



TRAUMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Letter from **TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTOR**



2020 was an unprecedented year in healthcare. The COVID-19 pandemic challenged each of us to “find the way”, when no roadmap was available. Many things in our world seemed to come to a halt while other things pressed on. As far as trauma goes, the Trauma Program at Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Gainesville did not slow down. In fact, the incidence of trauma and the severity of trauma in our region, actually increased during 2020.

As the Trauma Medical Director (TMD) at our American College of Surgeons nationally verified Level II Trauma Center, I could not be more proud of the NGMC trauma team and the organization for how we responded to the pandemic while continuing to do what we do, each day, to provide exceptional trauma care to our patients.

There were many highlights for the Trauma Program during 2020, and maybe the most impactful for the community is the partnership with the Region 2 Regional Trauma Advisory Committee, to implement the first pre-hospital blood pilot project in the state of Georgia. This program is one of only a handful nationally. The program allows pre-hospital providers to administer life-saving blood products to hemorrhaging patients, before arriving to the hospital.

This project is one example of the collaborative nature of a trauma system. NGMC is proud to lead the way in trauma care in northeast Georgia.



Pictured above:

Jackson County Emergency Services personnel onsite at NGMC obtaining their equipment for the pre-hospital blood pilot project. Jackson County was the first of four services to go live with the project. Pictured from left to right: Holden Nunn, Chris Hensley and Tylor Murphey

This 2020 annual trauma report allows for us to highlight NGMC’s trauma program. Enjoy, stay safe and thank you for supporting us on our journey to improve the health of our community all we do.

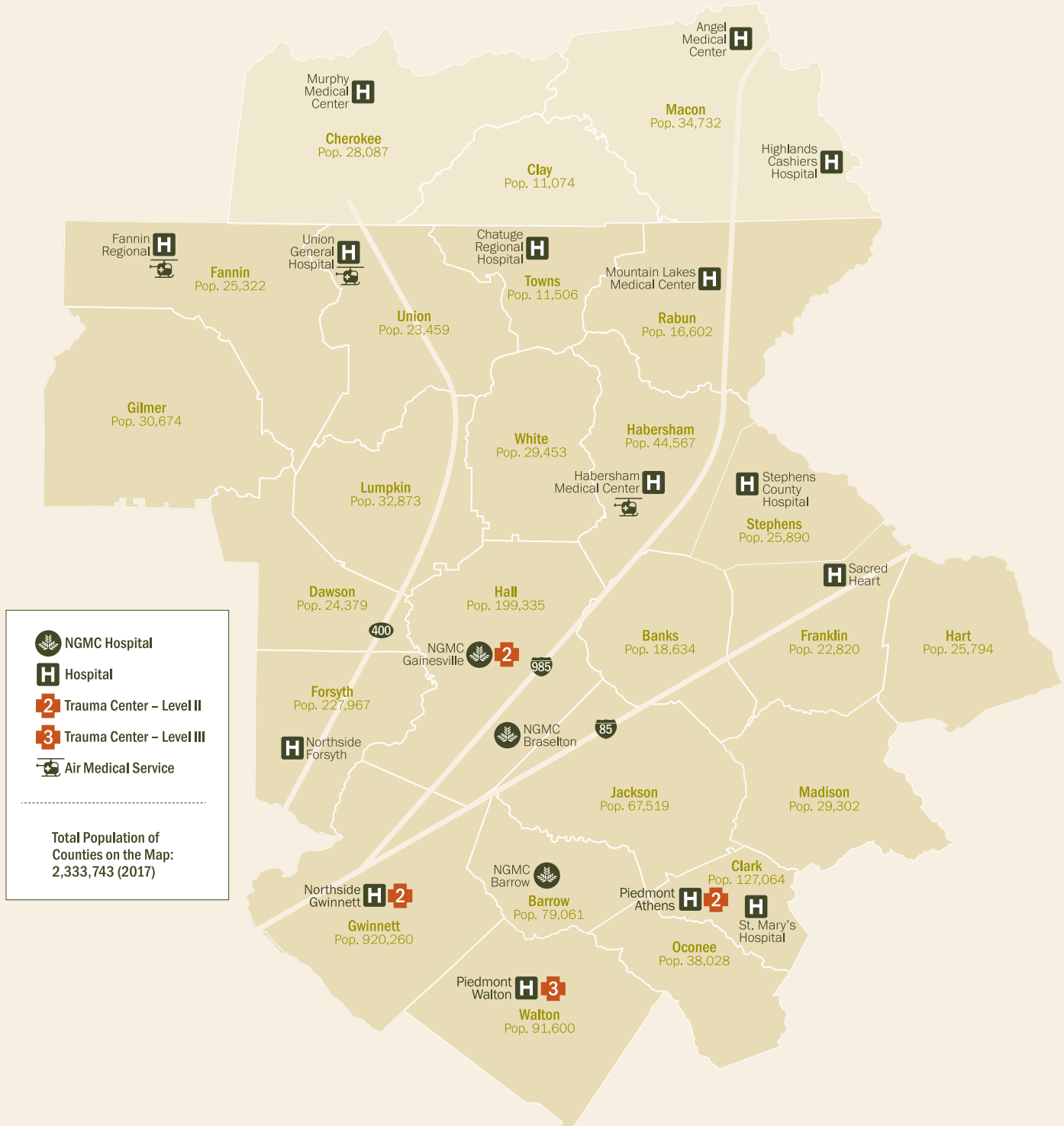
Regards,

Charles M. Richart, MD, FACS, FCCM

Medical Director, Trauma & Acute Care Surgery
Medical Director, Surgical Critical Care
Program Director, General Surgery Residency

