

Achieving Zero Preventable Deaths: Building a National Trauma Care System and Research Action Plan

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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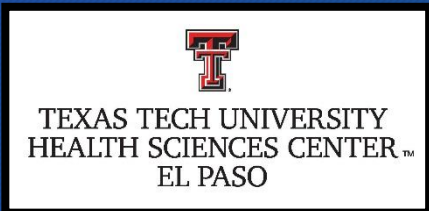
Professor & Founding Chair of Surgery

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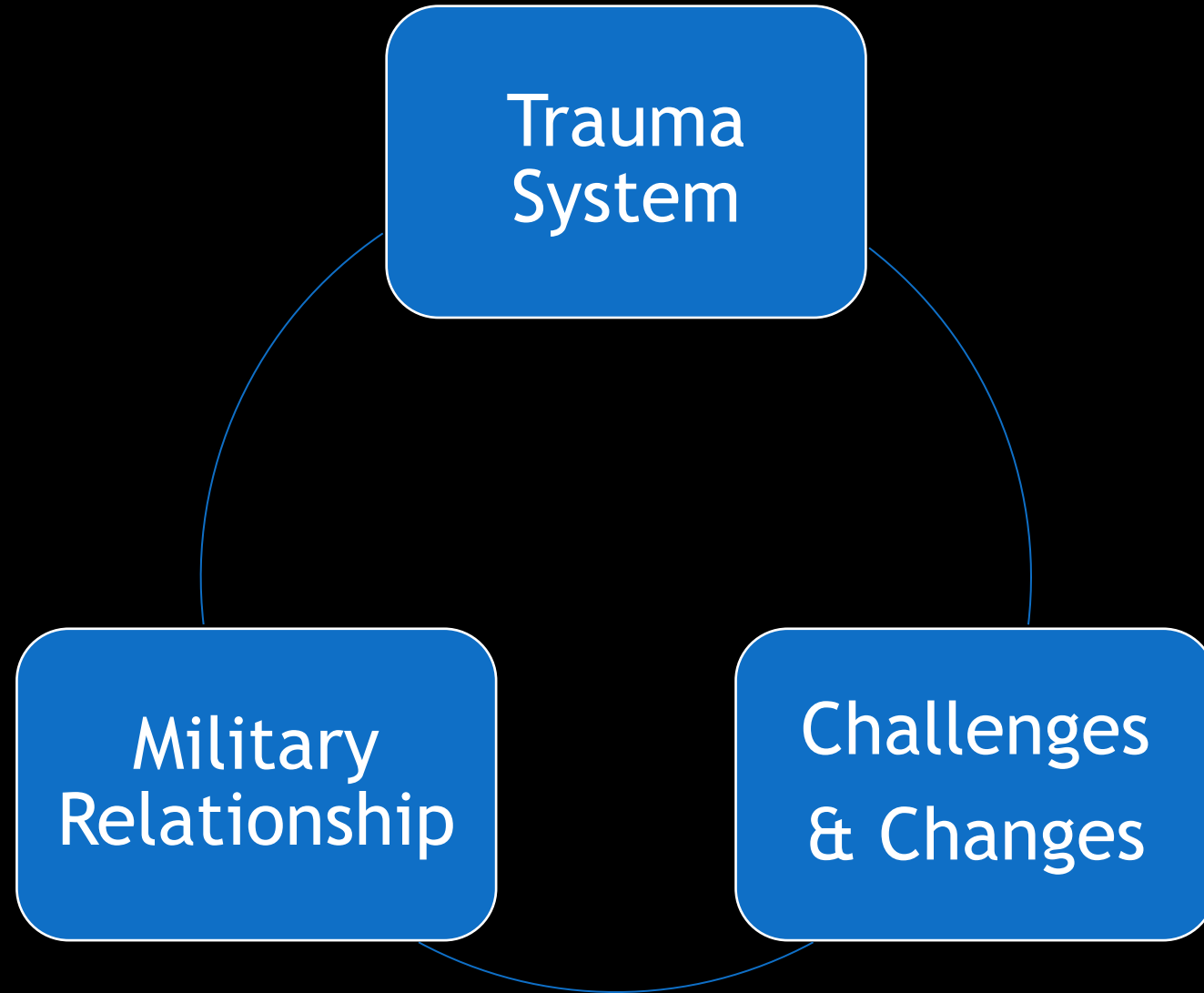
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Chief of Surgery & Trauma Medical Director

UMC of El Paso



Overview



TRAUMA SERVICE AREA



Level I Trauma Centers: Distance



• Albuquerque	268	• Fort Worth	606
• Tucson	315	• Temple	618
• Phoenix	445	• Dallas	635
• Lubbock	343	• Tyler	733
• San Antonio	552	• Houston	745
• Austin	577	• Galveston	796

