

NTDB™ data points

The bank's window

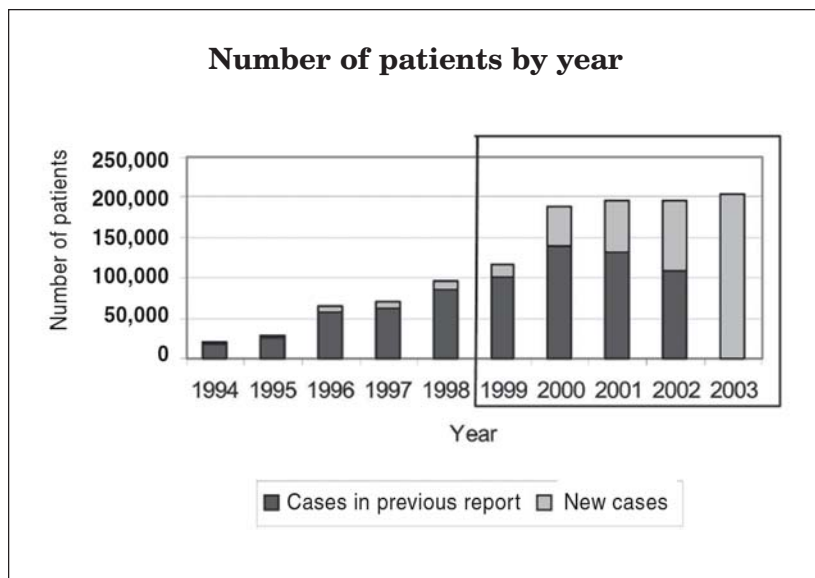
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Earlier this year we reported that the National Trauma Data Bank™ (NTDB) had eclipsed the one million record mark. Since becoming the largest aggregation of trauma registry data ever assembled, the NTDB has been able to derive the *Annual Report* for 2004 from a consolidated sliding window of the most recent five full years of data submission. These data are depicted in the graph on this page.

This is compared with a six-year window in the *Annual Report* for 2003 that was required in order to accumulate the needed number of records. The significance of narrowing this window allows for reporting on trauma care that is less likely to be influenced by the changes in practice, technology, and available diagnostic and therapeutic modalities that are occurring at an ever-increasing pace.

As the number of trauma centers participating in the NTDB increases, we will see a concomitant increase in the number of records submitted yearly. It then may be feasible to continue to narrow this window in future reports.

It is important to keep in mind that the NTDB represents a convenience sample of trauma centers that voluntarily submit their trauma data. With the significant yearly increase in the number of trauma centers that participate comes the potential



for looking at a subset of these data as a representative national sample. Such a sample would truly represent a significant contribution to the advancement of trauma care in the U.S.

The NTDB Subcommittee of the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma continues to actively participate and collaborate with several national consensus groups relating to trauma data reporting and aggregation. The once modest goal of accumulating trauma registry data has blossomed to include the ability to benchmark trauma center care and is on the verge

of becoming a national trauma care data sample that will further the research potential of the largest aggregation of trauma registry data ever assembled.

Throughout the year, we will highlight these data through brief reports monthly in the *Bulletin*. The full *National Trauma Data Bank Report Version 4.0* is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF file 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.