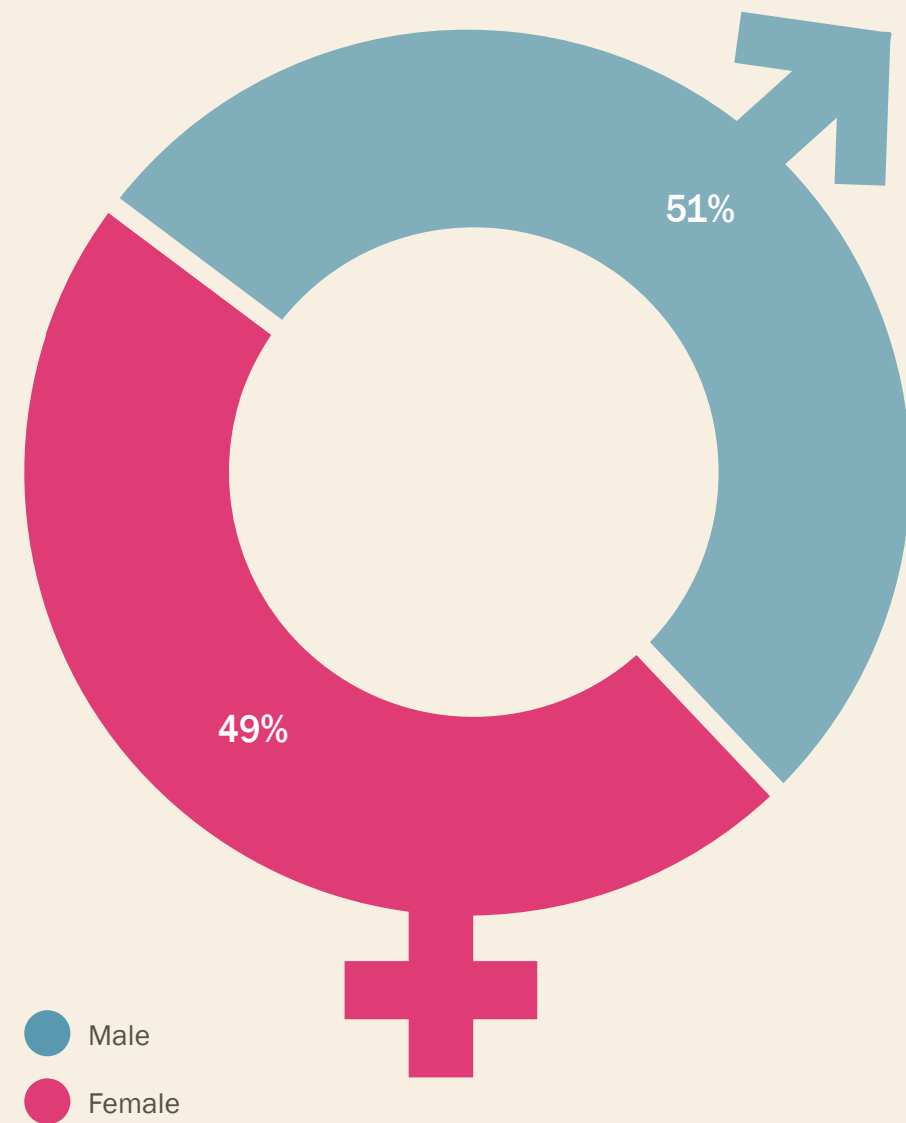
Volume and Statistics

Trauma Patient Distribution by Age



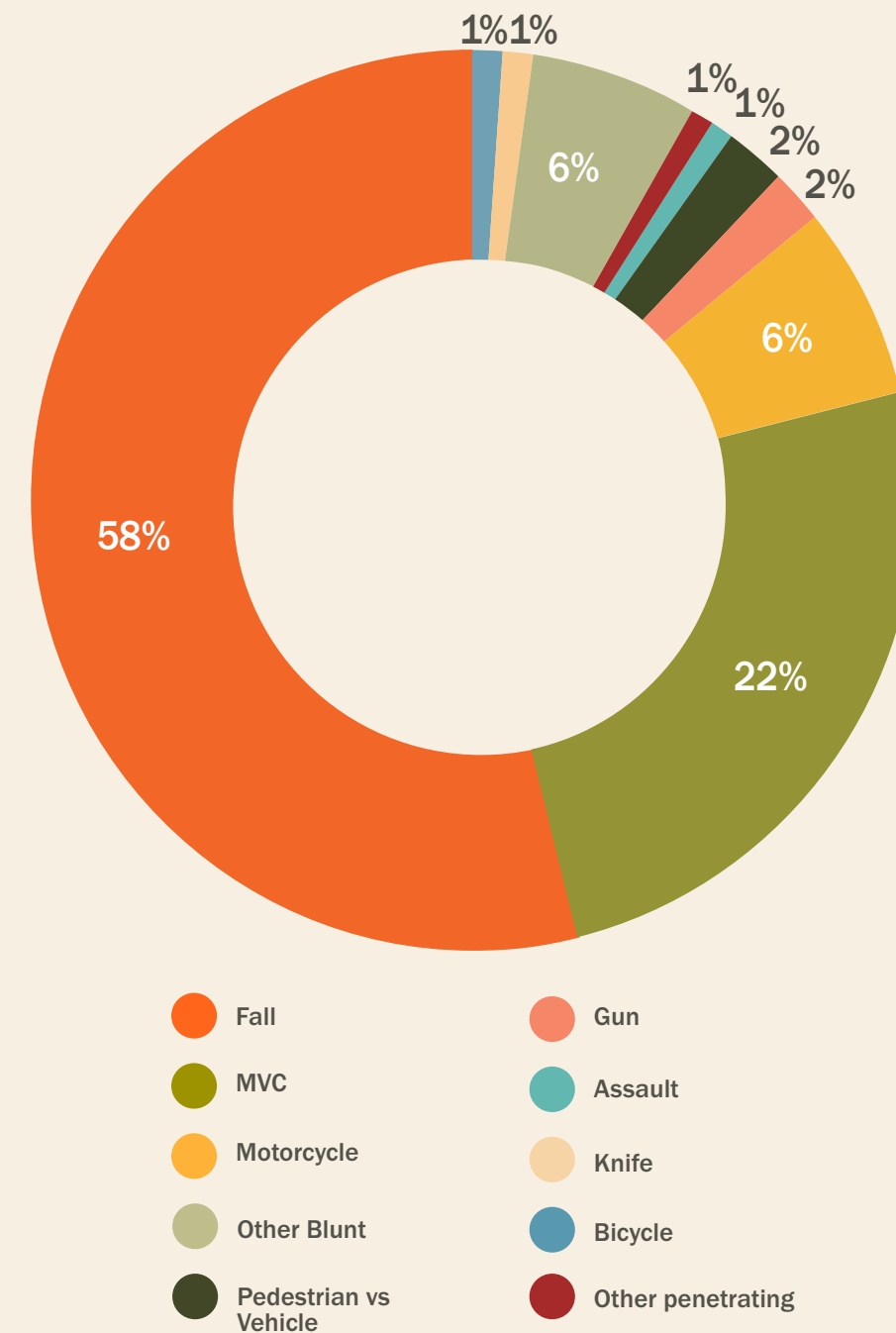
Volume and Statistics

Trauma Patient Distribution by Gender

