

NTDB® data points

The 2009 Annual Pediatric Report: How old is old enough?

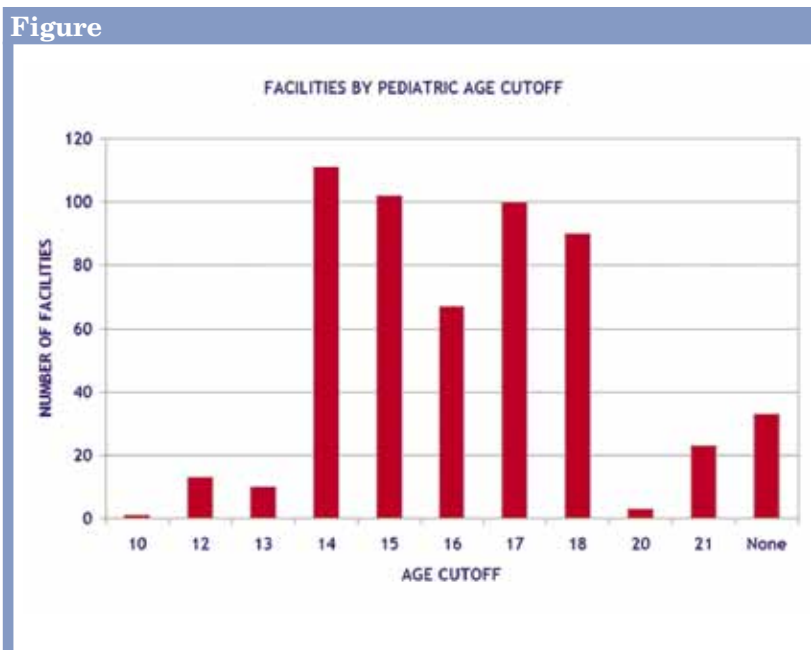
by Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS; and Avery B. Nathens, MD, PhD, FACS

The 2009 Annual Report of the National Trauma Data Bank® (NTDB) is an updated analysis of the largest aggregation of U.S. trauma registry data that has ever been assembled. In total, the NTDB now contains more than 3 million records. The 2009 Annual Report is based on 627,664 records, submitted by 567 facilities, from the single admission year of 2008. The 2009 Annual Pediatric Report is based on 132,126 2008 admission year records from 553 facilities.

A new feature of this year's report is an expanded section on facility information. This section includes information on registry inclusion criteria for participating hospitals, and allows the reader to consider differences in case mix across hospitals while reading the report. For example, what is the age of a pediatric patient? There is variability with the age cutoff for inclusion in a pediatric trauma registry that may be a result of local, regional, or state criteria. The Figure on this page addresses the question, "How old is old enough to no longer be considered a pediatric patient?"

The mission of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (COT) is to develop and implement meaningful

Figure



programs for trauma care. In keeping with this mission, the NTDB is committed to being the principal national repository for trauma center registry data. The purpose of this report is to inform the medical pediatric community, the public, and decision makers about a wide variety of issues that characterize the current state of care for injured infants, children, and adolescents in our country. It has implications in many areas, including epidemiology, injury control,

research, education, acute care, and resource allocation.

Many dedicated individuals on the ACS COT, including the Pediatric Surgery Specialty Group, along with dedicated individuals caring for pediatric patients at trauma centers around the country, have contributed to the early development of the NTDB and its rapid growth in recent years. Building on these achievements, our goals in the coming years include improving data quality, updating analytic

methods, and enabling more useful inter-hospital comparisons. These efforts will be reflected in future NTDB reports for participating hospitals, as well as in the pediatric annual reports.

Throughout the year we will be highlighting these data through brief reports that will be found monthly in the *Bulletin*. The NTDB *Annual Pediatric Report 2009* is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF and a PowerPoint presenta-

tion at <http://www.ntdb.org>. In addition, information is available on our Web site regarding how to obtain NTDB data for more detailed study. If you are interested in submitting your trauma center's data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB at mneal@facs.org.

Dr. Fantus is director, trauma services, and chief, section of surgical critical care, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and clinical professor of surgery,

University of Illinois, College of Medicine, Chicago, IL. He is Chair of the ad hoc Trauma Registry Advisory Committee of the Committee on Trauma.

Dr. Nathens is Canada Research Chair in Systems of Trauma Care, division head of general surgery, and director of trauma of St. Michael's Hospital, and medical director at Ontario Critical Care Program, Toronto, ON. He is the Chair, National Trauma Data Bank Subcommittee.