

Acute Injury Care

An acute injury is serious enough to involve a visit to a hospital emergency department. Acute injury care includes prehospital care through assessment, treatment, and stabilization of patients, as well as in-hospital medical and surgical management.

What We Know

- ▶ In the United States, acute injuries are the leading cause of death for persons 1 to 44 years of age.
- ▶ In 2006, acute injuries resulted in about 179,000 deaths and 29 million emergency department visits. For the year, this equals nearly one injury every second.
- ▶ The economic impact of acute injury is about \$80 billion per year.

Severely injured persons receiving care at a Level 1 trauma center can lower their risk of death by 25 percent. For every 100,000 who are moderately or severely injured, 2,400 lives can be saved.



Research Focus	What We Want to Know	How This Research Will Help
Best Practices	How can we use science-based guidelines to better care for acutely injured persons? How can we overcome any barriers to the effective use and communication of these practices?	It can reduce deaths, improve treatment and outcome of serious injuries. It can also ensure that health care workers know about the recommended guidelines.
Trauma System Performance	What parts of a trauma system—from prehospital through rehabilitation—help improve treatment for injured persons? How can we tailor these parts to improve system performance?	We can identify specific components of a trauma system that can help improve treatment and system performance. We will learn how new technologies and approaches can improve care.
Disaster Preparedness	How do mass casualty events and disasters affect trauma systems? How can we improve communication and coordination during a mass casualty event or disaster?	It can improve acute injury care management and help eliminate secondary injuries that occur after disasters and mass casualty events.
Clinical Preventive Services	How effective are clinical preventive services for mental health, drinking, and drug use problems?	It will highlight effective clinical preventive services for psychosocial problems that follow or are made worse by some injuries.
Long-Term Consequences	After an injury, what strategies can help reduce the consequences to individuals, families, and society? Are these strategies cost effective?	It will help to reduce long-term impairment and disability, which will help people live to their full potential.
Health Measures	How can additional health measures improve long-term health outcomes? What new or current acute injury and trauma care reporting methods extend beyond simply reporting a death?	It will help to establish new methods of measuring morbidity, quality of life, functional status, and cost. This will help define the benefits and costs of trauma care units and will lead to improved outcomes for the acutely injured.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/injury>
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