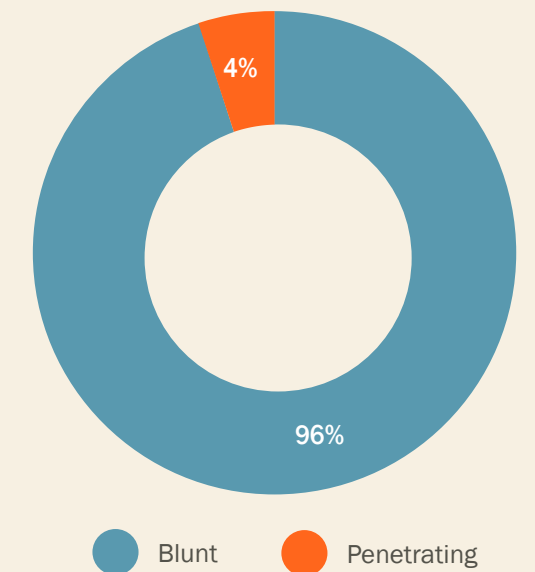


Volume and Statistics

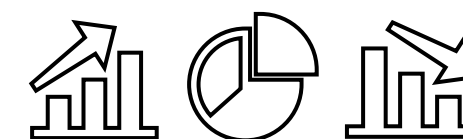
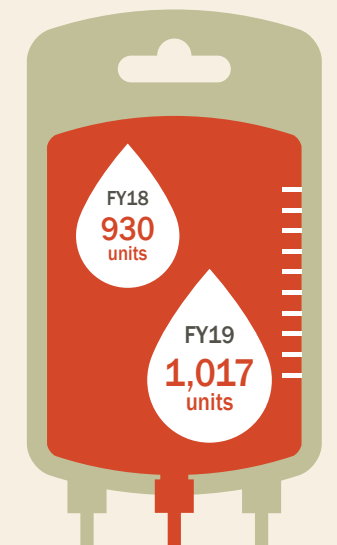
Causes of Traumatic Injury