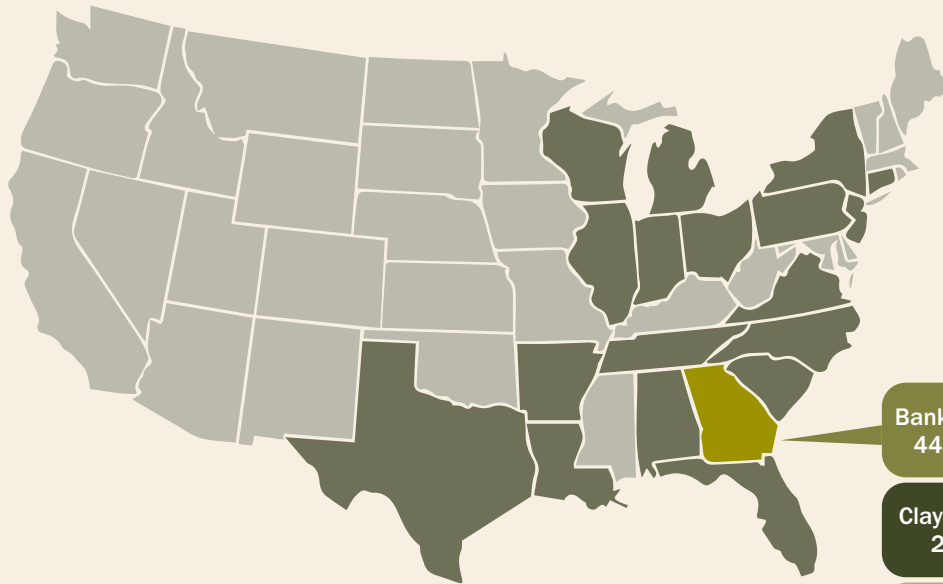


NGMC TRAUMA SERVICE AREA





DISTRIBUTION OF PATIENTS FY20



BY COUNTY

Banks 44	Barrow 65	Carroll 2	Cherokee 12	Clarke 5
Clayton 2	Cobb 14	Columbia 2	Coweta 1	Dawson 76
Dekalb 17	Dodge 1	Douglas 1	Emanuel 1	Fannin 17
Floyd 1	Forsyth 46	Franklin 11	Fulton 18	Gilmer 4
Gwinnett 118	Habersham 161	Hall 765	Hart 1	Houston 4
Jackson 132	Lee 1	Lumpkin 128	Madison 1	Meriwether 1
Montgomery 1	Murray 1	Oconee 6	Paulding 1	Pickens 6
Putnam 3	Rabun 79	Rockdale 1	Spalding 1	Stephens 83
Towns 34	Union 56	Unknown 3	Walton 4	White 137
Whitfield 1	Wilcox 1	Wilkinson 1		

BY HOME STATE

ALABAMA	6	NEW YORK	1
ARKANSAS	1	NORTH CAROLINA	55
CONNECTICUT	1	OHIO	2
FLORIDA	33	PENNSYLVANIA	1
ILLINOIS	1	SOUTH CAROLINA	13
INDIANA	1	TENNESSEE	3
LOUISIANA	1	TEXAS	3
MICHIGAN	1	VIRGINIA	1
NEW JERSEY	1	WISCONSIN	2

NAVIGATING TRAUMA PATIENTS AND FAMILIES THROUGH UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY



Donna Lee, MSN, RN
Trauma Nurse Navigator

Trauma is unexpected and scary for patients and their families. The injuries suffered are accompanied by emotions of uncertainty, anger, loss, depression and so much more. The trauma team at Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) works diligently to manage the complex medical needs of trauma patients. In addition to the medical needs there are also resources to assist patients and their families as they navigate through the emotional journey of trauma.

At NGMC, the Trauma Nurse Navigator (TNN), a masters prepared registered nurse with expertise in trauma care, is an integral part of the care team. The TNN role was created in alignment with Northeast Georgia Healthy System's (NGHS) Core Value of Respectful Compassion: I impact life's most sacred moments.

Understanding that trauma patients and their families are under extreme stress during their hospitalization, the TNN works to assure additional stressors, such as care coordination, are kept to a minimum. The TNN serves as a patient/staff resource and utilizes creative problem solving to optimize care of the patient. In addition, the TNN serves as a liaison on the interdisciplinary team, working with providers, nursing staff, rehabilitation staff, and case management to provide seamless care to trauma patients throughout the continuum of care.

TNN role objectives:

IMPROVE PATIENT/FAMILY SATISFACTION

Establish a meaningful connection with patients and families.

Work with individual trauma patients to overcome barriers to their recovery.

Provide patient education regarding diagnoses, treatment plan and post-acute plan.

IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Address the psychosocial impact of trauma with patients.

Serve as an expert trauma clinician, educator and mentor for staff.

Provide feedback to the Trauma Performance Improvement (PI) staff.

Use teamwork to decrease avoidable hospital days by recognizing and addressing barriers to discharge.

In 2020, the NGMC Trauma Nurse Navigator, Donna Lee,

WORKED
with
1,012
TRAUMA PATIENTS

COMPLETED
a total of
3,015
PATIENT VISITS

Effective coordination with the interdisciplinary team and Case Management has

HAS LED TO
329
avoidable hospital days being averted

representing a potential savings of **\$1.3 million dollars** to NGMC.

TRAUMA EDUCATION



Jessica Mantooth, BSN, RN
Trauma Educator

The care of the trauma patient is complex and ever-changing. To ensure members of the Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) trauma team are equipped to handle the challenge, generalized and specific educational offerings are planned and executed for those who care for trauma patients. These opportunities are supported by the Trauma Services staff, and specifically the Trauma Nurse Educator. The Trauma Nurse Educator is responsible for collaborating, creating, and coordinating education with unit nurse educators and subject matter experts to ensure everyone who cares for trauma patients receives trauma education.

NGMC TRAUMA EDUCATION INITIATIVES

NGMC is proud to support the following educational initiatives: Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta (REBOA), Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC), Trauma Care After Resuscitation (TCAR), Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Surgery Grand Rounds: Trauma Edition, and other new and continued initiatives.

EDUCATING ON THE NEW

Education plans are especially important when implementing a new unit or initiative. At the onset of such planning, the key stakeholders and Trauma Services team members come together to create an appropriate education plan; this ensures that from day one of opening or start, the team is prepared to handle any challenge that comes their way. NGMC has demonstrated mastery in this process with the creation of the Trauma Intermediate Care Unit and the start of new trauma protocols in the Emergency Observation Unit. NGMC has a team of dedicated physicians, nurses, and other leaders who actively seek to be better tomorrow than they are today. By supporting the team that cares for the trauma patient, we ensure top-notch quality of care to patients across Northeast Georgia.

NGMC has a team of dedicated physicians, nurses, and other leaders who actively seek to be better tomorrow than they are today.

