Trauma Fee Activation Policies and Charges

A Presentation to the Health Care Cabinet
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Presented by: Alla Veyberman

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Statewide Trauma Fee Activation Mandate

❖C.G.S. §19a-644 authorizes OHS to collect trauma activation fee policies and charge data from short term acute care general and children's hospitals.

❖The annual disclosure began in February 2020.

❖Hospitals are required to file the information as a part of their Annual Financial Report Filing through the Hospital Reporting System.

What is Trauma Activation Fee?

❖"Trauma Activation Fee" is the reimbursement associated with deployment of a hospital's specialized trauma response team for a patient.

❖Reimbursement is based on special codes and related fee payment system.

❖The primary purpose of the fee is to help trauma centers remain financially viable, given the significant cost burden associated with professional and administrative resources needed to achieve and maintain the advanced level of readiness and capability of their critical care services.

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What is a trauma center?

❖ A trauma center is a hospital certified to treat a serious life-threatening physical injury which has potential complications such as shock, respiratory failure, or death.

❖ States designate and license trauma centers and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) verifies if these centers have the required resources on site, as described in the Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient.*

*American College of Surgeons. (2014). *Resources for optimal care of the injured patient*. Chicago, Ill: American College of Surgeons, Committee on Trauma. https://www.facs.org/

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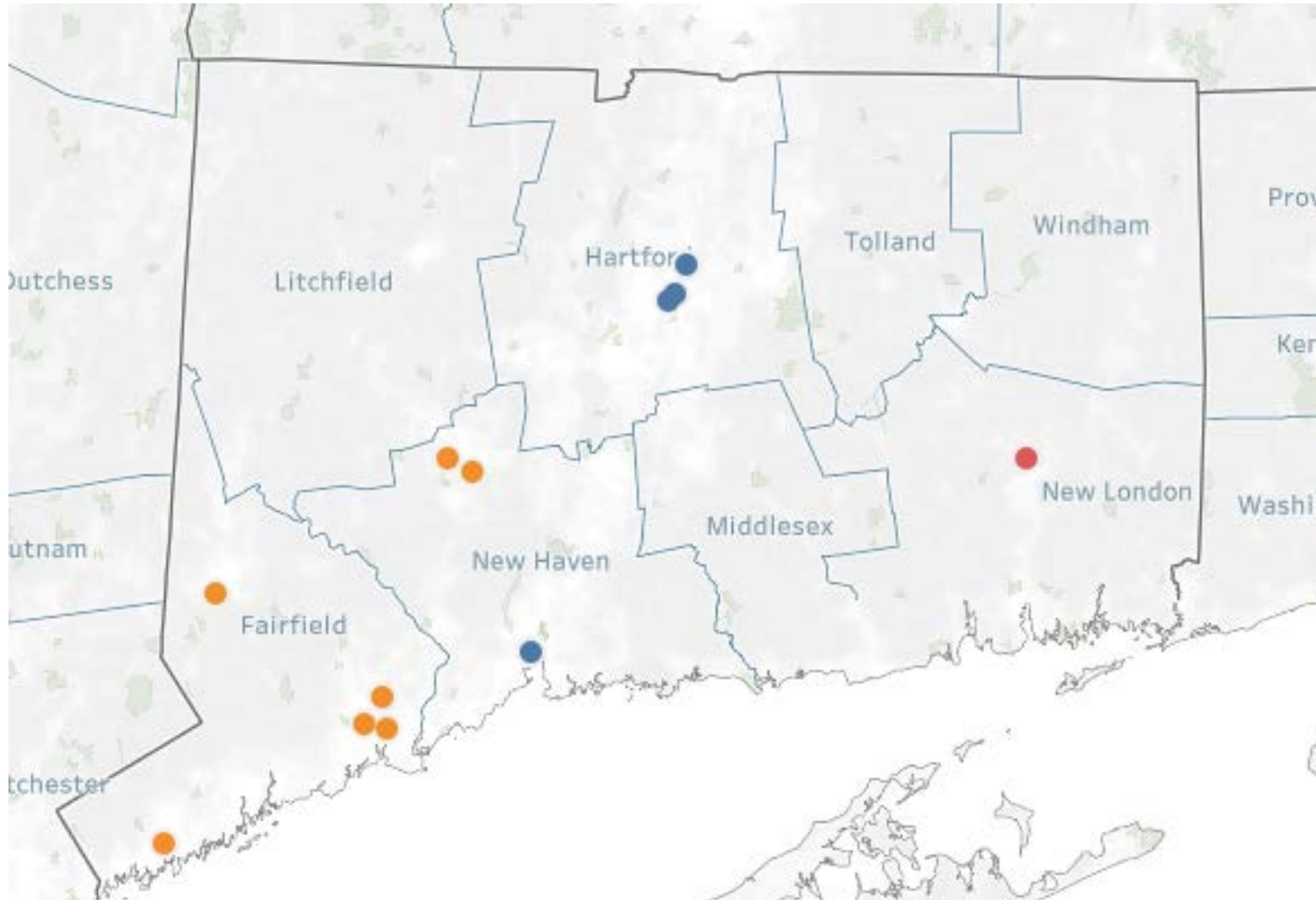# Connecticut Designated Trauma Centers