Blunt vs. Penetrating Injury

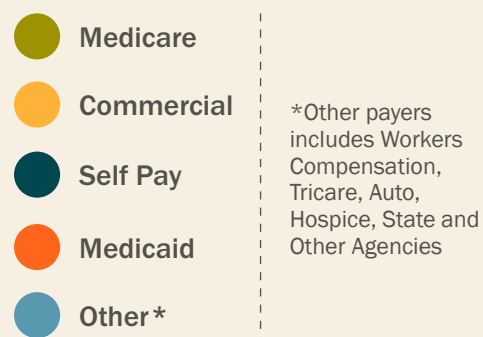
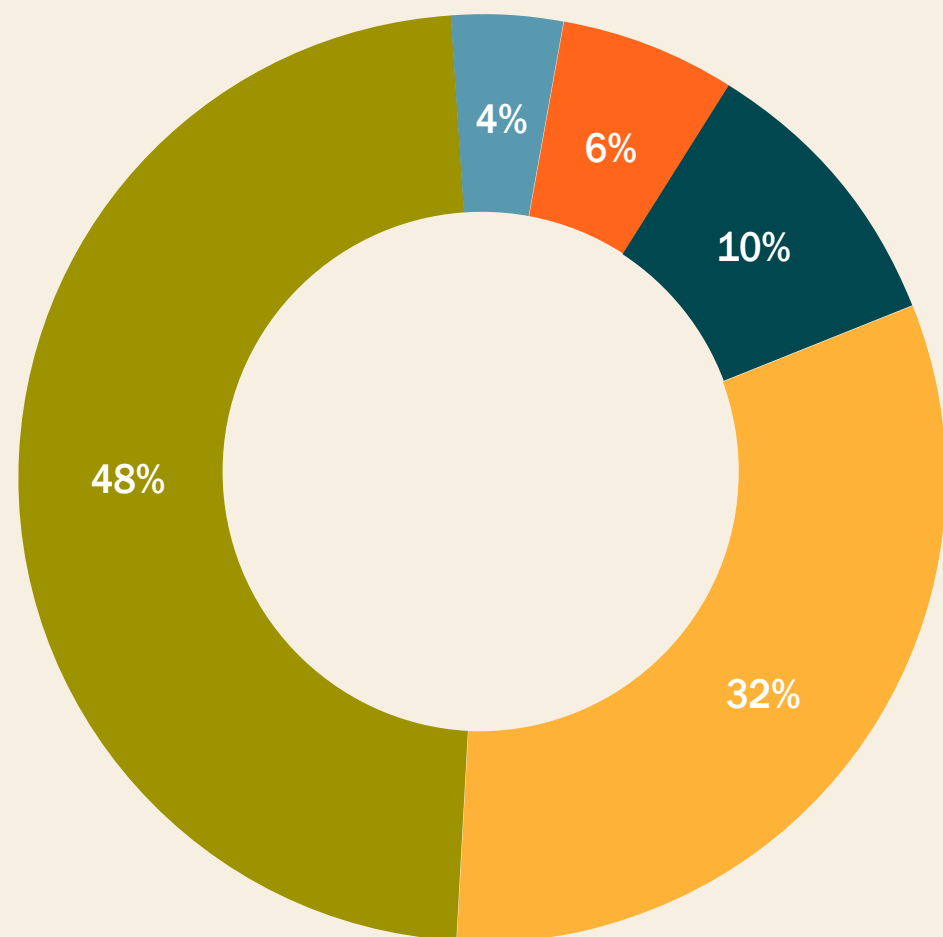


Units of Blood Used



Volume and Statistics

Trauma Payor Mix



Trauma Education

Trauma education grows critical thinking skills, improves technical skills and advances general knowledge to ensure trauma team members are capable of managing severely injured patients. NGMC's trauma educator focuses on internal education efforts for nurses, advanced practice providers, physicians and ancillary team members to improve outcomes in the trauma population. In addition to the staff at NGMC, the Trauma Program is responsible for educating external partners, including pre-hospital providers and referring facilities.