TRAUMA OUTREACH



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

As the only verified trauma center in the northeast Georgia corridor, Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) is tasked with reaching outside of the health system by partnering with regional stakeholders in trauma care. Referring hospitals, EMS agencies and other organizations require the support of the lead trauma center. NGMC's outreach efforts include education, patient follow up, sharing best practice guidelines and much more

REGIONAL TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM

Each year, NGMC partners with the region two Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) to host an annual trauma symposium and cadaver skills lab. The 2020 symposium looked much different due to COVID-19 restrictions. The event usually boasts an in-person crowd of 500-600 trauma professionals who come together to network and learn. In 2020, the event went virtual! Speakers came onsite from across the country to present live to an audience afar. Over 600 individuals virtually attended the conference from states across the country. The cadaver lab was safely attended by over 100 paramedics, nurses, advanced practice providers and physicians. The symposium and cadaver lab are great examples of the impact of trauma outreach.



TRAUMA OUTREACH

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

In 2020, the Trauma Outreach and Injury Prevention Coordinator collaborated with the Northeast Georgia Health System Simulation team to kick-off an innovative approach to training pre-hospital personnel in the management of trauma patients by using the NGHS Mobile Simulation Lab. This amazing resource was funded through the NGHS Foundation's Medical Center Open Golf Tournament.

Pictured from left to right: Tim Rausch, Clinical Simulation Educator, Jackie Payne, Trauma Outreach and Injury Prevention Coordinator and Chad Cooper, Simulation Fleet Coordinator



TRAUMA INJURY PREVENTION

One of the most important roles of a trauma center in the trauma system is to promote injury prevention activities in hopes of reducing the incidence and severity of traumatic injuries. Effective injury prevention begins with a focus on the most common causes of injury in the community. NGMC's three leading causes of traumatic injury are falls, motor vehicle crashes, and motorcycle crashes. Community education is best accomplished through shared ownership, with multiple partners in the community working together. The Trauma Outreach and Injury Prevention Coordinator partners with community organizations (Northeast Georgia Falls Coalition, Legacy Link, Georgia Department of Health, Center Pointe, etc.) to provide community education.

In addition to addressing the most common causes of injury for NGMC, the trauma program offers free community education courses on first aid, Stop the Bleed, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. These courses provide community members simple lifesaving and limb-saving skills. The trauma program's ask is for all community members to learn these skills. With these learned skills community members can help save a life and a limb.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION
IS BEST ACCOMPLISHED
THROUGH
SHARED OWNERSHIP,
WITH MULTIPLE PARTNERS
IN THE COMMUNITY
WORKING TOGETHER.

\$10,000 GRANT AWARD

In 2020, NGMC was awarded an injury prevention grant from the Georgia Trauma Commission and Georgia Trauma Foundation to expand the injury prevention program. NGMC was one of less than ten accepted from across the state of Georgia. The grant project is titled "Northeast Georgia Medical Center ThinkFirst". ThinkFirst is a national injury prevention platform that is evidence-based. ThinkFirst provides educational programs designed to incorporate all elements of the Health Belief Model, a theory-based health model for attaining behavior change. ThinkFirst uses creative strategies such as having speakers who are trauma survivors tell their stories during the instruction. **The \$10,000 grant will allow the trauma program to implement ThinkFirst in the NGMC community.** ThinkFirst offers injury prevention education for multiple injury categories; however, the initial primary objective at NGMC is to increase awareness of risk factors contributing to falls and to promote strategies to prevent falls and injuries related to falls.

SAFE KIDS NORTHEAST GEORGIA



Elaina Lee
Safe Kids Coordinator

The Safe Kids Northeast Georgia coalition is made up of numerous local 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's annual holiday shopping *Marketplace* event.

In 2020, Safe Kids Northeast Georgia successfully implemented virtual classrooms to educate parents and professionals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several safety education topics were covered virtually that included child passenger safety, heatstroke prevention, water safety, and more.

Safe Kids Northeast Georgia also conducted socially distant drive-thru helmet distributions for the communities of Hall and Barrow County to promote wheeled sports safety. Properly-fitted helmets can reduce the risk of head injuries by at least 45 percent—yet less than half of children 14 and under usually wear a bike helmet. In an effort to prevent these tragedies, Safe Kids Northeast Georgia formed a partnership with local school nutrition programs for their summer meal distributions and parents were given the opportunity to pick up meals as well as helmets for their children without even having to exit their vehicles to maintain social distancing. It is a goal for Safe Kids Northeast Georgia to continue reaching out to the community both virtually and through social distancing to maintain injury prevention education in Hall and Barrow County in 2021.

Although the year 2020 has been a challenge to say the least, the Safe Kids Northeast Georgia program was able to reach over 30,000 people through community events and virtual classrooms, with over 1,750 safety devices distributed. Safe Kids Northeast Georgia is proud to continue keeping the children in Northeast Georgia safe!





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



Cecil Brown, MD, FACS



Michael Cormican, MD



Nathan J. Creel, MD



Brian Gibson, MD, FACS



Timothy Stevens, MD



Matthew Vassy, MD, FACS



TRAUMA & ACUTE CARE SURGERY

Advanced Practice Providers

NGMC is fortunate to have nine 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



