

Trauma Services BC fact sheet

Trauma Services BC is dedicated to ensuring optimal care for trauma patients in British Columbia.

How we serve the people of B.C.

Trauma is any injury to the body caused by an external force, such as vehicular collision, a fall or gun shot. Traumatic injuries can be intentional or unintentional and can range from minor to catastrophic. Trauma is the primary cause of death for people under age 45 in Canada, accounting for more potential “years of life lost” than heart disease and lung cancer combined.

Management of traumatic injury is a complex medical event which requires coordinated care from the health-care system. Based on research which indicates that integrated trauma systems improve patient outcomes, Trauma Services BC oversees an integrated system of injury care and collaborative prevention strategies.

Providing direction and provincial leadership, Trauma Services BC:



PARTNERS with health-care providers in each health region to establish and ensure a best practice approach to medical care.



COLLABORATES with BC Emergency Health Services to ensure transport of trauma patients to appropriate hospitals.



PROVIDES DATA to provincial and regional injury prevention and public health partners to support injury prevention.

750,000
B.C. residents
injured each year

400,000
emergency room visits
for injury each year

30,000
admissions to hospital
for injury each year

9,000
injured patients suffer
permanent disability
each year

4,000
patients transferred
to higher level of care
hospitals each year

2,600
serious injury
admissions each year

1,650
injury-associated
deaths each year

Trauma Services BC improves trauma care through:

Development and management of a strategic provincial system plan for trauma care.

Trauma Services BC establishes a provincial vision, goals and objectives for coordinated trauma care in collaboration with its partners to ensure alignment between regional and provincial priorities.

Provincial surveillance and evaluation of trauma care delivery.

Trauma Services BC monitors and analyzes system trends and gaps by collecting a wide range of data on traumatic injury, mortality and care delivery across B.C. Trauma Services BC establishes benchmarks for minimum standards of trauma care and produces analytic reports to inform and improve trauma management and practice.

Leadership of system improvement for optimal management of trauma care in B.C.

Trauma Services BC is committed to improve quality of patient care by overseeing a provincial system improvement program. The program enables health authorities to collaboratively review quality of trauma care in B.C. and identify opportunities to develop provincial standards and guidelines.

Research and education

Trauma Services BC maintains a provincial trauma registry (BC Trauma Registry) and a burn registry (BC Burn Registry) which contain clinical and demographic information on all trauma patients in B.C.

Trauma Services BC supports research by being the most comprehensive source of trauma data and by partnering with trauma researchers on studies that focus on the improvement of B.C.'s trauma care system.

94
trauma hospitals
across B.C.

70%
of hospital admissions
are fall-related

55%
of yearly admissions to
hospital for injury are
adults over age 64

5%
of yearly admissions to
hospital for injury are
children under age 17