❖ Connecticut has 11 adult and 1 pediatric trauma centers designated and licensed by the Department of Public Health.

Connecticut Hospitals Designated as Trauma Centers			
Trauma Level I	**Trauma Level II**		**Trauma Level III**
CT Children's Medical Center*	Bridgeport Hospital	Norwalk Hospital	The William W. Backus Hospital
Hartford Hospital	The Stamford Hospital	St. Mary's Hospital	
St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center	The Waterbury Hospital	St. Vincent's Medical Center	
Yale New Haven Hospital	The Danbury Hospital		

*Pediatric

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Connecticut Trauma Center Levels and Locations

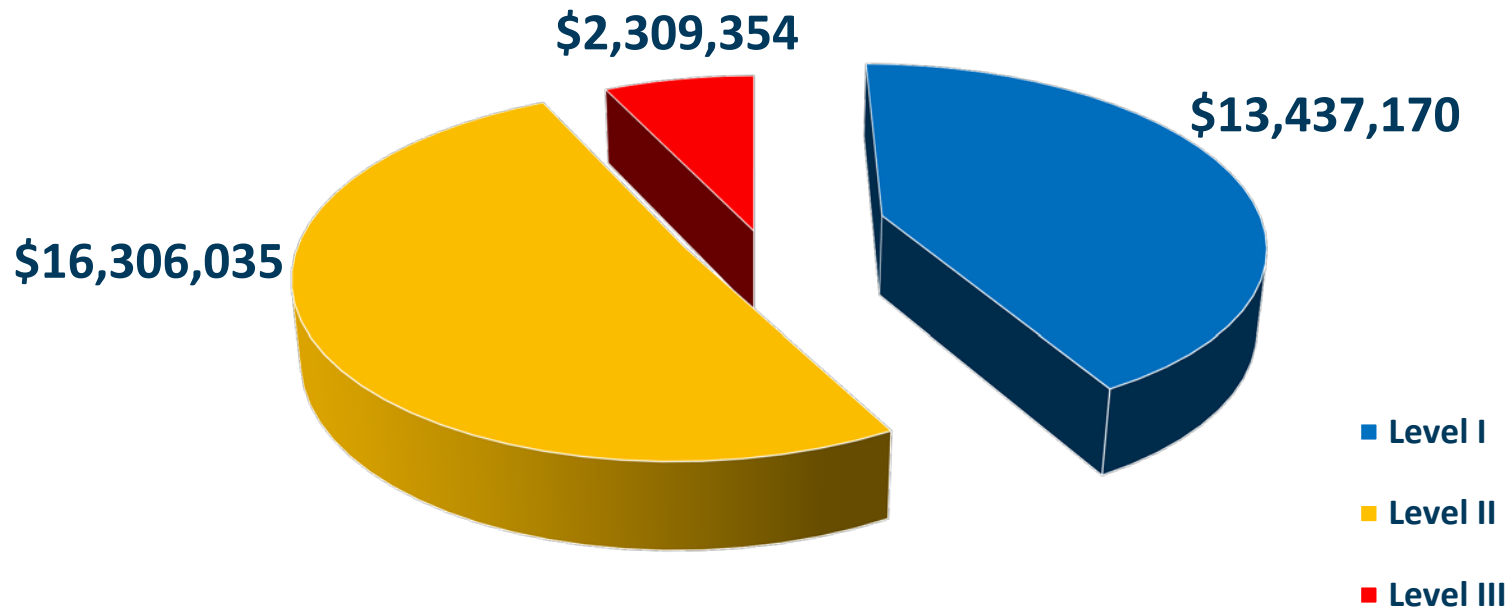Level I
Level II
Level III

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FY 2019 Trauma Fee Statistics

❖ 7,115 patients were billed a trauma activation fee.