Jennifer Wood, DNP, AGACNP-BC



Kris Hook, PA



Kyle Gibson, AGACNP-BC



Katrina Parker, AGACNP-BC



Robert Poole, PA



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

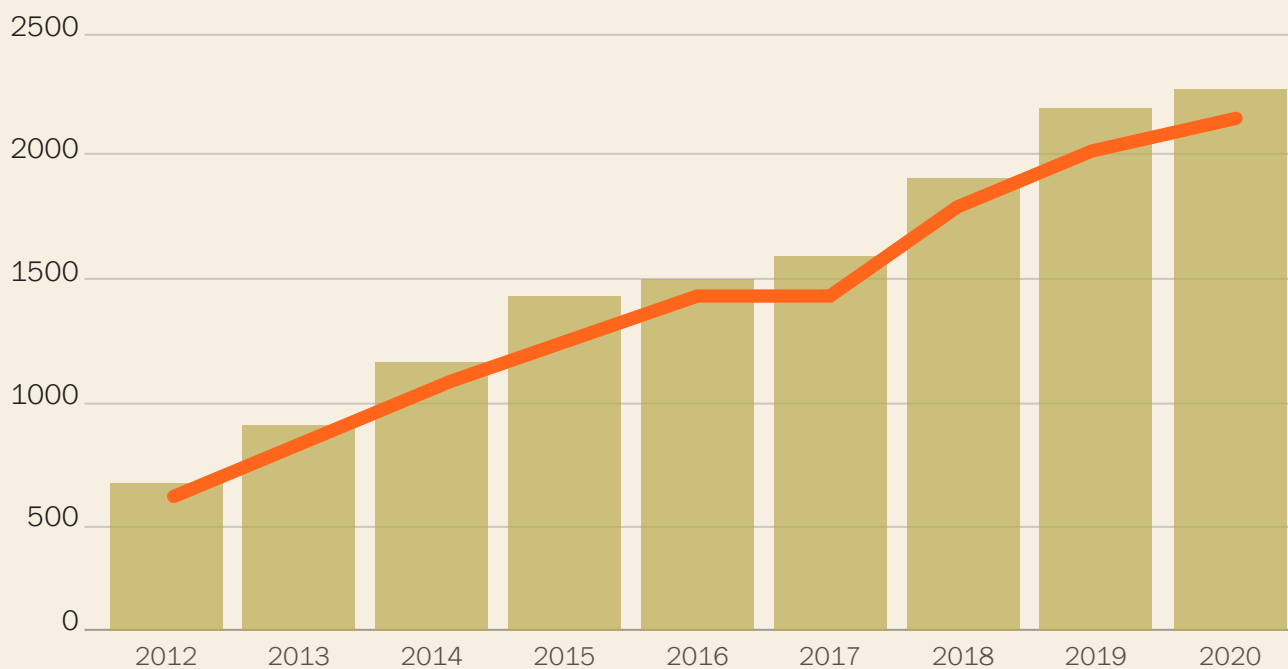



Laura Wolf, MA, BSN, RN
Trauma PI Coordinator



VOLUME AND STATISTICS

Trauma Registry Volume and Admissions per Year

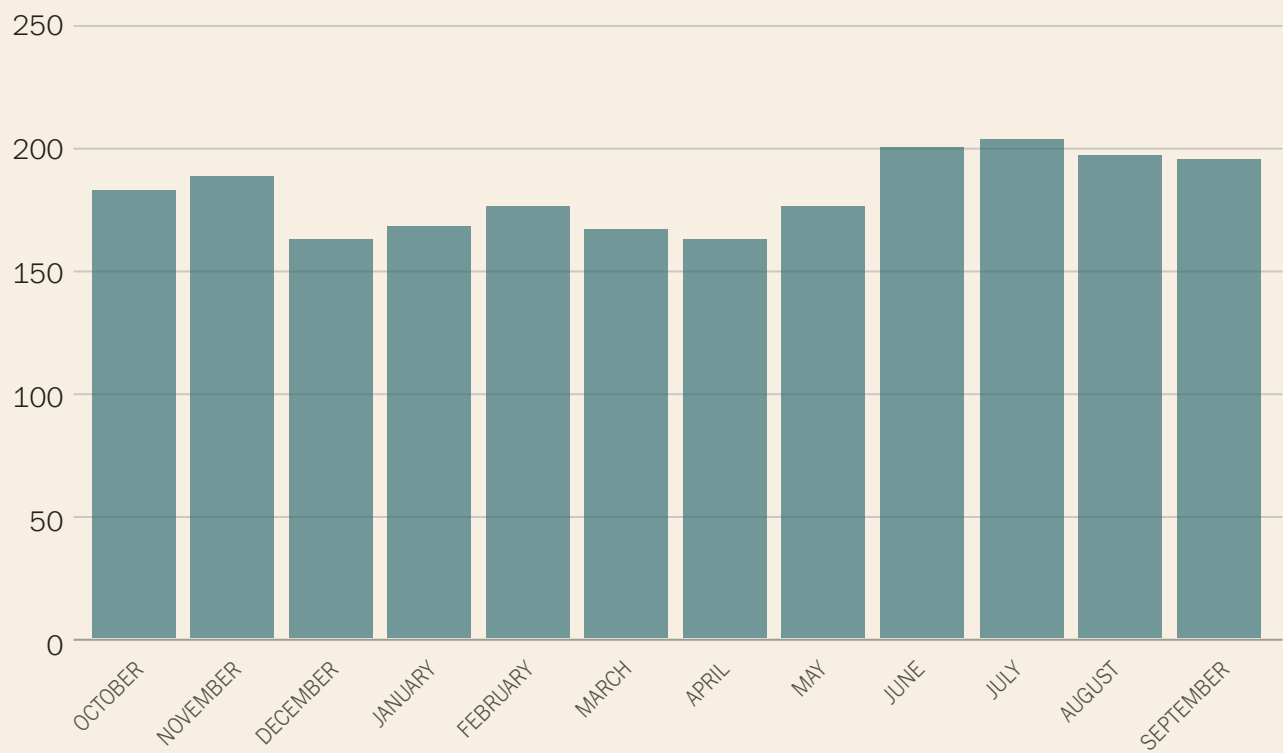


 Total Registry - 2194  Admissions - 2052



VOLUME AND STATISTICS

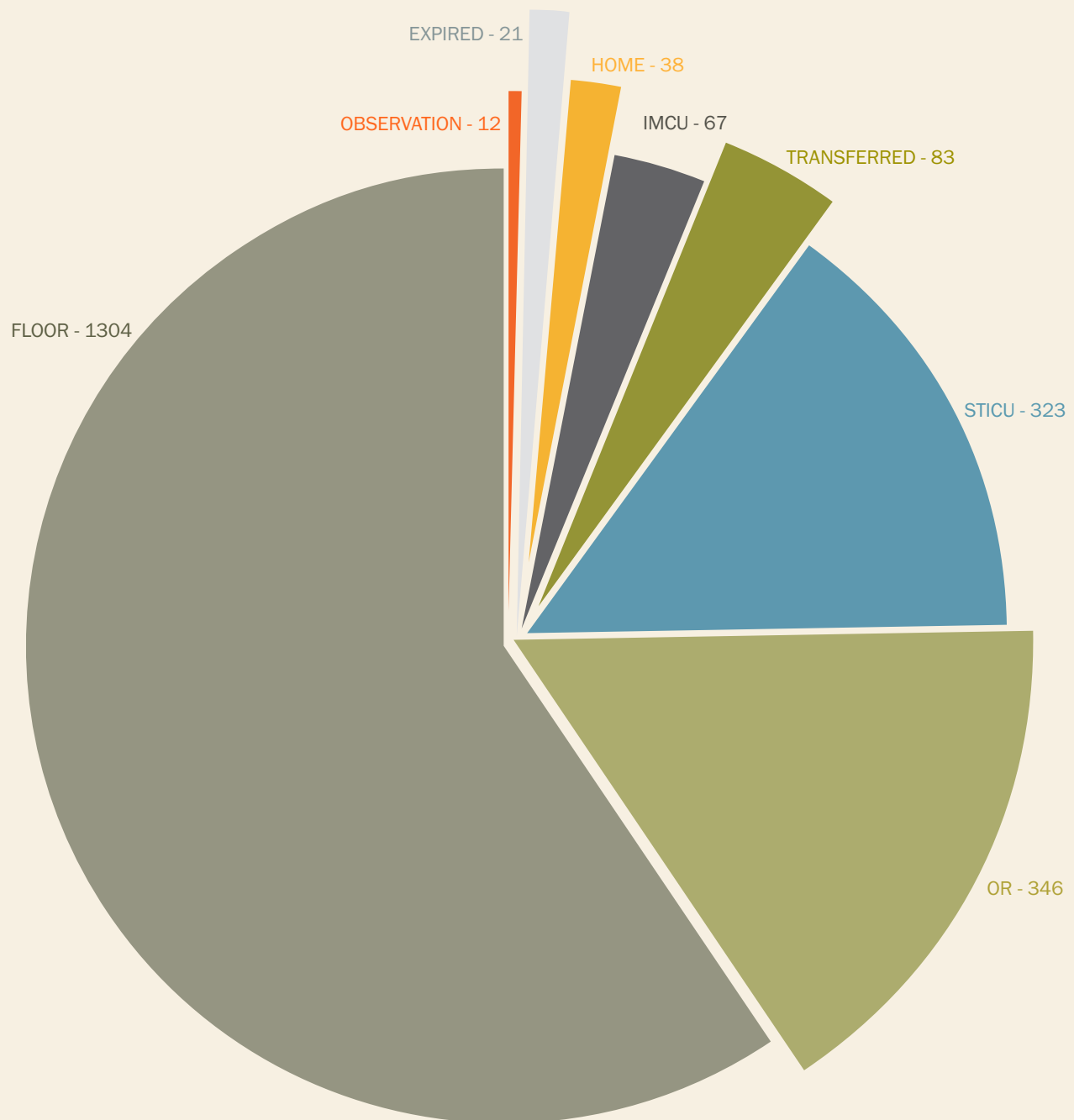
Trauma Admissions per Month (FY 2020)





