



Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch Activity Report to the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC)

This report is submitted as a record of key activities by the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch for the period of January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021.

Table of Contents

EMTS Branch Report	2
Branch Chief Update	2
Operations Section	2
Funding Section	3
Trauma Section	4
Data Section	5
EMTS Investigations	5
Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Councils (RETACs)	5
Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)	5
Communications	6
EMTS Data Tables	8
EMS Personnel by level in Colorado	8
Subset of EMS Personnel With Endorsements or License	8
Peer Support Fees Collected	9
EMS Education Programs	9
NREMT Cognitive Exams: Cumulative Pass Rates (Colorado vs National)	9
Air Ambulance Agencies	9
Exigent Circumstance Air Ambulance Flights	10
Scope of Practice Waivers (Active)	10
EMS Agency & ePCR Data	10
CREATE and Emergency Grants	11
Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding	11
Trauma System Designated Reviews Conducted	11
Colorado Trauma System Facility Designations	11
Enforcement: EMS Personnel	12
Enforcement: Air Ambulance Agencies	12
Interstate Compact for EMS Personnel Practice Member States	13
FirstNet Coverage Map for Colorado	13
EMTS Branch Personnel Roster	14
EMS Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) Data	15





EMTS Branch Report

Donnie Woodyard, Branch Chief, donnie.woodyard@state.co.us

Branch Chief Update

During the first quarter of 2021, the EMTS Branch continued to support the statewide COVID-19 response with multiple staff deployments. COVID-19 restrictions remain in effect, including work-from-home and official travel restricted to pre-approved/essential. Despite this, all core EMTS branch activities have continued and stakeholder engagement was accomplished via virtual meeting platforms.

In mid-March, after an extended COVID-19 part-time deployment to the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Adreanna Early - the EMTS Management and Technology Advisor - announced her permanent transfer to OEPR. For over seven years, Adreanna provided key support for EMTS technology platforms, including the ImageTrend suite of products. Recruitment to fill vacancy is in progress.

National Updates

NREMT- Effective, March 17, 2021, National Registry launched revised Advanced Level Skill Sheets. The revisions include fewer critical criteria and the Static Cardiology skill now allows candidates to receive points for providing appropriate treatment even if the rhythm interpretation was incorrect.

EMS Compact - The EMS Compact remains fully operational with 21 states and over 250,000 EMS personnel. Colorado has synchronized the certification/licensure database with the National EMS Coordinated Database and is fully compliant with all EMS Compact requirements. The EMS Compact has started a nationwide recruitment process for a full-time Executive Director.

NHTSA - On March 29, 2021, NHTSA released an interim change to the National EMS Scope of Practice Model, adding “intramuscular administration of vaccinations” to the Emergency Medical Technician scope of practice, and “specimen collection via nasal swab” to the Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced-EMT, and Paramedic scope of practice.

Operations Section

Mike Bateman, Section Manager, michael.bateman@state.co.us

Despite continued COVID-related staff deployments to the state EOC and the addition of EMS providing licensing to its programs, the Operations Section has maintained normal workflows, with above average turnaround times and accuracy for application processing. EMS provider licensing continues to gain momentum, with over 500 licenses issued since Jan. 1. The Operations Section developed an EMS Provider Licensing FAQ sheet to address common questions and misunderstandings. The FAQ sheet is available at coems.info or by email upon request.

Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC)

The next EMPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021, starting at 10 a.m. via Zoom. The next Regional Medical Direction committee meeting will be held the same day immediately prior to the EMPAC meeting, from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.





COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Path4EMS

The Path4EMS program has provided support to 2 EMS providers during the previous quarter and a total of 9 since the program's inception. The contractor has updated its program materials and increased their formal outreach efforts. This includes working more closely with the RETAC's and a small stakeholder group. They have also released the first of a series of educational offerings, that will address provider wellness and utilization of resources. These courses are designed to be eligible for EMS CE credit and will be available in various formats.

