
NTDB™ data points

Same cover, but new version 3.0

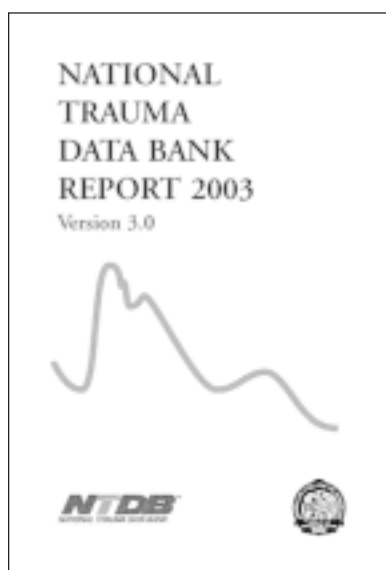
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The third annual report of the National Trauma Data Bank™ (NTDB™) is an updated analysis of the largest aggregation of trauma registry data ever assembled. The NTDB currently contains 731,824 records from 268 trauma centers in 36 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. This represents an increase of 301,267 records from the 2002 report.

The significant increase in trauma records has made this the first year that the NTDB has achieved its long-term goal of focusing the report on a sliding five-year time frame. The analyses in this report are based on data from 1997 to 2002, totaling 548,735 records. This allows subsequent data analyses and trauma center benchmarking to remain contemporary as opposed to using data that may be skewed by changes in practice patterns, management methods, or environment.

Along with the current year of the report on the cover there is also a version number. Researchers requesting data and publishing studies will be able to refer to the version number which will directly relate to the data set that the study was based upon.

Another new direction that we have taken this year is that this report marks the begin-



Cover of the *Annual Report 2003*.

ning of our transition to the use of the external cause of injury code groupings that were developed by the international injury prevention community and published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in *MMWR*, 46(RR14):1-30, 1997. This framework was developed by the CDC and international partners to create a uniform reporting language for injury mortality and morbidity.

To begin the transition, this report contains a section of

tables based on the new external cause of injury codes. The usual tables based on E-code ranges used in previous reports are also included. The previous E-code system was based on groupings that were clinically relevant and predictive of the care and resources patients need. Both E-code systems can be found in the appendix to this report. Stay tuned as the *NTDB Annual Report 2004* will be based exclusively on the CDC's external cause of injury codes.

Throughout the year we will be highlighting these data through brief monthly reports in the *Bulletin*. For a complete copy of the *NTDB Bank Annual Report 2003*, visit us on the Web 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.