VOLUME AND STATISTICS

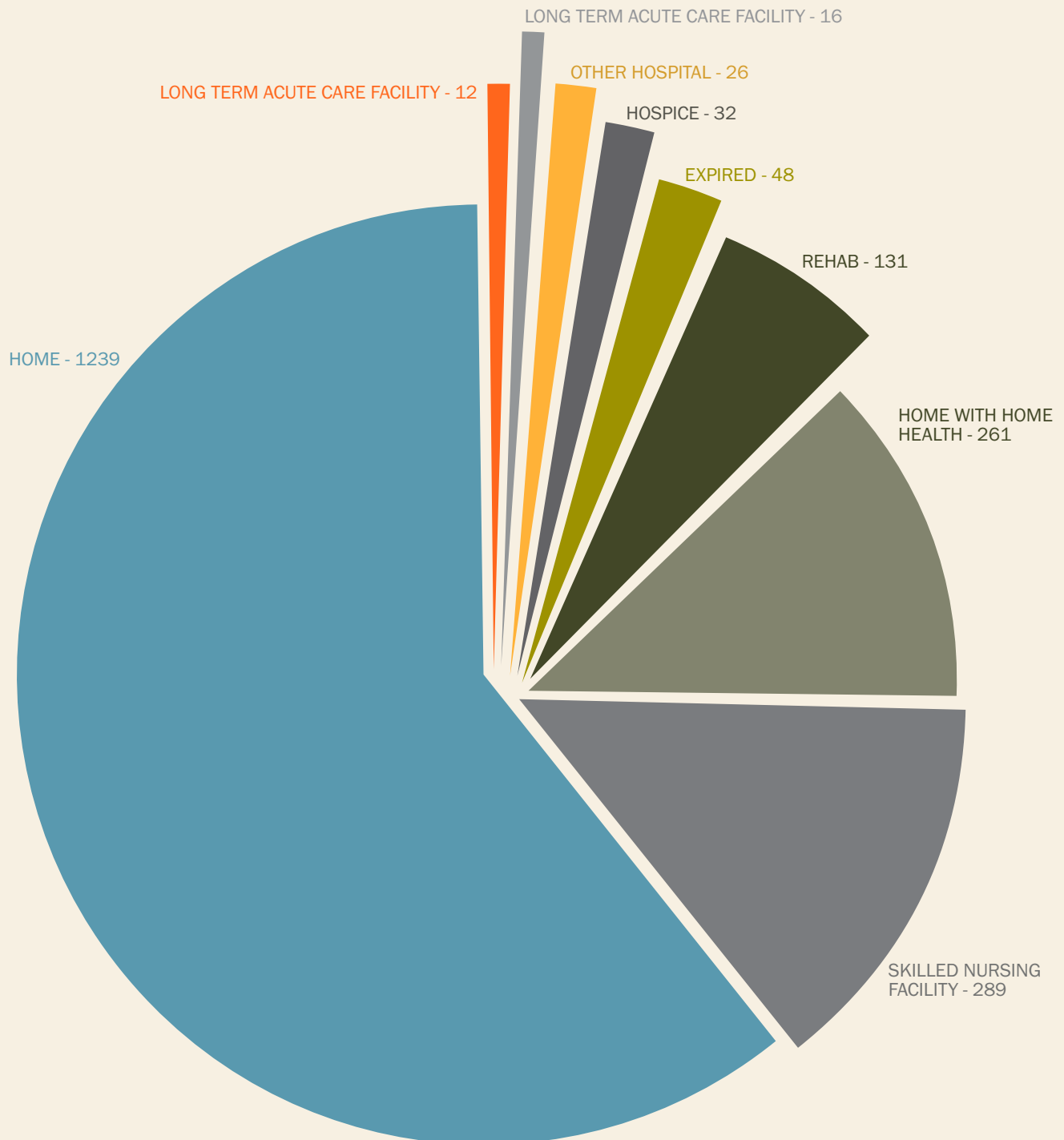
Emergency Department Disposition





VOLUME AND STATISTICS

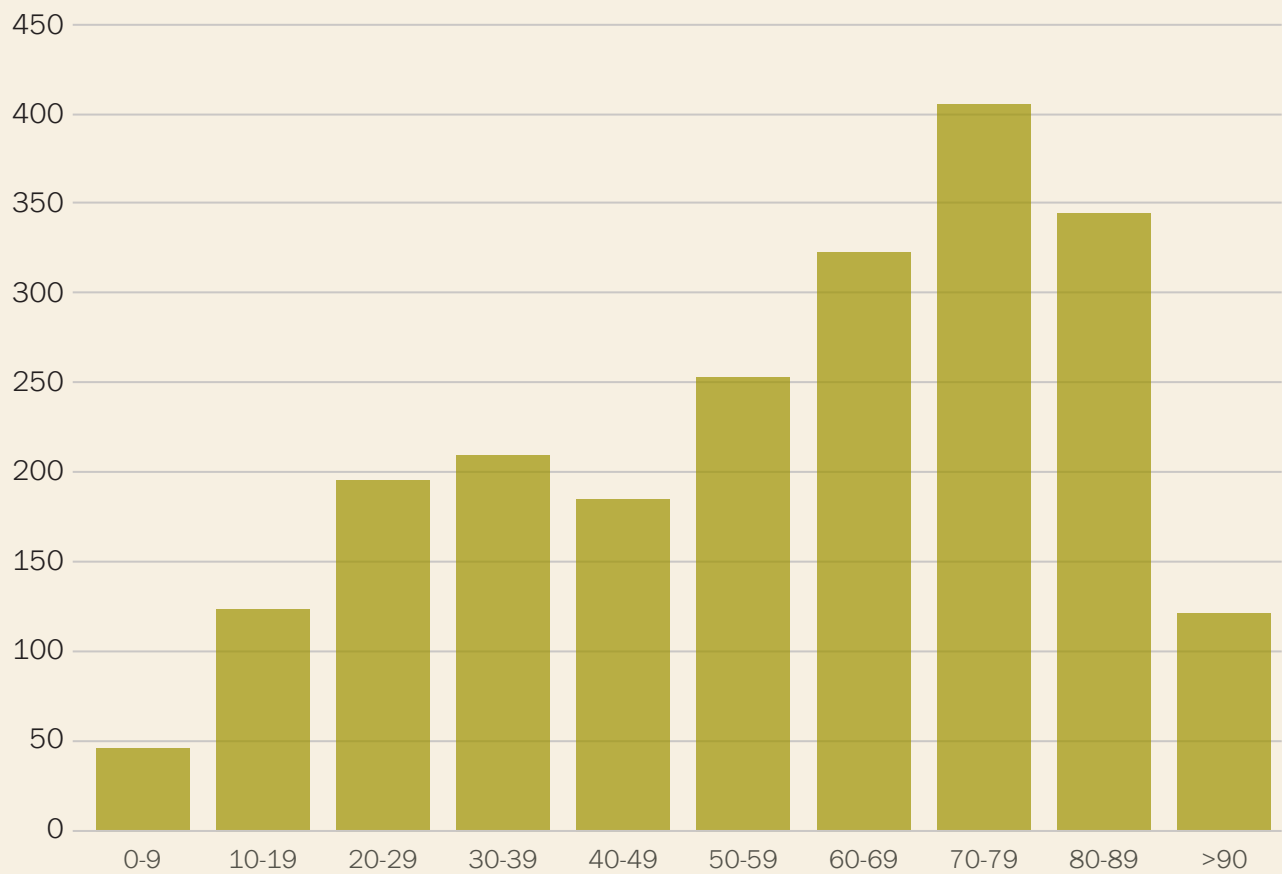
