



**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Much trauma occurs in both the uninsured portion of the population and also in the formerly uninsured population now covered through the Medicaid expansion or the health exchange. It is difficult for trauma centers to shift all costs for uncompensated care to the insured population. Uncertainties in the health coverage to be offered through the Affordable Care Act in the next four years increase the need for planning for funding the trauma centers, maximizing all possible sources of income.

DOH notes that New Mexico has a far higher per capita need for trauma services than most states, emphasizing a death toll for unintentional trauma at a rate 57 percent higher than the national average, with the rate three times as high for New Mexico's Native American population than for other groups in the state.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

A task force to study modes of funding existing and additional trauma centers would not be created.

LAC/al/jle/sb/jle