
NTDB™ data points

The National Sample Project: A new application of the NTDB

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Last year, the American College of Surgeons was awarded a contract from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a nationally representative sample of U.S. trauma centers. This National Sample Project (NSP) will enhance the National Trauma Data Bank™ (NTDB) by providing population-based data that will be used to make statistically valid inferences about patients cared for in Level I and II trauma centers.

The NSP data will be collected from 100 randomly selected Level I and II centers located throughout the four census regions in the Northeast, South, Midwest, and West (see figure on this page).

To do this, the ACS has contracted with Dr. Paul Levy and his colleagues at Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina to provide technical expertise on sampling methodology. Dr. Levy has authored publications on population sampling* in addition to contributing statistical methodology for trauma system evaluation and injury severity scoring.

The NSP will be used to

*Levy PS, Lemeshow S. *Sampling of Populations: Methods and Applications*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons; 1999.

NSP trauma centers by census region



calculate important rates and incidence measures that describe trauma care and clinical outcomes. It will also provide baseline data and allow reliability in computing national estimates with high confidence.

Throughout the year, we will be highlighting the work of the NTDB through brief monthly reports in the *Bulletin*. The full NTDB *Annual Report Version 5.0* 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.