Funding Section

Eric Schmidt, Section Manager, eric.schmidt@state.co.us

Technical Assistance

At the request of local governments and in conjunction with the regional emergency medical and trauma services advisory councils (RETACs), staff members coordinate technical assistance services to local entities. The final report for the Bent County consultative visit was presented to the stakeholders on February 11. The department has performed 21 local EMTS system assessments since the program began. Copies of the final reports with recommendations are available from the department.

CREATE

The Colorado Rural Health Center continues to administer the Colorado Resource for EMS and Trauma Education (CREATE) grant program. A new program manager started in January when the outgoing program manager retired. There were no financial waiver requests submitted for review during the quarter. The Expert Review Committee evaluated five applications requesting \$71,644 in funding for six courses. Three courses were approved with \$29,744 awarded.

Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding Requests

The legislature authorized approximately \$8.4 million for the funding program in fiscal year 2021. Five hundred thousand dollars was allocated for the CREATE educational grant program, \$330,000 for regional medical direction projects, \$298,327 for supplemental RETAC funding, \$65,000 to provide support for the new trauma registry software, \$350,000 in temporary funding for the peer assistance program and \$150,000 was set-aside for emergency grants. An additional \$1.7 million was held back due to reduced revenue projections attributed delays affecting vehicle registrations. Revenues have not yet recovered even though the restrictions affecting the ability to register vehicles have been relaxed for several months. Ninety-six funding applications were submitted for the fiscal year 2021 funding program; ten regional medical direction projects, three system improvement projects and 83 provider grants. For the fiscal year 2021 funding cycle, the department awarded \$3,370,796 in provider grant awards and \$60,700 for system improvement funding for 77 projects. The funding section fully executed all contracts and all but one of the purchase orders last quarter. The remaining purchase order is with the applicant awaiting signature. Twenty-three projects have been completed so far this year and \$9,912 has been reverted.

The fiscal year 2022 EMTS Funding program opened for applications on schedule last quarter. Seventy-two funding applications requesting approximately \$4.8 million were submitted for the fiscal year 2022 funding program; 11 regional medical direction projects, two system improvement projects and 59 provider grants. Seven of the provider grant applicants requested waiver of the standard





COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

match requirement and six waivers approved. Nine regional grant reviews were completed in March. The last two regional reviews and the system improvement review will be held in April.

Emergency Grants

There were no emergency grant requests received in the last quarter.

Trauma Section

Martin Duffy, Section Manager, martin.duffy@state.co.us

Trauma Reviews/Designations

The trauma section completed three level III and two level II reviews in the first quarter of 2021. These reviews were successfully completed in a remote platform. The remote platform necessitated a higher level of technical assistance to prepare the facility and review team.

Trauma Consultations and Outreach Visits

The trauma section provided technical assistance to a wide range of stakeholders in Q1 of 2021. Staff facilitated a registry webinar providing education on data submission and the ImageTrend platform. Staff time dedicated to designation review preparation quadrupled in this quarter as the section continued designation reviews in a remote platform. The trauma section provided ongoing technical assistance to 2 facilities that are on a Plan of Correction and 5 facilities pursuing designation or increasing their level of designation.

Designation Review Committee (DRC)

The DRC meeting in January was held remotely. The department presented a final draft of committee bylaws for review and approval.

Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC)

The STAC meeting in January was held remotely. The department presented a final draft of committee bylaws for review and approval. Additionally, the STAC considered a blanket waiver to allow the resumption of trauma designation site reviews in a remote, hybrid, or on-site format for a period of one year. Once the blanket waiver is terminated, facilities will return to on-site reviews, unless regulatory change is accomplished during the period of the waiver. The waiver is granted for the “on-site” requirement in the language as found in 6 CCR 1015-4, Chapter Three, 301.4. 5. and 6. AND 302. 3. and 4.

The STAC also considered a conforming amendment rule change with regard to 6 CCR 1015-4, Chapter Three - Trauma Designation. Health Facilities is changing the names of some facilities in state rules. This change is required by a change in the law. These facilities used to be licensed as Community Clinics with Emergency Centers and now will be licensed as Freestanding Emergency Departments. Since trauma rules refer only to facilities licensed as Community Clinics, a change is required in trauma rules to reflect both the old name and the new name. The name change elsewhere requires a name change in trauma rules. The rule change is expected to be promulgated July 1, 2021.





COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Data Section

Amber Viitanen, EMTS Data Section Manager, amber.viitanen@state.co.us

The data team continues to provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise to both internal and external stakeholders. During 2021 Q1, the team worked with providers to improve the state EMS run form to include new medications and procedures that better align with Colorado EMS scope of practice rules. These efforts have helped guide conversations about future improvements to the system. The team led internal discussions about approaches to enhance air ambulance data compliance and provided technical assistance to new air ambulance agencies. After learning about missing records in the state provided Hospital Hub system, staff also began addressing various issues in ePCR data quality to ensure hospitals may have access to timely information for continuity of patient care. Finally, the team provided guidance across the branch in appropriate data collection, analysis, and dissemination of trauma registry data, scope of practice waiver data, EMS personnel data, and organizational profile data.

The team presented at the March Stroke Advisory Board meeting on various applications of EMS electronic patient care report (ePCR) data, and produced over 40 reports at the request of various stakeholders.

EMTS Investigations

Shelley Sanderman, HFEMSD Enforcement, shelley.sanderman@state.co.us

In 2020, the EMTS Investigations Team saw an increase in investigations due to an increased number of applicants applying for certifications and provisional certifications based on the Colorado fires and pandemic response. The Team conducted numerous complaint investigations into paramedic ketamine administrations as well as cooperated with related external investigations. In 2020, the Team received and responded to over 100 Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) requests related to EMTS, and has received and responded to nearly 50 CORA requests in 2021 so far. The Team also issued and collected a six-figure fine to an air ambulance agency that let its registration lapse and continued to fly patients in excess of the allowable number, after the registration's expiration, and with unlicensed EMS personnel providing care to patients.

Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Councils (RETACs)

Mattew Paswaters, Coordinator, mattew.paswaters@state.co.us

Second quarter activity reports and financial statements for FY21 were submitted by all 11 RETACs. The most recent quarterly RETAC forum was held March 3-4 in Gateway. The next RETAC forum is June 2-3 in Breckenridge. SEMTAC members are encouraged to attend RETAC forum meetings.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)

Stacey Quesada, EMSC Program Manager, stacey.quesada@cuanschutz.edu

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program continues work to expand and improve the capacity for pediatric emergency care across Colorado.





COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

EMS for Children Survey

During the first quarter of 2021, EMSC administered the annual EMS for Children survey to all licensed transport agencies and a subset of non-transport EMS agencies. Sixty-seven percent of the agencies completed the survey. The survey asked agencies if they have an individual(s) designated to coordinate pediatric emergency care and if/how they verify providers' competency with pediatric-specific equipment. Data from the survey will be shared once it is available.

Colorado Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (COPECC)

EMSC facilitated three monthly COPECC steering committee meetings during this quarter. The group drafted a role description for Colorado prehospital pediatric emergency care coordinators (PECCs) and began work to increase Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) instructors and courses across the state.

Colorado Pediatric Preparedness for the Emergency Room (COPPER)

EMSC conducted three COPPER steering committee meetings during this quarter. EMSC, with the help of the steering committee, completed work on the COPPER website, checklist, application, and resource library. The COPPER program was officially launched with six pilot sites on March 30th. Pilot sites will use COPPER resources to address their pediatric readiness over the coming months. Progress at these sites will be reported in the next branch report.

National Pediatric Readiness Assessment (NPRA)

EMSC helped Colorado participate as one of two states in the pilot of the 2020-21 NPRA. The NPRA was administered to all Colorado emergency departments in late 2020. Colorado's results from the NPRA have been posted on the [EMSC website](#).

Pediatric Care Committee (PCC)

EMSC hosted the quarterly PCC meeting on January 13th. At the meeting, new bylaws were approved and adopted by the committee. The new bylaws can be found [here](#).

Additional information is available on the [EMSC website](#).

