

NTDB™ data points

Who pays for trauma care?

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The one certainty about trauma care is that the need for it continues no matter what socioeconomic conditions exist around us. Even with today's economy moving along at its slow pace, trauma centers are operating at full speed. Trauma care is an expensive commodity.

However, because trauma strikes our younger and more productive members of society, this initial cost is outweighed by the enormous economic

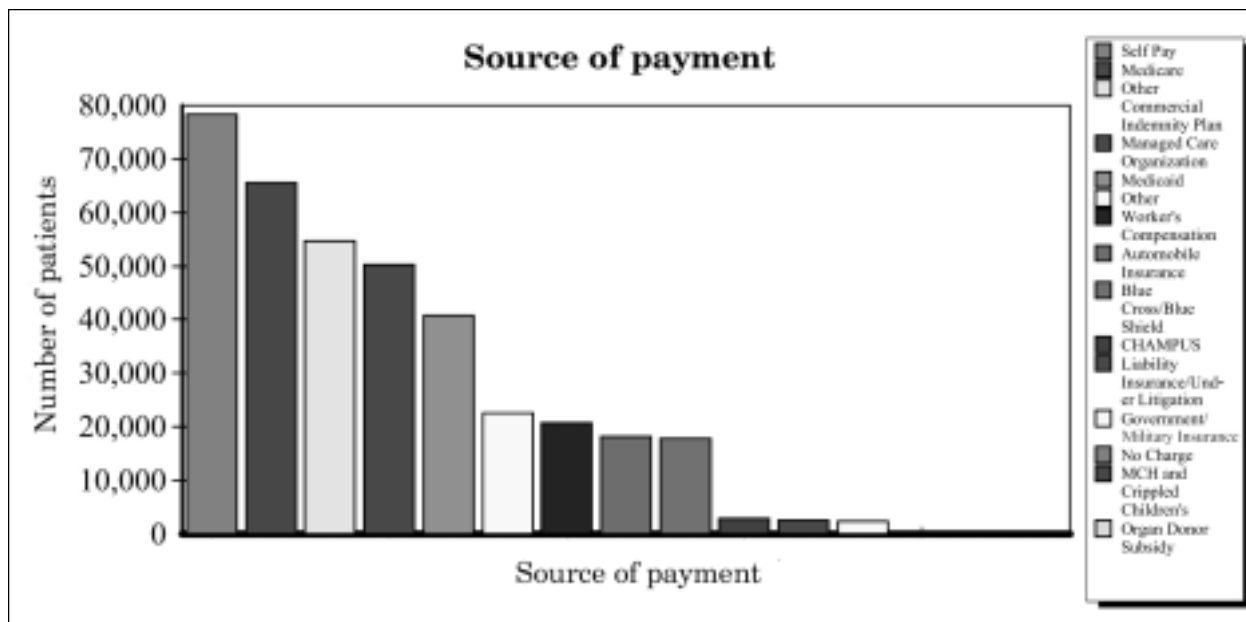
benefits of returning these victims to a productive life. On the other side of the coin is the ever-increasing number of uninsured individuals.

This national public health issue is placing a severe strain on many health care delivery systems. Add to this the liability insurance crisis, and we have a serious situation facing us. As depicted in the figure below, the single largest category is self pay.

Throughout the year we will

be highlighting these data through brief reports that will be found monthly in the *Bulletin*. For a complete copy of the National Trauma Data Bank *Annual Report 2002* visit the Web at <http://www.facs.org/dept/trauma/ntdbannualreport2002.pdf>.

If you are interested in submitting your trauma center's data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB, at mneal@facs.org.



Source of payment for hospital charges. Total patients with known source of payment = 376,579 patients.