Hospital Disposition





VOLUME AND STATISTICS

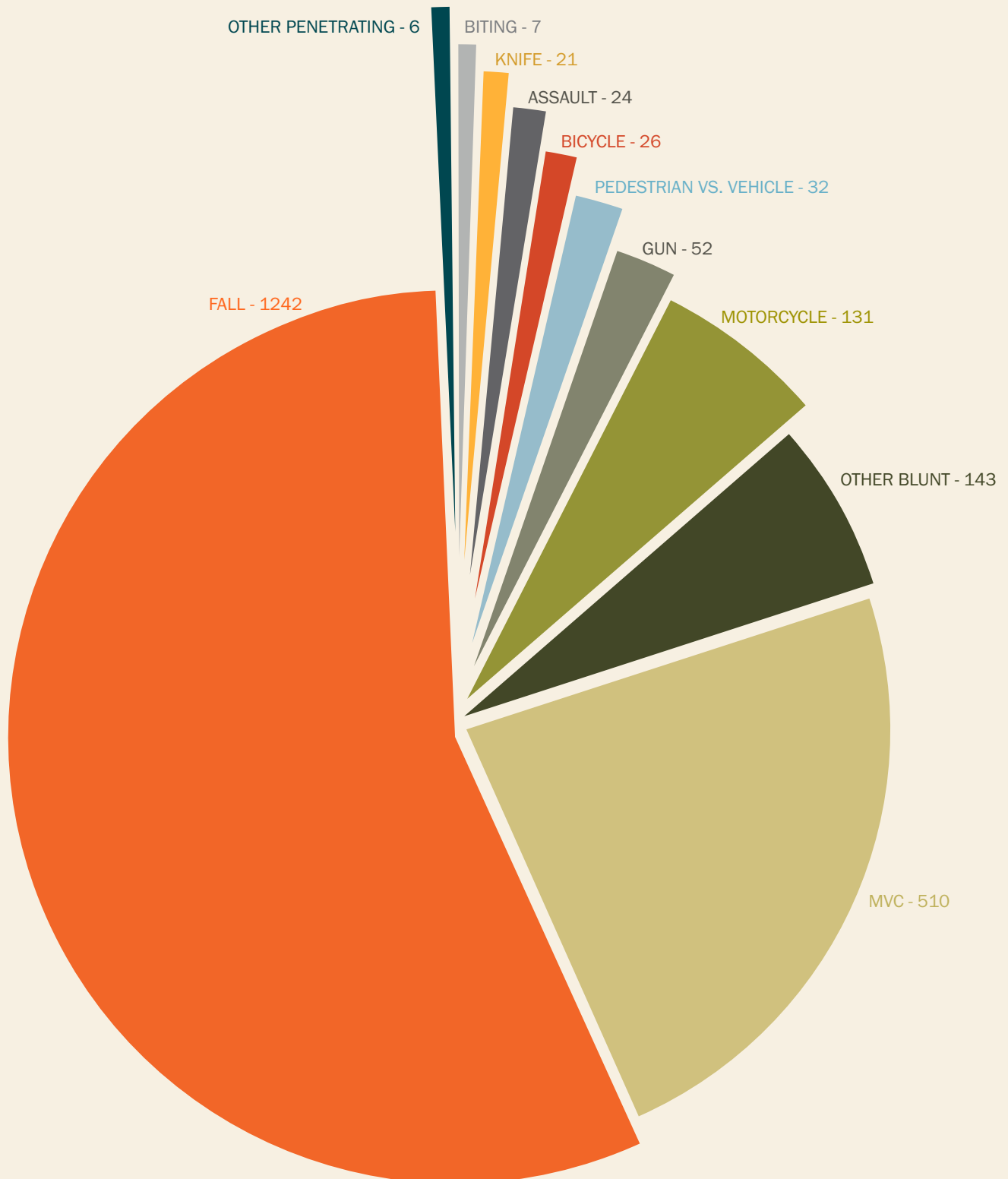
Trauma Patient Distribution by Age





VOLUME AND STATISTICS

