

Comprehensive Trauma Care on Chicago's South Side

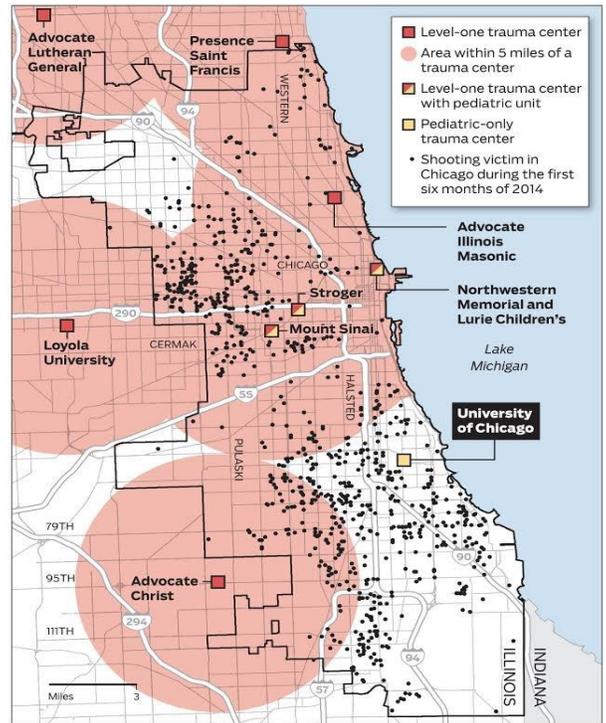


Campaign Background

The South Side of Chicago experiences a disproportionate amount of the city's gun violence, yet it contains none of the city's adult trauma centers. This "trauma center desert" is a major factor in gun violence mortality on the South Side. It's also one of many ways in which Chicago's Black and Brown communities have been disinvested of public resources.

In 2010, 18-year-old Woodlawn resident Damian Turner died waiting for an ambulance to drive him 10 miles to a downtown hospital instead of two blocks to the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC). Damian's death sparked a community-led campaign dedicated to reopening a Level-I adult trauma center at UCMC, the most well-resourced hospital on Chicago's South side. The Trauma Care Coalition became a powerful collaboration of community organizations, faith leaders and students.

On December 17, 2015, the University of Chicago announced it would open a Level-I adult trauma center on its medical campus in Hyde Park. This plan was unanimously approved by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board on May 10, and the trauma center is expected to open in early 2018. This is a tremendous campaign victory, and a testament to the power of community organizing.



Why JCUA is Involved

Of all our Jewish values, our obligation to preserve life supersedes nearly everything else. That is why JCUA organized the Jewish community to take a stand for comprehensive trauma care.

For the victory to be complete, we must ensure crucial components are not left out. In October 2017, the University of Chicago announced the formation of a Community Advisory Board, including two leaders from the Trauma Care Coalition. We continue to call on the University to be responsive to the needs of the surrounding community. This should include providing significant funding for wraparound social services, including violence interruption and social work programs.



Coalition Partners

JCUA joined the coalition as a full member in 2015. The other central partners involved in the coalition are:

- Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP)
- Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization (KOCO)
- Interfaith Leadership Committee (ILC)
- National Nurses United (NNU)
- Students for Health Equity (SHE)

How to Get Involved:

Become a JCUA member! Sign up to join JCUA and get involved with the campaign. jcua.org/join
Contact Danny Kaplan at danny@jcua.org, or call (312) 663-0960 for more info.