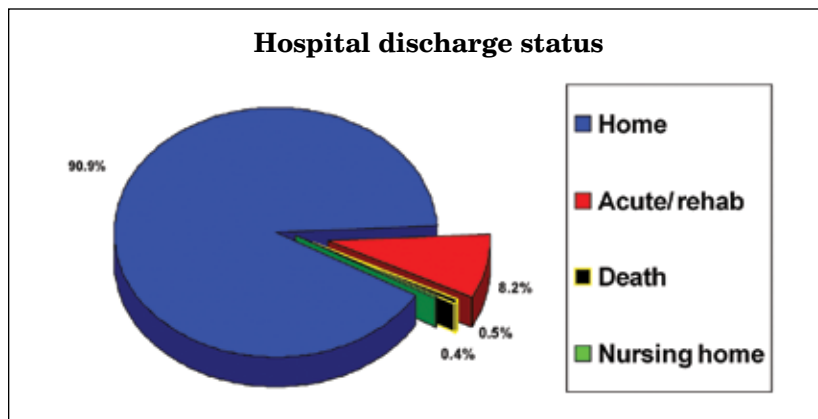

NTDB® data points

The “University of Injury”

by Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS, and Jake Fantus, Chicago, IL

Fall is rapidly approaching and as the season changes, collegiate sports begin. According to the National Center for Education Statistics—Digest of Education Statistics: 2005, close to 17 million students attend more than 4,000 colleges across the U.S. each year (http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d05/tables/dt05_213.asp). For the past 25 years, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) have collaborated to create the largest ongoing collegiate sports injury database in the world. This database houses information on sport’s specific injuries that have occurred during NCAA sporting events, which includes 380,000 student athletes annually (<http://www.nata.org/collegiateinjurystats07/factsheet.pdf>). Along with sanctioned collegiate sports, a great number of students participate in intramural and recreational sporting activities, as for many students, sports can be a welcome diversion from the day-to-day educational grind. With millions of students participating in various sporting activities, someone is bound to be injured.

In order to examine the occurrence of college-age individuals involved in sports-related injuries in the National Trauma Data Bank® Dataset 6.2, we used the International Classification



of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification cause of injury code E 917.0, injury in sports without subsequent fall (struck by hockey stick, puck, or a thrown ball), and E 917.5, object in sports with subsequent fall (knocked down during sporting event), along with E 849.4, place of injury for recreation and sport; age parameters were set between 18 and 22 years old. This search yielded 1,911 records with discharge status recorded. Among the patients in this dataset, 1,738 were discharged to home, 156 sent to acute care/rehabilitation, and seven sent to nursing homes; 10 died. These data are depicted in the figure on this page. Among victims, 85 percent were male and on average 19.5 years of age; average length of hospital stay was 2.7 days, and average injury severity score was 8.5.

Going to college broadens a

student’s horizon, allows development of interpersonal skills, prepares one for future employment or advanced degrees, and results in a feeling of accomplishment. For many, a part of the college experience is participation in sports. Fortunately, the number of injuries we found was small. Please remember when it is time for those of you with college-bound high school students to go on college visits, be sure to take a pass on the University of Injury.

Throughout the year, this column will provide brief monthly reports. The full NTDB *Annual Report Version 6.0* 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.