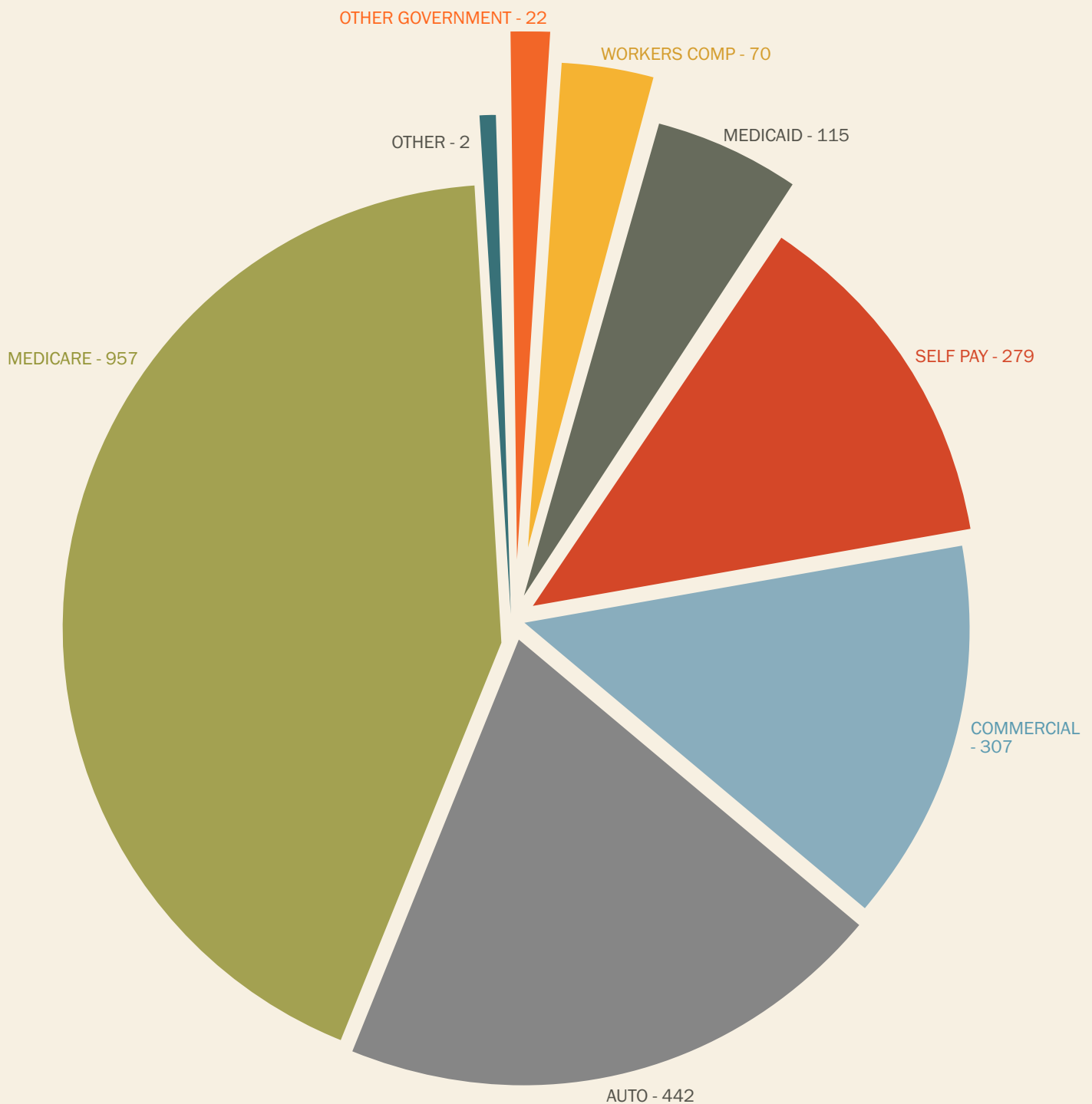
Causes of Traumatic Injury





VOLUME AND STATISTICS

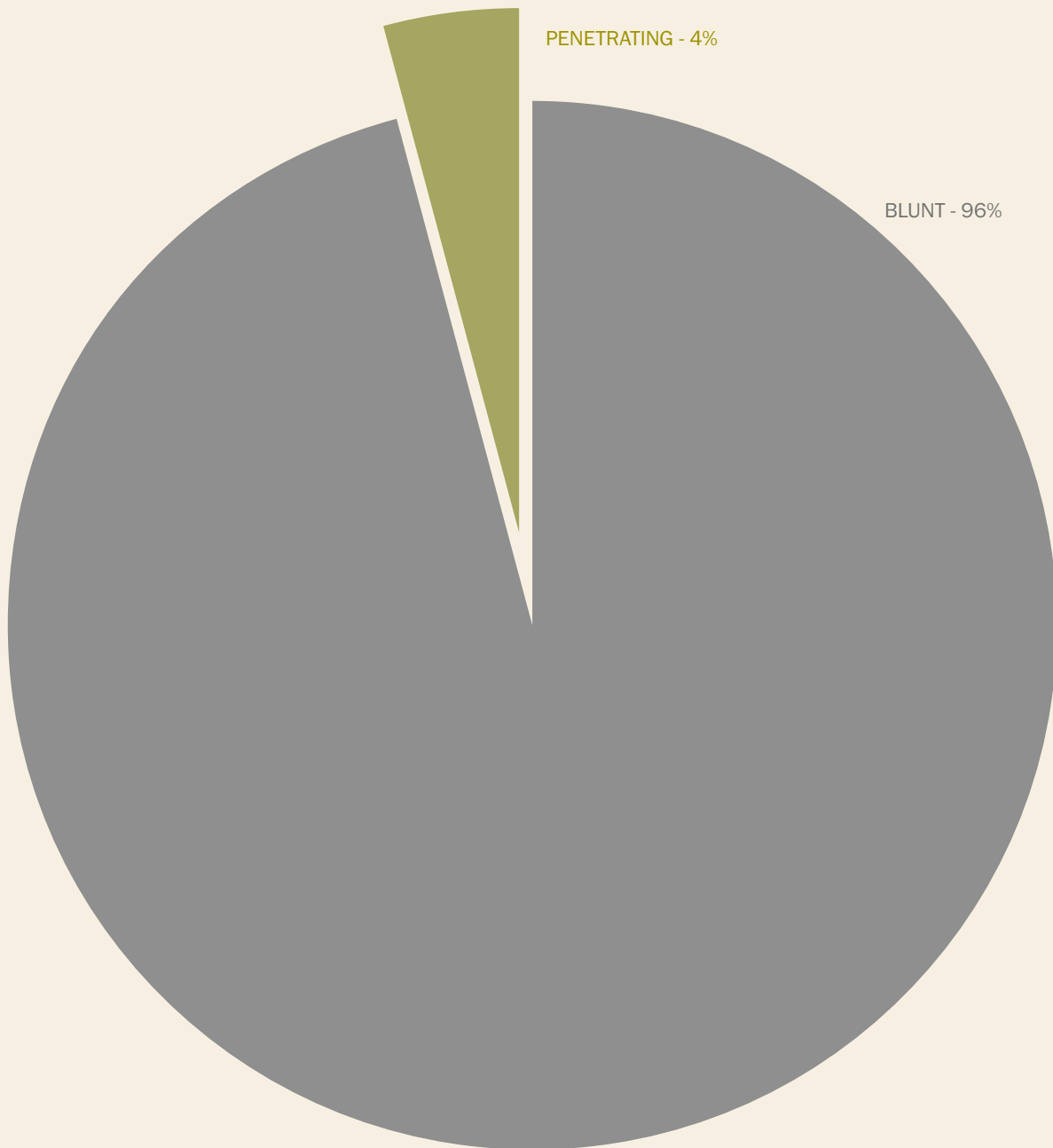
Trauma Payor Mix





VOLUME AND STATISTICS