Communications

Curtis Nations, Communications Program Coordinator, curtis.nations@state.co.us

Public access in the emergency medical services setting is defined as the ability of an individual to secure prompt and appropriate emergency medical care. All counties in the state have E911 telephone services. The existing Colorado digital trunked radio system (DTRS) provides statewide, two-way interoperable communications to state, local, tribal and a limited number of federal government agencies over a shared communication platform. The DTRS in Colorado consists of 251 remote tower sites, serving more than 1,000 agencies and more than 100,000 subscriber units (individual radios) spread across six zones. The DTRS averages nearly 8 million calls per month. Some local agencies provide additional funding to add infrastructure to the overall DTRS. Several new DTRS radio tower sites are under various stages of planning and construction. The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services funding program continues to assist with improvement of local communications





COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

needs throughout the state. Funding has provided equipment to agencies to enable them to utilize the DTRS and in some cases to keep legacy communication systems operational.

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Chartered in 2012, its mission is to ensure the building, deployment and operation of the nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities. Public safety spent years advocating for a nationwide broadband network for first responders following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Major public safety organizations continue to voice their strong support for the FirstNet network today. 'FirstNet Powered by AT&T' continues to work toward building out sites in Colorado to improve needed coverage.

House Bill 18-1325, known as the DTRS Coverage Bill, provided an appropriation of \$2 million dollars in FY18-19 and \$2 million dollars in FY19-20 for the Office of Information Technology, Public Safety Communications Network to work in partnership with local and regional government entities to add additional Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS) sites in areas experiencing critical coverage gaps for public safety radio communications. This program assisted with funding improvements at 10 new DTRS sites to fill known radio signal coverage gaps.





EMTS Data Tables

▼ = Decrease from prior period.	▲ = Increase from prior period.	↔ = No change from prior period.
---------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------

EMS Personnel by level in Colorado					
Level	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Registered EMR	428	438	382	383	370 ▼
EMT	13,379	13,382	13,400	13,556	13,663 ▲
Advanced-EMT	360	349	352	383	381 ▼
EMT-Intermediate	420	419	399	390	384 ▼
Paramedic	4,418	4,436	4,495	4,522	5,015 ▲
Total EMS Personnel*	19,021 ▼	18,586 ▼	19,098 ▲	19,317 ▲	19,443 ▲

* Total EMS Personnel excludes registered EMRs

Subset of EMS Personnel With Endorsements or License					
Level	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
EMT Licensed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	371
AEMT Licensed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10
Paramedic Licensed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	299
Paramedic Critical Care Endorsement	418	412	422	430	436 ▲
Paramedic Community Paramedic Endorsement	20	23	22	25	24 ▼
Paramedic Critical Care + Community Paramedic Endorsements	6	7	8	8	14 ▲

*Data presented in this table are a subset of the total EMS personnel presented in the table above.





COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

Peer Support Fees Collected					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Fee Collected	\$5,630.20	\$5,045.07	\$4,049.05	\$3,670.15	\$4,925.95 ▲

*The Peer Support Fee is the \$2.55 fee per EMS certification or license issued. Note: Total designated funds collected for the Peer Support Program fee was \$30,021.42, between July 2019 - March 2021.

EMS Education Programs					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Education Programs	214	218	220	224	225 ▲

NREMT Cognitive Exams: Cumulative Pass Rates (Colorado vs National)							
	National				Colorado		
	2019	2020	2021 YTD		2019	2020	2021 YTD
EMT	81%	78% ▼	80%	EMT	85%	84% ▼	85%
AEMT	78%	73% ▼	71%	AEMT	80%	80% →	--
Paramedic	89%	85% ▼	79%	Paramedic	98%	99% ▲	90%

** Data report provided by NREMT.org; data for the prior 24 months will change as candidates test.

Air Ambulance Agencies					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Licensed	22	20	20	20	21 ▲
Recognized	13	11	10	8	11 ▲
Total	34 →	31 ▼	30 ▼	28 ▼	32 ▲





COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

Exigent Circumstance Air Ambulance Flights					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Approved	0	0	1	0	2 ▲
Denied	0	0	0	0	1 ▲

Scope of Practice Waivers (Active)					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Waivers (BLS)	4	4	4	3	3 ↔
Waivers (ALS)	413	417	421	346	382 ▲
Waivers (BLS + ALS)	38	35	45	42	44 ▲
Total	455 ▲	456 ▲	470 ▲	391 ▼	429 ▲

EMS Agency & ePCR Data					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
EMS Agencies Reporting	184	178	176	180 ▲	
EMS Records Submitted	167,198	146,483	166,458	166,163 ▲	

Note, in accordance with data rules, agencies have 60 days to submit data. 2020 (Q4) is the most recent data.





COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

CREATE and Emergency Grants					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
CREATE Grant Awards	\$3,838	\$33,803	\$45,221	\$33,954	\$29,744
Emergency Grants	(1) \$35,856	0	0	0	0

Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Applications Received	96	-	-	-	72
Funds Requested	\$3.8 M	-	-	-	\$4.4 M
Funds Awarded	-	-	\$3.7 M	-	-

Trauma System Designated Reviews Conducted					
Designation Level	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
Level 1	0	Designation reviews were suspended during this time period due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.			0
Level 2	3				2
Level 3	1				3
Level 4	1				0
Level 5	0				0
Total	5				5

Colorado Trauma System Facility Designations							
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total Designated	Non-designated
Number	6	13	27	34	4	84 →	45 →





COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

Enforcement: EMS Personnel					
EMS Personnel	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
New Complaints /Investigations & Background Check Reviews	295	293	236	288	242 ▼
Dismissed / No Action Taken*	42	49	41	49	42 ▼
Application / Renewal Denial	0	0	2	0	0 ↔
Letter of Admonition	0	1	0	0	1 ▲
Probation/Temp Probation	2	1	2	5	3 ▼
Suspension/Temp Suspension	2	1	1	3	5 ▲
Revocation	0	0	0	0	0 ↔
Relinquishment	0	1	0	2	0 ▼

* Dismissed/No Action includes complaints and reviews of criminal history for initial applicants, renewals, and FBI/CBI subsequent reports.

Enforcement: Air Ambulance Agencies					
	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1
New Complaints / Investigations	0	0	0	1	1 ↔
Closed Complaints/Investigations	0	0	0	0	1 ▲
Dismissed / No Action	0	0	0	0	0 ↔
Conditional License	0	0	0	0	1 ▲
Suspension	0	0	0	0	0 ↔
Revocation	0	0	0	0	0 ↔