Trauma System



Trauma Service Area

- 39K square miles
- 1.2M individuals in TX & NM
- El Paso County
 - 824K
- El Paso City
 - 674K

El Paso's Trauma Centers

- UMC-El Paso (Level I)
- HCA System
 - Level II
 - Level III
- Tenet System
 - Four Level IVs
- WBAMC (Level III)

Military Relationship

Fort Bliss



WBAMC



Military Relationship Benefits

HSC & Trauma Center

- Combined Military & civilian orthopedic residency program
- 3rd year medical student rotations
- 1st & 2nd year medical student preceptorships

WBAMC

- OMFS rotation
- Pediatric Surgery rotation
- Emergency Medicine NP fellowship

Impediments

- Frequent leadership change
 - Lack of institutional memory
- Frequent deployments
 - Granting of faculty appointments
 - Educating new providers of LCME & GME requirements
- Licensing and credentialing frustrations (goes both ways)
 - Fingerprinting & federal background check of students
 - Military won't accept the background checks done by the HSC
- Paperwork process is slow with inflexibility & lots of **red tape** (HSC & Military)
 - May require approval above the chain of command at WBAMC or Fort Bliss

Civilian and Military institutions do NOT speak the same language

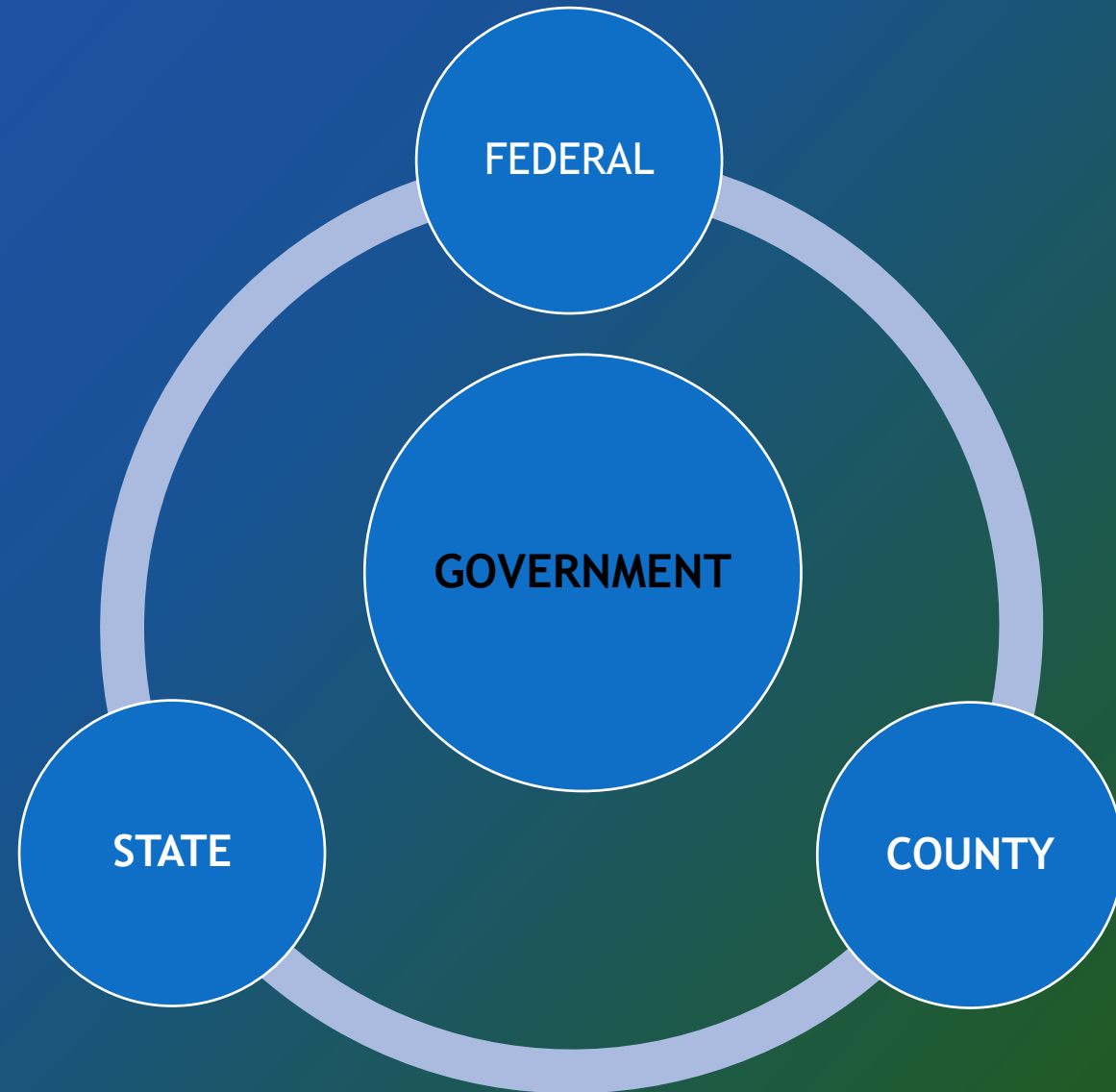
Challenges and Change



Bureaucracy is the death of all sound work.

