



The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to trauma prevention and mitigation through education and advocacy.

For more information visit: www.atspa.org

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

For more than three decades, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has proudly led the nation in observing Brain Injury Awareness Month by conducting an engaging public awareness campaign in March of each year.

The theme for the 2021 to 2023 campaign is *More Than My Brain Injury*.

The #MoreThanMyBrainInjury public awareness campaign provides a platform for educating the general public about the incidence of brain injury and the needs of people with brain injuries and their families.

Individuals are essential to help raise awareness with the #MoreThanMyBrainInjury campaign by:

- De-stigmatizing brain injury through outreach within the brain injury community
- Empowering those who have survived brain injury and their caregivers
- Promoting the many types of support that are available to people living with brain injury

From 2006 to 2014, the number of traumatic brain injury (TBI) related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths increased by 53%. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a TBI is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that disrupts the normal function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI. The severity of a TBI may range from “mild” (i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness) to “severe” (i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or memory loss after the injury). Most TBIs that occur each year are mild, commonly called concussions.

Mild traumatic brain injury may affect your brain cells temporarily. More serious traumatic brain injury can result in bruising, torn tissue, bleeding and other physical damage to the brain. These injuries can result in long-term complications or death.

For more information on brain injury and Brain Injury Awareness Month, please visit the BIAA [website](http://www.biaa.org).

Out of Harm's Way

The Trauma Prevention Publication

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TOP NEWS TOPICS

- Brain Injury Awareness Month
- 2021 Educational Webinar Series
- ATS National Conference
- Patient Safety Week
- National Poison Prevention Week
- February Updates

2021 EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

ATSPA has transformed our annual conference into a 6 part webinar series that will take place from 12-1 p.m. on Wednesdays in April and May. This series serves as an opportunity for our members and the healthcare community to earn continuing education credits (pending approval) for nurses*, pre-hospital, physicians, physical and occupational therapists and social workers. As a thank you to the many sacrifices made by the healthcare community, ATSPA will offer this series free of charge. Use the links below to register for each webinar individually.

All webinars will take place on a Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

- **[April 7 - Suicide: Off the Record](#)**

Sarah Ames, EMT, Firefighter – Sergeant, Garden Spot Fire Rescue

Suicide: Off the Record will discuss suicide trends, productive ways in which to respond to a person with a suicidal ideology, and coping mechanisms to maintain a healthy mental outlook. This talk is designed for those employed in the healthcare, social service, or emergency medical services fields and will illustrate ways in which all suicide cases are unique. Participants will recognize the stigma surrounding this topic and will describe approaches to stress, coping mechanisms, and methods to maintain a healthy mental outlook when providing services in a healthcare or social service field.

- **[April 14 - Boston Marathon Bombing – Perspective from the Finish Line](#)**

David Hirsch, MD, MPH, FACEP, FAEMS – Emergency/EMS Physician, Littleton Regional Healthcare

Dr. Hirsch will provide a first-hand account of the Boston Marathon Bombing from his viewpoint as an operational EMS Physician who was working at the finish line of the marathon during the bombing. An overview of the EMS and trauma systems in Boston will be provided, as well as how these resources were mobilized during the event. Dr. Hirsch will discuss the strengths of the response, as well as address opportunities for improvement. The principles of damage control resuscitation will be outlined, with an emphasis on how EMS and trauma care has developed over the past several years. Finally, lessons learned will be highlighted for integration into attendees' own local systems.

- **[April 21 - Unprecedented Violence During an Unprecedented Pandemic](#)**

Jeremy Cannon, MD, SM, FACS – Trauma Program Medical Director, University of Pennsylvania

While emergency department (ED) visits fell drastically during stay-at-home orders, visits for intentional injuries reached historic highs. During this session, Dr. Cannon will describe the pattern of trauma cases and explain the dynamics of penetrating trauma during the various phases of the pandemic. As the COVID-19 surge began, the trauma center determined the need to implement recommendations to stop the spread, while at the same time needing to respond to historic levels of penetrating injuries. Join Dr. Cannon to learn how Philadelphia's trauma systems worked collaboratively to maintain readiness as trauma centers during the pandemic.

- **[April 28 - When All the Puzzle Pieces Fit Perfectly: A Successful Mass Casualty Incident Response](#)**

Gigi Taylor, MSN, RN, TCRN, CEN – Trauma Outreach Coordinator, University of Tennessee Medical Center

Deborah Tuggle, RN, CEN - Pediatric Trauma/Injury Prevention Coordinator, University of Tennessee Medical Center

A mass casualty incident (MCI) is an event in which the number of victims overwhelms the resources in both the prehospital and the in-hospital environments. This session will review a successful MCI case presentation and highlight how coordination between the RMCC and a Level I Trauma Center influenced patient outcomes. Surge contingency plans are vital to ensuring patient flow as is efficient management of resource consumption without delaying non-trauma services.

- **[May 5 - The Effects of Emotional Trauma](#)**

Melissa Porrey, NCC, LPC – Mental Health Associate, American Red Cross

For many healthcare professionals, trauma is thought of in the physical sense - as potentially life-threatening injuries that impact the body. But, there is also a very important psychological component to trauma, and it affects more than the trauma patient. This session will outline the effects of emotional trauma by looking at traumatic responses from a whole-person perspective. It will define the automatic psychological trauma response and how it protects us and will outline the negative long-term outcomes when this response no longer serves us. Participants will learn about the ways psychological trauma can affect healthcare workers so they may assess their own level of burnout. This session will also provide evidence-based interventions that can alleviate the automatic psychological trauma response and encourage healthy coping.

