

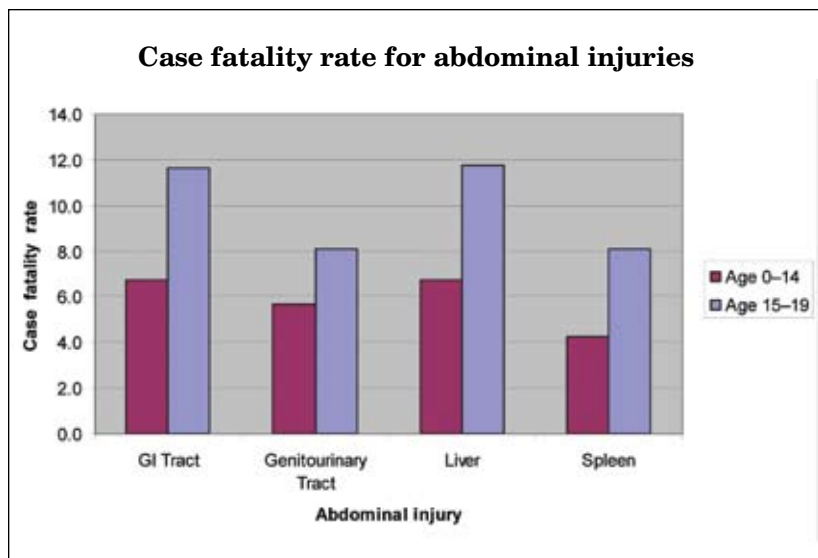
NTDB® data points

Pediatric Report 2007: **Too many kids**

by Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS, and Arthur Cooper, MD, FACS

This year marks the first time that both the *Annual Report* and the *Pediatric Report* of the National Trauma Data Bank® were released simultaneously. The *Annual Pediatric Report of the National Trauma Data Bank Version 7.0* represents and reflects the collaborative efforts between the National Trauma Data Bank Committee and the Pediatric Surgical Specialty Group of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. As with the NTDB *Annual Report*, the pediatric report is an updated analysis of the largest aggregation of pediatric trauma registry data ever assembled. The pediatric component of the NTDB contains more than 550,000 records from admission years 1988 to 2006.

The *2007 Pediatric Annual Report* is based on 334,095 records from the years 2002 through 2006. The report also contains several enhancements over previous annual reports. There are new tables and figures describing head, thoracic, and abdominal injuries in greater detail than was possible in previous versions. For all three body regions, case frequency and case fatality rates are shown by body organ injured (see figure on this page). However, no inferences



should be drawn from these data with respect to causality, since the NTDB contains no specific information on proximate cause of death but only those injuries associated with death.

The purpose of this report is to inform the medical pediatric community, the public, and decision makers about a wide variety of issues that characterize the current state of care for injured infants, children, and adolescents in our country.

It has implications in many areas including epidemiology, injury control, research,

education, acute care, and resource allocation.

The NTDB Committee and Pediatric Surgery Specialty Group would like to thank all of the adult and pediatric trauma centers that contributed pediatric data and hope that this report will attract new participants. The support of the Emergency Medical Services for Children program of the Maternal Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is also gratefully acknowledged.

Although this report repre-

sents an enormous aggregation of pediatric trauma data and a wealth of information, we should redouble our prevention efforts because these injuries represent just too many kids.

The full NTDB *Annual Report Version 7.0* 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.

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A look at The Joint Commission

Annual report details health care quality in U.S. hospitals

American hospitals are making measurable strides in the quality of care provided for patients with heart attacks, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical conditions, according to The Joint Commission's second annual report on health care quality and patient safety in the nation's hospitals. The detailed report portrays the aggregate performance of accredited hospitals against The Joint Commission's standardized national performance measures and its National Patient Safety Goals.

Improving America's Hospitals: The Joint Commission's Annual Report on Quality and Safety 2007 also shows, however, that whether patients receive proven treatments for these common reasons for hospitalization often depends on where they live. For ex-

ample, statewide performance of hospitals on the measure of providing discharge instructions to patients with heart failure ranges from 49 percent to 91 percent.

The Joint Commission issues this annual report as part of its ongoing efforts to emphasize the importance of accountability and continuous improvement for hospitals and to empower consumers with information that will make them more active participants in their health care. This report examines how America's accredited hospitals performed against quality-related performance measures and safety goals in 2006 and in previous years.

This year, The Joint Commission plans to add measures to the pneumonia and surgical care measure sets and to

introduce new measure sets for hospital outpatient care and hospital-based inpatient psychiatric care.

In addition, The Joint Commission will begin to publicly report hospital performance data that are gathered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, such as the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Survey results.

The Joint Commission offers a comprehensive guide to hospital performance measurements at the Quality Check Web site. To view hospital-specific performance on specific measures, go to Quality Check™ at www.qualitycheck.org.

To view the annual report, visit www.jointcommission.org.