

Injury is a significant problem in the state of Texas. The total number of nonfatal injuries reported to the state trauma registry in 2006 was 115,694. This number includes only the injuries severe enough to meet criteria for the registry inclusion. The number of nonfatal injuries is much higher when considering that a much larger number are treated at hospital emergency departments and discharged home. Unfortunately, injuries treated and released from Texas emergency departments are not yet reported, so the actual number of Texans injured and treated annually is not known. An estimate of the number of injured Texans treated in emergency departments and released can be calculated using the following generally accepted formula:\*

For every person who dies from injury, an estimated 10 persons are hospitalized or transferred for specialized medical care, and 178 persons are treated and released from a hospital emergency department.

13,197 injury deaths x 10 = 130,197 injury hospitalizations  
13,197 injury deaths x 178 = 2,349,066 emergency department visits

In 2007, the number of reported hospitalizations for injury conditions in each trauma service area served by Houston level I trauma centers is reported in Table 1.

\*Vyrostek, S. B., Annest, J. L., & Ryan, G. W. (2004, September 3). Surveillance for fatal and nonfatal injuries—United States, 2001. In *Surveillance summaries. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 53 (No. SS-7), 2–11.