



TRAUMA REPORT 2021



WHY IT MATTERS

Life-threatening injuries often require more care –more surgeons, more equipment, more nurses and more expertise. That’s where MetroHealth comes in.

MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland remains Cuyahoga County’s most experienced Level I Adult Trauma Center, verified since 1992, and Ohio’s only adult and pediatric trauma and burn center. Every day, people of all ages arrive via ambulance, Metro Life Flight and car following falls, car crashes, gunshot wounds, burns and other life-threatening accidents to receive state-of-the-art care.

In addition, MetroHealth Parma Medical is now a Level III Adult Trauma Center. MetroHealth also partners with Fisher-Titus in Huron County and Mercy Health in Lorain to support those health system’s Level III trauma centers.

Scan code to learn more



PARTNERS ON A JOURNEY OF HEALING

At the time of her devastating motorcycle accident in June 2021, Christine Sabel was just minutes from MetroHealth's Level 1 Adult Trauma Center. She also was minutes away from death.

A malfunction prevented Christine from turning the handlebars. She was thrown from her bike, hit a guardrail, and was impaled before landing in a ravine.

Christine's boyfriend, who had been riding alongside her, flagged down a Westlake police officer who immediately prepared tourniquets for her right leg and arm.

MetroHealth trauma surgeon Laura Kreiner, MD, and her team were waiting for Christine's arrival. They quickly evaluated Christine's injuries. A broken pelvis; a broken leg; a mauled and broken arm; a torn thigh; broken ribs; and deep cuts through her stomach and chest.

Dr. Kreiner's team rushed Christine to the operating room and stabilized her intestinal and chest injuries. It was the first of more than a dozen operations in those initial days.

Orthopedic surgeons then contended with deep open wounds and tendon loss, along with stabilizing and fixing broken bones.

The plastic/reconstructive surgery team joined them in the operating room to rearranged skin to cover Christine's wounds, setting the stage for successful reconstructive breast surgery months later.

Whether or not Christine's leg could be saved was an immediate concern for orthopedic surgeon Ari D. Levine, MD. She had sustained a lot of soft tissue damage along with a severely broken bone.

"Our goal was to do everything we could to allow her to keep her leg," says Dr. Levine. They did just that.

"Christine's care is a perfect illustration of how many different parts of MetroHealth touch a patient to make sure that we can get them out of the hospital," says Dr. Kreiner. "All of these things have to fall together perfectly."

A few days later, Christine met her Trauma ICU care team, recipients in 2021 of its second Silver Beacon Award from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

"When I think of MetroHealth, my first thought is trauma," Christine says. "That's what I associate MetroHealth with."

Inspired by visits she received from peer visitors with MetroHealth's Trauma Recovery Center, Christine is ready to join its volunteer ranks.

"I've been very, very fortunate," she says.



METROHEALTH TRAUMA RECOVERY CENTER

The Trauma Recovery Center offers victims of trauma care coordination, coaching, peer support, mentorship programs, financial assistance and other resources. Services are free and there's no enrollment process. Learn more at metrohealth.org/trauma-recovery-center or call 216-778-8199.

TRAUMA LEVELS AT-A-GLANCE

LEVEL I

MetroHealth Medical Center

- Provides total care for every aspect of a person's injury
- 24-hour in-house coverage by general surgery and prompt availability in various specialties, including orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery and more
- Operates an organized teaching and research effort
- Comprehensive quality assessment program

LEVEL II

MetroHealth Medical Center
(Pediatric Trauma)

- 24-hour immediate coverage by general surgeons and access to various specialties
- Tertiary care needs such as cardiac surgery, hemodialysis and microvascular surgery may be referred to a Level I Trauma Center
- Offers trauma prevention and continuing education programs for staff
- Comprehensive quality assessment program

LEVEL III

Parma Medical Center

- 24-hour immediate coverage by emergency medicine physicians and trauma advanced practice provider and the prompt availability of general surgeons and anesthesiologist
- Comprehensive quality assessment program
- Developed transfer agreements for patients requiring more comprehensive care at a Level I or Level II Trauma Center
- Provides back-up care for rural and community hospitals