

Scripps Health sees more trauma patients than any other hospital or health care provider in San Diego County. Scripps operates two trauma centers – at Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego and Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla – as part of San Diego County's six-center trauma system. Traumatic injury represents a serious public health challenge for San Diego County. In 2005, 9,777 patients were admitted to designated trauma centers in the county. By 2025, that number is expected to increase to more than 12,000.*

WHAT IS TRAUMA CARE?

- Trauma refers to any severe (life- or limb-threatening) injury caused by sudden physical force, such as motor vehicle accidents, firearm assaults, and falls.
- Trauma is the leading cause of death in America for people age 44 and younger. Each year, more than 140,000 Americans die and approximately 80,000 are permanently disabled due to traumatic injuries.**
- A trauma system is a coordinated system of care in which a specific number of hospitals in a geographic region are designated as trauma centers, with the medical specialists, technology and equipment needed to treat severe injuries. In a trauma system, designated centers include triage experts who work by phone to direct emergency responders in the field to the nearest trauma center if needed (or if not, the nearest emergency room).
- San Diego County's trauma system includes five adult trauma centers (Scripps Mercy, Scripps La Jolla, Palomar Medical Center, Sharp Memorial Hospital and UCSD Medical Center) and one pediatric trauma center (Rady Children's Hospital).
- Before San Diego County's trauma system was developed, the percentage of preventable deaths stood at 22 percent. Since the system was deployed in 1984, the percentage of preventable deaths declined to approximately 2 percent in the first year and has remained at this level ever since, a remarkable testament to the system's effectiveness.

SCRIPPS TRAUMA CENTERS

- Trauma centers at Scripps Mercy and Scripps La Jolla include board-certified surgeons, medical specialists, nurses, therapists and support staffs who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide the highest level of comprehensive trauma care.
- Trauma centers at Scripps Mercy and Scripps La Jolla assure immediate availability of resources such as laboratory, blood bank and immediate access to operating rooms, radiology, CT, angiography and a host of advanced level, critical care procedures.
- Multidisciplinary teams of experts at Scripps' two trauma centers specialize in trauma care and include board-certified physicians and surgeons, emergency and trauma-trained nursing staff, crisis team specialists, psychiatric liaisons, social workers, pharmacists and laboratory, radiology, nutrition, rehabilitation and respiratory therapy technicians.
- Scripps Mercy and Scripps La Jolla's trauma centers are both verified by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma. Scripps Mercy is a level 1 trauma center (the most highly equipped, including graduate medical education and research and injury prevention programs) and Scripps La Jolla is designated as level 2 (full range of trauma care services, but without a formally established graduate medical education program).
- Scripps Mercy has the busiest trauma center in San Diego County, with more than 290 trauma patients treated each month on average (*Source: DHHS Division of EMS*). Scripps La Jolla has an average monthly census of nearly 125 patients a month.
- In early 2007 Scripps Mercy unveiled a new trauma care unit designed to meet the growing health care needs of San Diego County. The new unit consolidates trauma services from three floors onto one floor and features 11 private patient rooms, 14 semi-private rooms and enhanced telemetry monitoring.

* *The San Diego County Health Care Safety Net Study, 2006, The Abaris Group*

** *The American Trauma Society Trauma Watch, Nov. 9, 2009*