❖ $32 million - Trauma activation fee charges billed.

❖ 2% of emergency department patients admitted to inpatient care had trauma team activated and fee billed.

❖ 0.4% emergency department patients treated and discharged without an overnight stay were billed a trauma activation fee.

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FY 2019 Trauma Fee Statistics, continued

❖ St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center generated the most trauma activation fee charges, $5.2 million.

❖ St. Vincent's Medical Center generated the lowest amount of trauma activation fee charges, $375,000.

❖ Hartford Hospital reported the highest number of trauma activation fee discharges of 1,578.

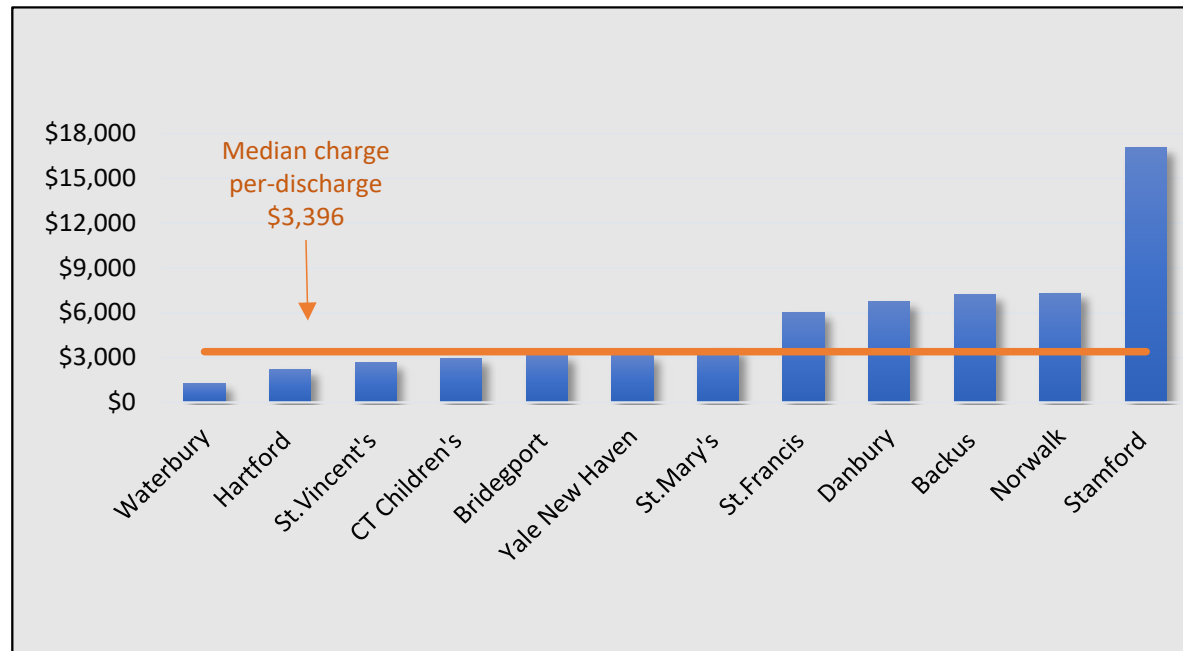❖ St. Vincent's had the lowest number of trauma activation fee discharges - 139.

