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## NTDB™ data points

# The graying of America

by Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS, Chicago, IL, and John Fildes, MD, FACS, Las Vegas, NV

The National Trauma Data Bank™ (NTDB) currently contains almost three quarters of a million records from 268 trauma centers in the 36 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Less than one year ago, we reported on the success of the second annual report, which included records from 130 trauma centers located in 22 states and territories. In less than 12 months, the NTDB has grown in size and in representation with a greater than 50 percent increase in both the number of trauma centers providing trauma records as well as in the number of states they represent. As evidenced by the figure on this page, it will not be long until the entire map is shaded gray.

In taking a closer look at the breakdown of the 268 reporting hospitals, 83 percent (223) meet the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma criteria to be verified as a trauma center. Sixty-nine are verified as a Level I trauma center, which represents 35 percent of all the Level I trauma centers in the U.S. There are 71 Level II, 34 Level III, and 49 Level IV/V representing 26 percent, 13 percent, and 11 percent, respectively, of all trauma centers. University hospitals account for 24 percent of the reporting trauma centers, while the majority (54%) are community teaching hospitals.



States and U.S. territories from which one or more hospitals have submitted to the NTDB are shown in gray. States whose data are in the process of being added to the NTDB are shown in black.

This diverse cross-section of trauma centers embodies all levels of trauma care, transcends geographic boundaries, represents academic as well as community institutions, and contains urban along with rural populations of trauma patients.

Such diversity will allow researchers to perform epidemiological analyses. As the number of trauma records in the NTDB continues to grow at such a pace, benchmarking with a subset of trauma records from institutions similar in size, location, urban versus rural, and adult or pediatric populations will soon be possible. The NTDB will become an invaluable tool for both researchers and individual trauma

centers and their trauma center directors alike. How often are you asked at your trauma center, “How do we compare with other trauma centers like us?” Soon you will not only be able to respond to this question but the answer you give may only be a few mouse clicks away.

Throughout the year we will be highlighting these data through brief monthly reports in the *Bulletin*. For a complete copy of the NTDB *Annual Report 2003*, visit us at <http://www.facs.org/trauma/ntdbannualreport2003.pdf>. If you are interested in submitting your trauma center’s data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB, at [mneal@facs.org](mailto:mneal@facs.org).