

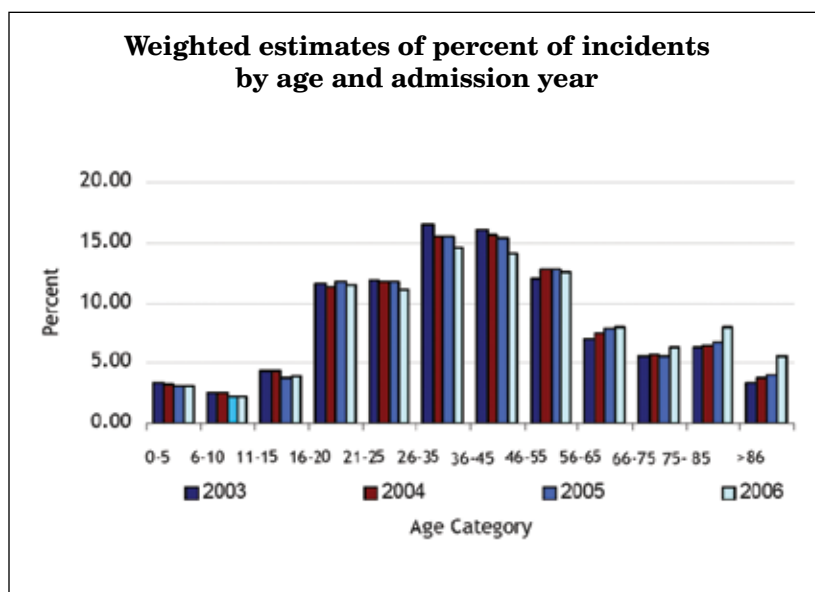
NTDB® data points

## Annual Report 2008: Don't overlook the appendix

by Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS; and John Fildes, MD, FACS

The National Trauma Data Bank® (NTDB) consists of data that have been voluntarily submitted by trauma centers around the country. Therefore, by nature, the database provides a convenience sample and not a population-based data sample. In order to obtain a nationally representative sample of trauma patients treated in U.S. level I and II trauma centers, the American College of Surgeons was awarded a contract in 2005 from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create the National Sample Project (NSP). We introduced the NSP as a new application of the NTDB in the February 2006 *Bulletin* (see page 44). Through the hard work and dedication of countless individuals, data aggregation and analysis have continued and for the first time the results appear in the NTDB *Annual Report*.

The NSP is a stratified statistical sample based on NTDB data of 100 level I and II trauma centers. Stratification was based on U.S. Census region (Northwest, Midwest, South, or West), level of trauma center designation (I or II), and whether the trauma center participated in voluntary



NTDB data submission for the submission year 2003 (NTDB submitter versus non-NTDB submitter), resulting in 16 strata. Statistically derived weights were then assigned for each hospital. Weighted estimates from admission year 2003-2006 were computed based on the NSP data. The yearly comparison of number of incidents, age (see graphic on this page), sex of patient, Injury Severity Score, mechanism of injury, and percentage of deaths are displayed in Appendix C of

the *Annual Report*, version 8.0.

The goal of the NTDB NSP is to enhance current injury information by providing nationally representative baseline estimates of trauma care to meet the needs of trauma care assessment, clinical outcomes research, and injury surveillance. For more information on the NSP, including a detailed description of how the sample was created and how the sample is maintained, as well as a user manual, visit <http://www.facs.org/trauma/nsp/>

*index.html*. When reviewing the NTDB 2008 Annual Report, remember: "Don't overlook the appendix."

The full NTDB Annual Report Version 8.0 is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF and a PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.ntdb.org>.

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).

**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. Fildes** is chair, department of trauma, University Medical Center, Las Vegas, NV. He is also program director for general surgery, surgical critical care, and acute care surgery; professor and vice-chair, department of surgery; program director, general surgery residency program; and chief, division of trauma/critical care, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas. He is Chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma.

## RESIDENCY ASSIST PAGE

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Our goals are to offer practical information and approaches from summaries of published articles, invited editorials, and specific descriptions of lessons learned from program directors' successful and not-so-successful strategies. Through the development of the Residency Assist Page, the ACS intends to support program directors and faculty by providing succinctly presented information helpful in addressing the challenges associated with administering state-of-art residency education.

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For additional information, please contact Olivier Petinaux, MS,  
at [elarning@facs.org](mailto:elarning@facs.org), or tel. 866/475-4696