

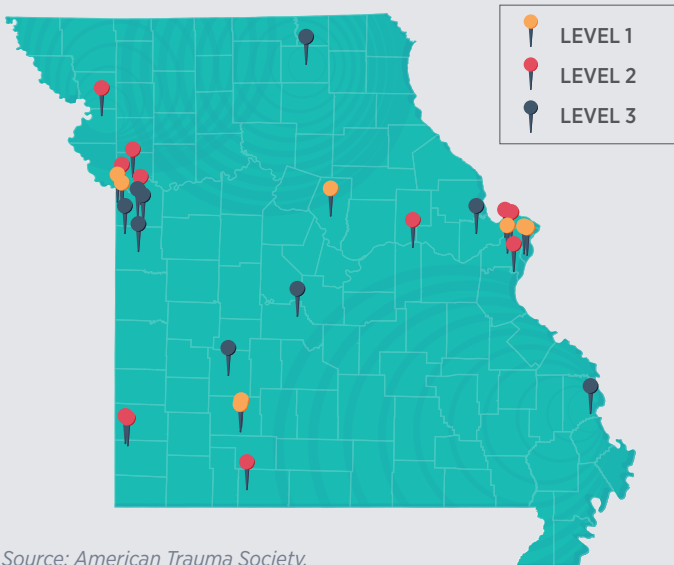
EMERGENCY SERVICES CHALLENGES IN MISSOURI



Rural residents are at a higher risk of traumatic injury, including unintentional injuries from vehicle accidents, falls, drug overdoses, fires and drownings, than urban residents. In addition, the agricultural community uses machinery that can expose them to crushing injuries that can require trauma care. Access to robust emergency services is essential to support lifesaving care.

Having a hospital close during a traumatic injury, heart attack or stroke can influence a patient's outcome. **However, there is limited access to specialized emergency care in rural Missouri.** Outside of the Kansas City and St. Louis metropolitan areas, there are two designated trauma centers north of Interstate 70 — Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville, a level III center, and Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph, a level II center. In southeastern Missouri, Saint Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, a level III center, is the only designated trauma center.

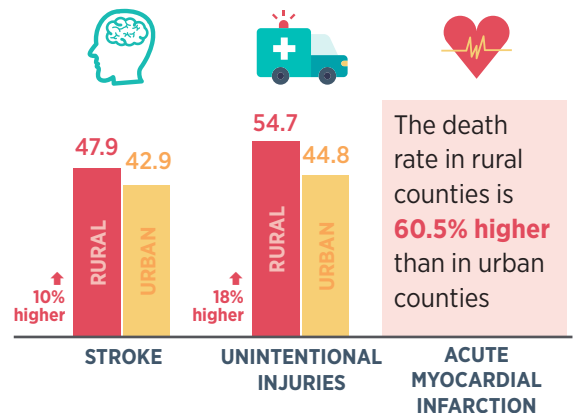
Designated Trauma Centers in Missouri



Source: American Trauma Society, <https://www.amtrauma.org/page/findtraumacenter>

Death Rate Rural vs. Urban

Missouri, 2005-2015



Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 residents

Source: Health in Rural Missouri Biennial Report 2016-2017, <https://health.mo.gov/living/families/ruralhealth/pdf/biennial2017.pdf>

The state's Time Critical Diagnosis program sets standards for emergency care of stroke, STEMI (a type of heart attack) and trauma throughout Missouri. Missouri should ensure this program is sustainable and provides valuable data to support program enhancements.