

# Law enforcement and trauma care in the emergency department

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## Start of Block: Consent Block

Q01 Traumatic injuries frequently come to the attention of law enforcement, and police officers are often present in emergency departments and their trauma bays. To better understand the common intersections between acute trauma care and law enforcement, we, as affiliates of the Penn Injury Science Center at the University of Pennsylvania are conducting a survey of trauma surgeons working in trauma care nationwide. As members of the AAST, we are asking for your help to understand your perceptions and experiences interacting with police and observing or managing interactions between police, patients and staff in the hospitals in which you work. For the purposes of this survey, police may include officers, detectives, corrections officers, or other law enforcement officers. The survey results will be analyzed with the intent of informing programs and policies that address common intersections between clinical trauma care and police procedures involving patients in US trauma systems. This survey will ask you to complete both multiple-choice and brief open ended questions on your experiences interacting with law enforcement during patient care, and your perceptions of the when, where, and how law enforcement and trauma care activities should ideally intersect. The survey will also ask you to complete general demographic questions, and general information about your clinical experience and current place of employment. You will not be asked any questions that could identify you. We will not associate your answers to any questions with your name or your place of employment. You do not have to answer any question you do not want to answer. Our research team will make every effort to keep the information confidential. Your participation is voluntary. You will be asked to provide your name and contact information for consent. This personal information will be kept separate from survey data. To thank you for your input and time, at the completion of this survey, you will be eligible to win one of two Apple watches, from among all respondents when the survey closes. If you wish to be entered to win an Apple Watch, please follow the link that will appear after submission to provide us with your name and contact information.

Do you agree that you have read and understand the information above, and consent to taking the survey?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

*Skip To: End of Block If Traumatic injuries frequently come to the attention of law enforcement, and police officers are o... = No*

## End of Block: Consent Block

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**Start of Block: Block 1**

Q1 Do you or have you had clinical responsibilities or a role in trauma resuscitations?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

*Skip To: Q4 If We are interested in experiences in the trauma resuscitation area of the emergency department. Do yo = No*

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Q2 In the trauma resuscitation area of the emergency department how often do you/did you observe law enforcement officers, like police, interacting with trauma patients?

- Never (1)
- About once a year (2)
- About once a month (3)
- About once a week (4)
- Several times a week (5)
- Everyday (6)

*Skip To: Q4 If In the trauma resuscitation area of the emergency department how often do you/did you observe la... = Never*

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Q3 What do you/did you observe police doing in the trauma resuscitation area? (select all that apply)

- Providing security (not as part of hospital security staff) (1)
  - Questioning a patient as a witness to a crime (2)
  - Questioning a patient as a suspect to a crime (3)
  - Collecting evidence from patients (4)
  - Accompanying a patient who is under arrest (5)
  - Accompanying a patient who is incarcerated or jailed (6)
  - Securing the body of a patient who has died (7)
  - Responding to a call/report from hospital staff (8)
  - Bringing in a suspect of a crime for identification by a patient (9)
  - Other (please describe briefly) (10)
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Q4 Briefly describe how you think the presence of police affects patient care in the trauma resuscitation area?

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Q5 In general, on a continuum from very helpful to very harmful, *for patients*, do you see police presence during the emergency care of trauma patients as...

- Very helpful (1)
  - Helpful (2)
  - Somewhat helpful (3)
  - Neither helpful nor harmful (4)
  - Somewhat harmful (5)
  - Harmful (6)
  - Very harmful (7)
- 

Q6 In general, on a continuum from very helpful to very harmful, *for clinical care providers*, do you see police presence during the emergency care of trauma patients as...

- Very helpful (1)
  - Helpful (2)
  - Somewhat helpful (3)
  - Neither helpful nor harmful (4)
  - Somewhat harmful (5)
  - Harmful (6)
  - Very harmful (7)
-

Q7 In general, on a continuum from very helpful to very harmful, *for public/community safety*, do you see police presence during the emergency care of trauma patients as...

- Very helpful (1)
  - Helpful (2)
  - Somewhat helpful (3)
  - Neither helpful nor harmful (4)
  - Somewhat harmful (5)
  - Harmful (6)
  - Very harmful (7)
- 

Q8 In your role, do you feel that you have oversight or influence over police access to patients in the trauma resuscitation area of the emergency department?

- Yes (1)
- Don't know (2)
- No (3)

*Skip To: Q10 If In your role, do you feel that you have oversight or influence over police access to patients in... = No*

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Q9 When deciding to allow or not allow police access to your patients during resuscitation, please indicate the importance of....

	Very important (1)	Important (2)	Neither important nor unimportant (3)	Unimportant (4)	Very unimportant (5)
a. Severity of patient's condition (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Patient's ability to provide informed consent to interact with law enforcement officers (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Patient's willingness/preference to interact with law enforcement officers (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Patient's potential as threat to public safety (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Patient's ability to provide information that can increase public safety (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Safety of emergency department staff (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Safety of police and other law enforcement officers (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10 Does your place of employment have a policy(ies) or guideline that guide(s) police interactions with trauma patients?

Yes (please describe briefly) (1)

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No (2)

Don't know (3)

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Q11 Is your place of employment in a State where policy mandates reporting of violent mechanisms of injury, like assault with a weapon, to the police?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Don't know (3)

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Q12 Do you think that there is need for policies or guidelines on police interactions with trauma patients?

Yes (1)

No (2)

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Q13 When and where do you think it appropriate for police to interact with trauma patients?  
*Select as many as apply.*

- (1) Police should not interact with patients in any patient-care area of the hospital
- Trauma bay during resuscitation (2)
- Trauma bay after initial workup (3)
- General emergency department during initial workup (4)
- General emergency department after initial workup (5)
- Inpatient floor or unit after admission (6)
- Dependent on patient's stability and not patient care area (7)

End of Block: Block 1

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Start of Block: Block 1

Q16 We'd like to ask you a few questions about yourself. All responses will be kept private and reported anonymously.

What is your current role?

- Surgical Resident (1)
  - Surgical Fellow (2)
  - Attending Surgeon (3)
  - Non-trauma Surgeon/Speciality physician (4)
  - Nurse Practitioner (5)
  - Other role (please describe) (6)
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Q17 How many years of experience have you had in this role?

▼ 1-4 (1) ... more than 20 (5)

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Q20 Is your place of employment a

- Level I trauma center (1)
- Level II trauma center (2)
- Level III trauma center (3)
- Level IV trauma center (4)
- Non-trauma center (5)

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Q21 Is your place of employment in location that is primarily

- Urban (1)
- Exurban/suburban (2)
- Rural (3)

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Q22 In what State is your place of employment?

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Q23 What is your age group?

- 25 - 34 (1)
  - 35 - 44 (2)
  - 45 - 54 (3)
  - 55 - 64 (4)
  - 65 - 74 (5)
  - 75 - 84 (6)
  - 85 or older (7)
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Q25 How do you describe your race? (select all that apply)

- Black or African American (1)
  - Native American and Alaskan Native (2)
  - Asian or Asian American (3)
  - Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (4)
  - White or European American (5)
  - Prefer not to answer (7)
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Q26 How do you describe your ethnicity (select all that apply)?

- Hispanic or Latina/o (1)
- Non-Hispanic or Latina/o (2)
- Different ethnicity (please state) (3)
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- Prefer not to answer (4)

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Q24 How do you describe your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Transgender Male (4)
- Transgender Female (5)
- Do not identify as male, female or transgender (6)
- Prefer not to answer (7)

End of Block: Block 1

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