(Albert Einstein)

An Opportunity Lost



An Opportunity Lost

ADVANTAGES

- Clinical expertise
- Free labor
- Another surgeon in call schedule
- Opportunity for current SICU attendings to have time for:
 - Elective practice
 - Scholarly activity

DISADVANTAGES

- Can't bill for their work
- May be deployed
- May be called back to WBAMC
- Malpractice concerns

Federal Tort Claims Act
Title 28
U.S. Code, Section 2679

Military staff are immunized from individual tort liability.

Trauma Center Proliferation

- HCA
 - Converting a Level III TC to a second Level II TC
- Tenet
 - Converting Level IV TCs to Level III TCs & possibly upgrading to a Level II TC
- WBAMC
 - Upgrading to a Level II TC

ACS-COT Needs Based Assessment of Trauma Systems Tool
No need for additional trauma centers in El Paso

Trauma Center Proliferation

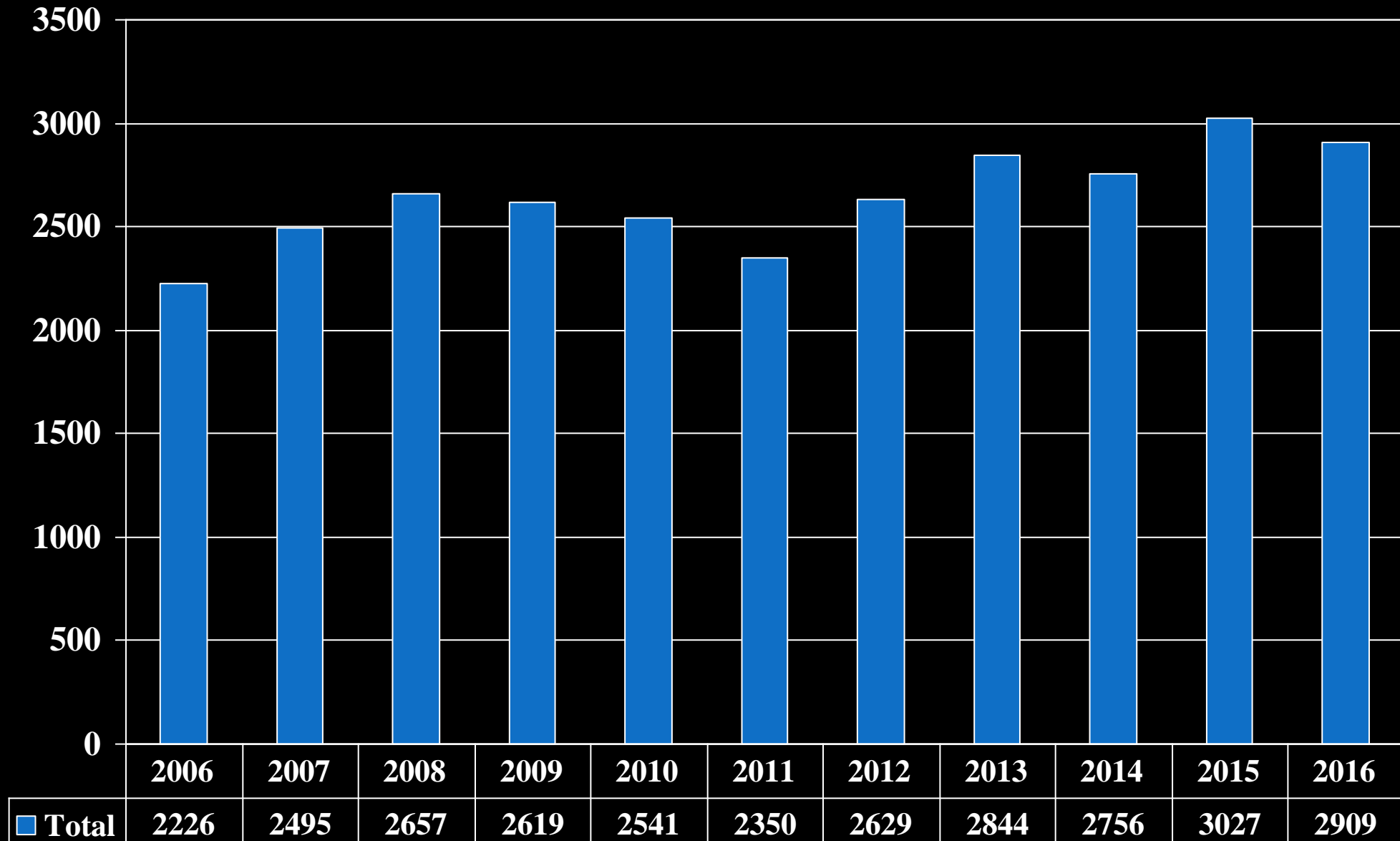
WBAMC

- Low volume
- Location will not enhance increase in patient catchment
- Lack of specialist support
 - Neurosurgery
 - Cardiothoracic
- Improve clinical skills/readiness?