MARCH 2021 OBSERVANCES

Monthly Observances:

Brain Injury Awareness Month

Ladder Safety Month

Weekly or Daily Observances:

*- March 1: Self Injury
Awareness Day*

*- March 3: Brain Injury
Awareness Day*

*- March 14-20: Patient Safety
Awareness Week*

*- March 21-27: National
Poison Prevention Week*

*- March 30: National Doctor's
Day*

2021 WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUED

• [May 12 - Acute Stress: A Normal Response To An Abnormal Event](#)

Richard Kamin, MD, FACEP – EMS Program Director, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Connecticut Health Center

Through his experience as a physician providing medical support for law enforcement, Dr. Kamin learned first-hand about the symptoms of acute stress and how this normal response after a traumatic event differs from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Although he was fortunate to have good guidance during this time in his life, Dr. Kamin realized that many who are subjecting themselves to the same potential are not well enough informed or resourced properly. Based on these insights, this talk aims to help prepare willing responders to be better informed and able to do the job they are called upon to do.

For more information on the 2021 Educational Webinar Series, [visit our website](#).

*This activity has been submitted to the Emergency Nurses Association for approval to award contact hours. Emergency Nurses Association is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

ATS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Leading Trauma Care Through Parallel Pandemics

Join the American Trauma Society, April 9, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., for an afternoon of unique presentations that examine the intersection of trauma center operations, trauma care and the impact of parallel pandemics. Our half day program will focus on the pressing crises happening simultaneously including public health, firearm violence, racial and social justice, and climate change. Well-known national speakers who have personally and professionally faced one or more of these pandemics will join our members, staff, and guests for a virtual conference featuring presentations and live question and answer sessions. More information is available at [amtrauma.org](#).

PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 14-20, is an annual recognition event intended to encourage everyone to learn more about health care safety. The goal of the initiative is to advance important discussions locally and globally, and inspire action to improve the safety of the health care system — for patients and the workforce. Patient Safety Awareness Week serves as a dedicated time and platform for growing awareness about patient safety and recognizing the work already being done.

Although there has been real progress made in patient safety over the past two decades, current estimates cite medical harm as a leading cause of death worldwide.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 134 million adverse events occur each year due to unsafe care in hospitals in low- and middle-income countries, resulting in some 2.6 million deaths. Additionally, some 40 percent of patients experience harm in ambulatory and primary care settings with an estimated 80 percent of these harms being preventable, according to WHO.



Some studies suggest that as many as 400,000 deaths occur in the United States each year as a result of errors or preventable harm. Not every case of harm results in death, yet they can cause long-term impact on the patient's physical health, emotional health, financial well-being, or family relationships.

Preventing harm in healthcare settings is a public health concern. Everyone interacts with the healthcare system at some point in life. And everyone has a role to play in advancing safe healthcare.

For more information on Patient Safety Awareness Week, please visit [the American Society for Health Care Risk Management](#).

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

National Poison Prevention Week, held during the third week of March, reminds us that some of the deadliest and most dangerous items in our homes are hiding in plain sight. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, 93 percent of poisonings happen at home, and 45 percent of poisonings involve children under the age of 6.

To learn more about ways to keep people of all ages safe and help prevent poisonings, visit the Poison Help website at www.PoisonHelp.hrsa.gov (or to view materials in Spanish).

In case of a poison emergency, contact your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.

ATSPA FEBRUARY UPDATES

- February 3: Attended bi-monthly PennDOT Region 2 Safety Team meeting.
- February 4: Participated in Ready Set Write A to Z (Grant Writing Class) webinar, TIPP Child Passenger Safety (CPS) webinar on counterfeit child safety seats and Governors Highway Safety Association - Teens and Speeding webinar.
- February 4: Participated in the Safe Kids Worldwide State Leaders call.
- February 5: Mentored Cumberland Valley High School engineering students.
- February 8: Participated in Safe States Alliance - All Members Call and filmed two short sample videos for submission to the National CPS Board, for potential inclusion in a new hybrid CPS Certification curriculum.
- February 10: Participated in PennTIME Quarterly Meeting.
- February 11: Participated in the Pennsylvania Society for Association Excellence CEO Roundtable Discussion, PA Care Partnership Webinar Series Black Mental Health Matters: Microtrauma and Microaggressions in Communities of Color Part I and the Manufactures Alliance for Child Passenger Safety Webinar 2.
- February 16: Participated in Safe Kids Dauphin County Meeting.
- February 17: Met with PennDot Engineering Representative, visited a new partner for the rearview camera initiative, Hoover Tractor, in Mifflinburg and hosted the Safe Kids PA Partner of the State Check In.
- February 18: Participated in Safe States Annual Planning Committee Meeting.
- February 22: Attended The Biden Administration and Transportation Policy webinar.
- February 23: Hosted Safe Kids PA Quarterly Networking Meeting with Safe Kids PA Coalitions and Partners
- February 24: Assisted at a Hershey Med/Safe Kids Dauphin County Child Safety Seat Check, in Harrisburg.
- February 24-26: Attended Elevate 2021 Conference.
- February 25: Participated in Ready Set Write A to Z (Grant Writing Class) webinar and PA Care Partnership Webinar Series - Black Mental Health Matters: Microtrauma and Microaggressions in Communities of Color Part II
- February 27: Assisted at a Hershey Med/Safe Kids Dauphin County Child Safety Seat Check, in Harrisburg.

Follow these tips to keep your family safe:

- **Keep original labels on all products.** These labels will contain information on what to do if misused and can help emergency medical services better serve you in case of emergency.
- **Wear proper protective gear when using chemicals and cleaners.** Gloves, eye protection and masks can save a life.
- **Store chemicals and cleaners out of reach of small children.** Keep containers closed tight.

Stay connected with us:



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