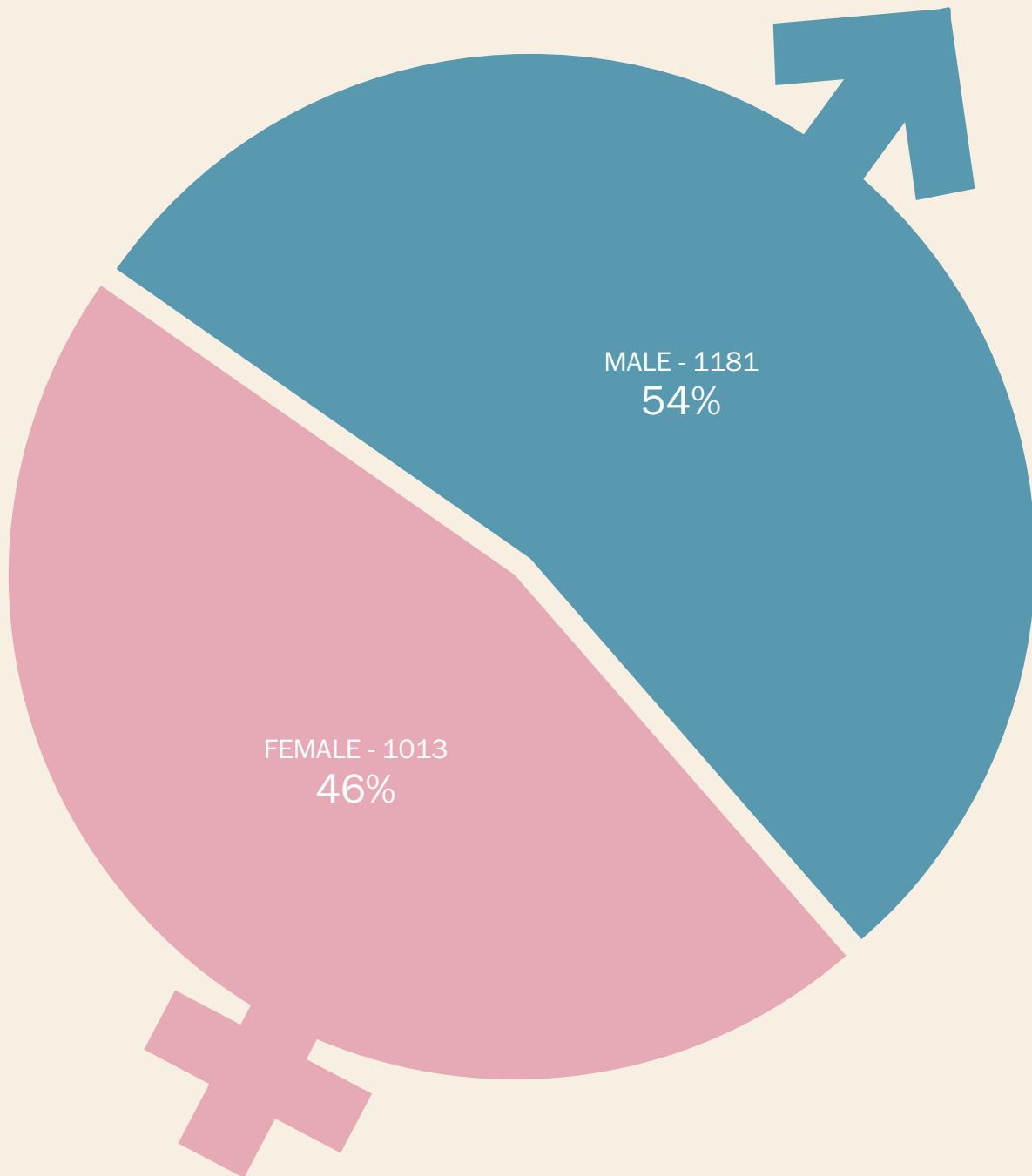
Blunt vs. Penetrating Injury





VOLUME AND STATISTICS

Trauma Patient Distribution by Gender





Northeast Georgia Medical Center