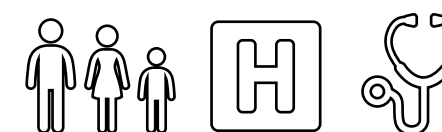
In 2019, multiple trauma specific evidence-based practice, nationally recognized courses were carried out including Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) for physicians and advanced practice providers, Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) for registered nurses and Trauma Care After Resuscitation (TCAR), also for registered nurses. Other trauma educational opportunities at NGMC include Trauma Journal Club and unit specific trauma skills and education.

Trauma Symposium

NGMC's Trauma Program also partners with the Region 2 Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) to host an annual trauma symposium, which targets pre-hospital providers, nurses, advanced practice providers and physicians. The 2019 RTAC Trauma Symposium welcomed over 500 attendees to Gainesville with local and national expert speakers. This year's symposium was followed by a grant-funded cadaver lab opportunity, which allowed attendees to practice trauma skills in a hands-on manner.



For more information on Trauma Education opportunities, please contact Jessica Mantooth, our Trauma Educator, at jessica.mantooth@nghs.com.

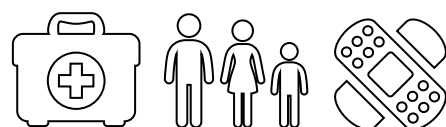


Trauma Survivor Network

In an effort to improve emotional well-being following a traumatic injury, NGMC partnered with the American Trauma Society's Trauma Survivor Network (TSN) in 2019. Realizing that a traumatic injury, the accompanying hospitalization and resulting recovery can be filled with uncertainty, anxiety and frustration, the main goal of the TSN is to address the emotional impact of trauma. NGMC's TSN Program offers the following resources:

- **An online community** where trauma survivors and their families can share experiences and information, as well as provide support and hope to one another
- **NEXT Steps**, an online class, is designed to help survivors manage life after serious injury (www.nextstepsonline.org)
- **The Traumapedia**, an online resource for information, where you can learn about trauma care and rehabilitation
- **A link to CarePages** with simple instructions for families to keep others informed about their loved one's injury, treatment and progress
- **On-site "Snack & Chat"**: NGMC holds weekly meetings for survivors and family members to connect with one another and rebuild their lives after a traumatic injury.

For more information about TSN programs, please contact our NGMC Trauma Nurse Navigator, Donna Lee, at donna.lee-trauma@nghs.com.



Injury Prevention

A cornerstone of NGMC's Trauma Program is the diligent focus on injury prevention in the community. Trauma registry data is analyzed and used to target the highest risk areas for injury in the Northeast Georgia region. At NGMC, falls, motor vehicle crashes and motorcycle crashes are the top three mechanisms of injury.

Local community partners and state resources engage in the various injury prevention activities carried out by the Trauma Program at NGMC. Programs carried out in 2019 included "A Matter of Balance" which is a falls prevention program and "Stop the Bleed" which is a bleeding control training program.

Thanks to the collaborative work of the NGMC trauma team and other partners, almost 60 injury prevention activities occurred in 2019.

For more information about outreach and injury prevention programs, please contact our Trauma Outreach & Injury Prevention Coordinator, Jackie Payne, at jackie.payne@nghs.com.



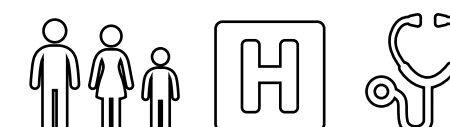
Safe Kids Northeast Georgia

Safe Kids Northeast Georgia is one of 400 Safe Kids coalitions across the globe. The coalition is made up of numerous community agencies who share a common goal to promote the reduction of traumatic injuries and death in children ages 19 years and younger.

The coalition is led by the Safe Kids Northeast Georgia Coordinator who works alongside Trauma Services at NGMC to promote injury prevention. The Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) Foundation funds Safe Kids Northeast Georgia through proceeds from the NGHS Auxiliary.

In 2019, Safe Kids Northeast Georgia, previously known as Safe Kids Gainesville/Hall County expanded its service area to include Barrow County. Data validated a need for these services in Barrow County, particularly related to child passenger safety. In Georgia, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in children 19 years and younger. This statistic is also true for Gainesville/Hall County and for Barrow County. In an effort to prevent these tragedies, Safe Kids Northeast Georgia focuses heavily on child passenger safety through various classes, community events and car seat check stations. These services are set to ramp up in Barrow County in 2020.

For more information about Safe Kids Northeast Georgia, please contact our Safe Kids Coordinator, Elaina Lee, at elaina.lee@nghs.com.





Northeast Georgia Medical Center