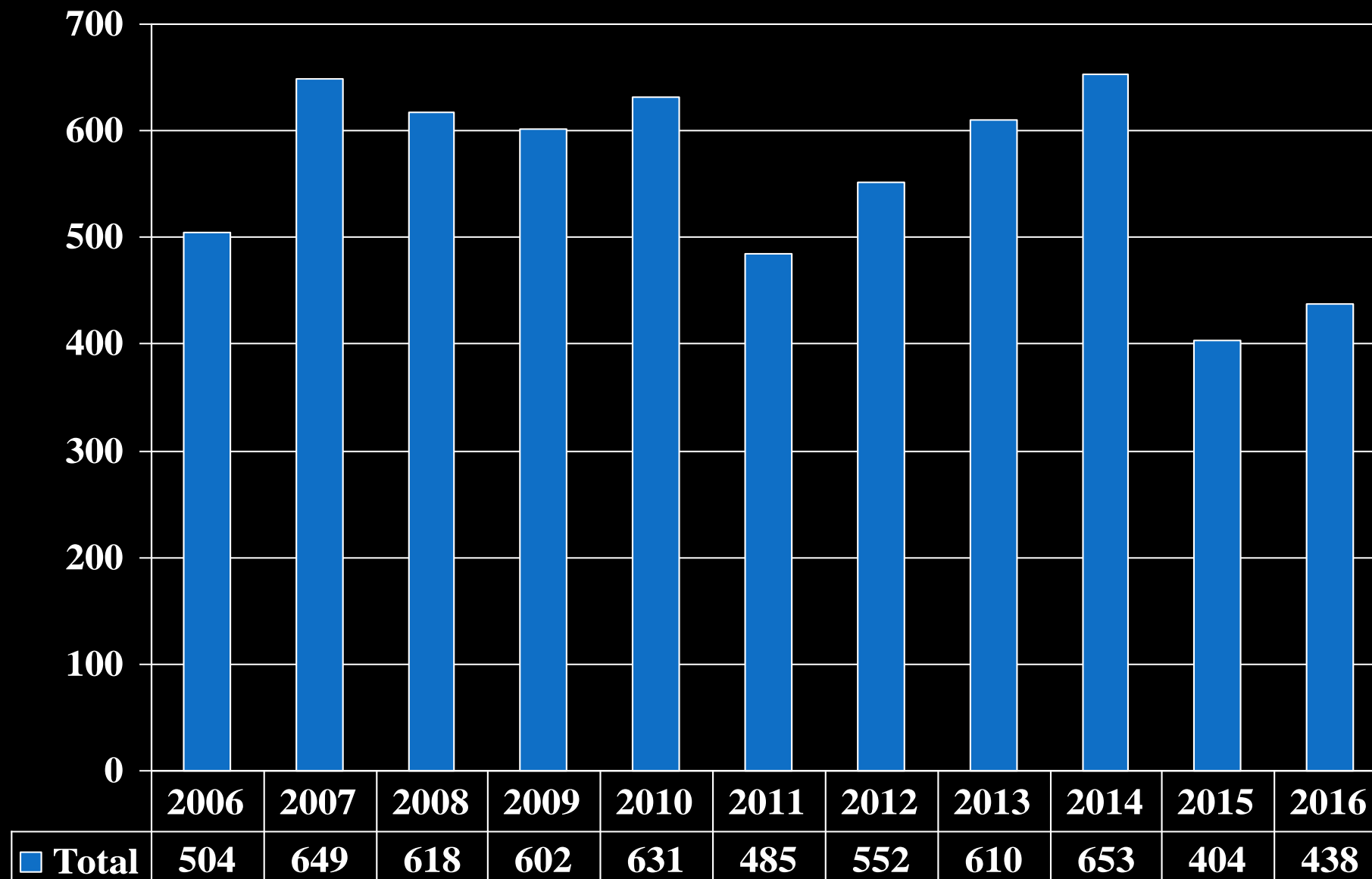
Level I & Level II Trauma Centers

- Financial impact to both TCs
- Financial impact to the HSC
- Educational impact to the HSC
- Hinder the volume requirement for Level I TC verification
- Improve or hinder the Trauma System?

Trauma Registry Patients



ISS \geq 15



A strong relationship benefits the Injured

