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Title: [Eight minutes or less: does the ambulance response time guideline impact trauma patient outcome?](#)

**Title: Eight minutes or less: does the ambulance response time guideline impact trauma patient outcome?(1).**

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Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies are increasingly being held to an ambulance response time (RT) criterion of responding to a medical emergency within 8 min for at least 90% of calls. This recommendation resulted from one study of outcome after nontraumatic cardiac arrest and has never been studied for any other emergency. This retrospective study evaluates the effect of exceeding the 8 min RT guideline on patient survival for victims of traumatic injury treated by an urban paramedic ambulance EMS system and transported to a single Level I trauma center. Of 3576 patients identified by the hospital trauma registry, 3490 (97.6%) had complete records available. Patients were grouped according to ambulance RT:  $\leq 8$  min ( $n = 2450$ ) or  $> 8$  min ( $n = 1040$ ). After controlling for other significant predictors, there was no difference in survival after traumatic injury when the 8 min ambulance RT criteria was exceeded (mortality odds ratio 0.81, 95% CI 0.43-1.52). There was also no significant difference in survival when patients were stratified by injury severity score group. Exceeding the ambulance industry response time criterion of 8 min does not affect patient survival after traumatic injury.