FY 2019 Trauma Fee Statistics, continued

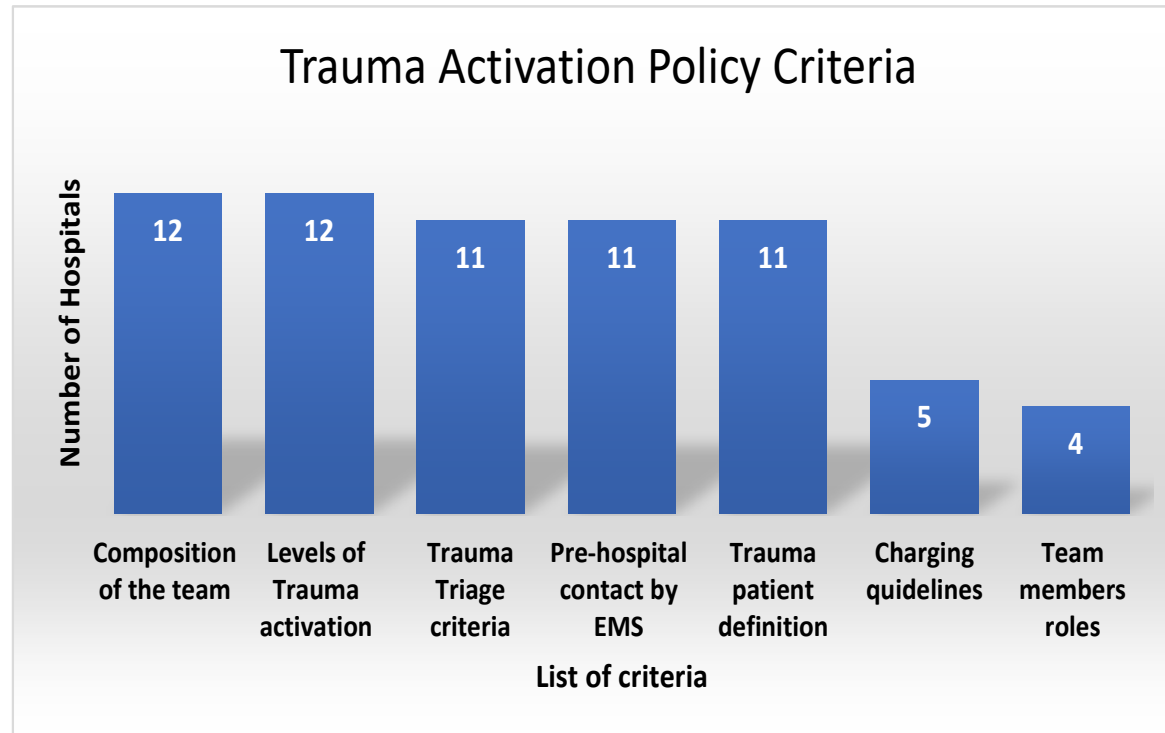❖Trauma I, II and III hospitals generated 42%, 51%, and 7% of the total charges, respectively.

$2,309,354

$13,437,170

$16,306,035

■ Level I

■ Level II

■ Level III

FY 2019 Trauma Activation Fee per Discharge

❖The median statewide trauma activation fee charge per discharge at the 12 hospitals was **$3,396**.

❖Trauma activation fee charge per discharge ranged from :
$1,254 (The Waterbury Hospital) to **$17,044** (The Stamford Hospital)

FY 2019 Trauma Activation Policy Criteria

❖Of the 12 hospitals, five documented the practice of charging trauma activation fees and four described the roles of the trauma team members.

Observations

❖First year of reporting.

❖No standardization of policy among hospitals.

❖Even though all hospitals' policies included the composition of their teams, they did not include the team members' roles within the trauma response team.

❖No uniformity in billing – some bill in blocks of time, some had fixed charge.

For more information on trauma policy

https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Trauma-Activation-Fee

To know more about OHS visit

https://portal.ct.gov/OHS

Questions

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