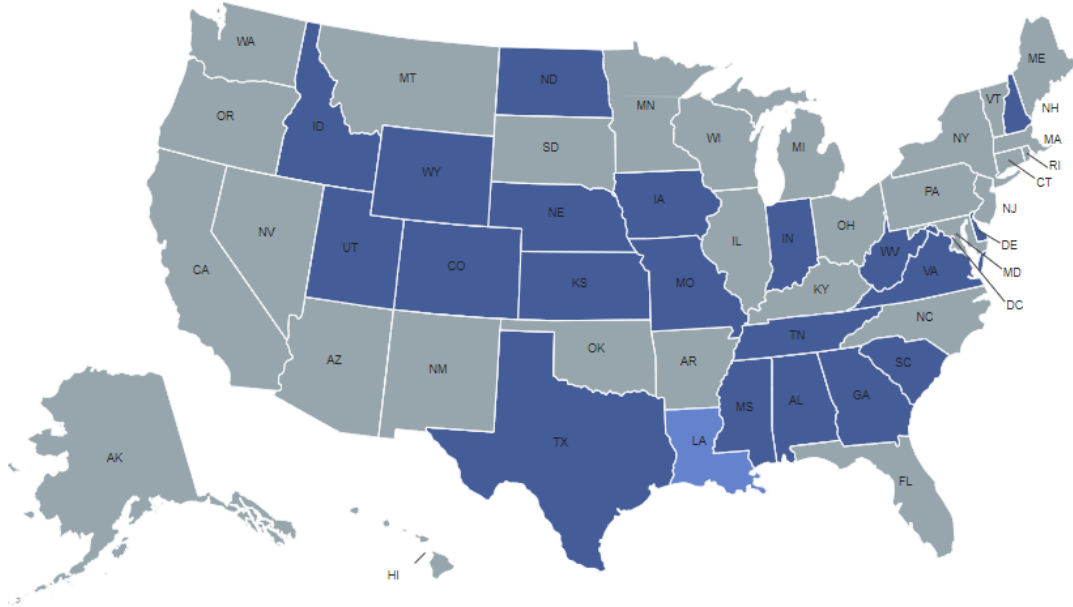




COLORADO

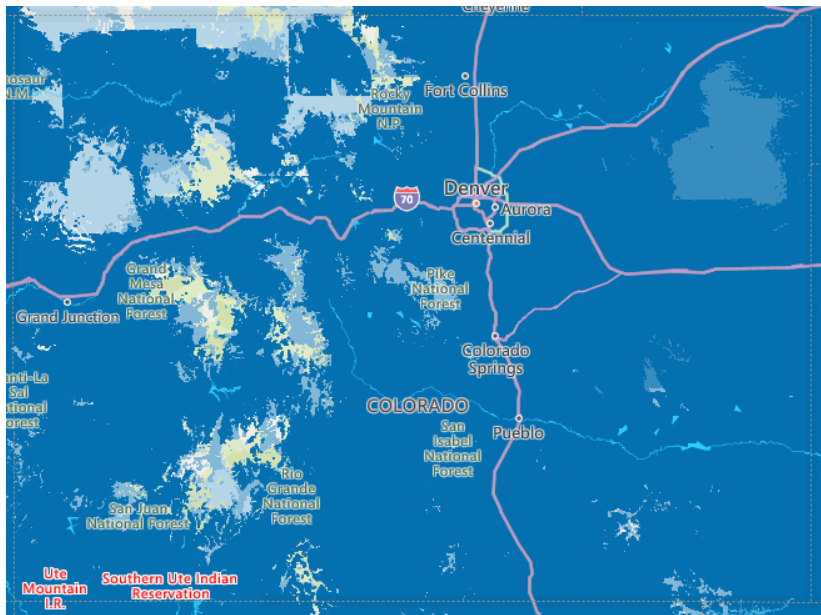
Department of Public Health & Environment

Interstate Compact for EMS Personnel Practice Member States



States highlighted in dark blue are EMS Compact states.
 Louisiana's EMS Compact legislation is passed with an effective date of July 1, 2021.

FirstNet Coverage Map for Colorado



Legend

- International Coverage
- LTE With Priority
- LTE Without Priority
- 3G/4G
- 2G
- Tribal Land Borders

Priority on LTE will be available in the first phase of the FirstNet network deployment.

Map will be updated to reflect Band 14 coverage as it is deployed.

Map displays predicted approximate current outdoor wireless coverage. Actual coverage is not guaranteed and is subject to change without notice.





EMTS Branch Personnel Roster		
Name	Section	Position Description
Donnie Woodyard	Branch	Branch Chief
Amber Viitanen	Data	Section Manager
Angela Bahn	Data	Data Quality Specialist
Scott Beckley	Data	Lead Data Analyst
Dale Knochenmus	Data	Statistical Analyst
* Vacant *	Data	Management and Technology Advisor
Michael Bateman	Operations	Section Manager
Vanessa Brazee	Operations	Licensing Specialist
Eric Lucas	Operations	EMS Operations Specialist
Jennyfer Nguyen	Operations	Certification Technician
Timothy Petreit	Operations	Peer Assistance Coordinator
Martin Duffy	Trauma	Section Manager
Eileen Brown	Trauma	Emergent Systems of Care Specialist
Lisa Domenico	Trauma	Trauma Section Administrative Assistant
Kiva Thompson	Trauma	Trauma System Nurse Consultant
Eric Schmidt	Funding	Section Manager
Samantha Meza	Funding	EMTS Branch Coordinator
Matthew Paswaters	Funding	Boards and Councils Coordinator
Andre Smith	Funding	Grants and Communications Coordinator



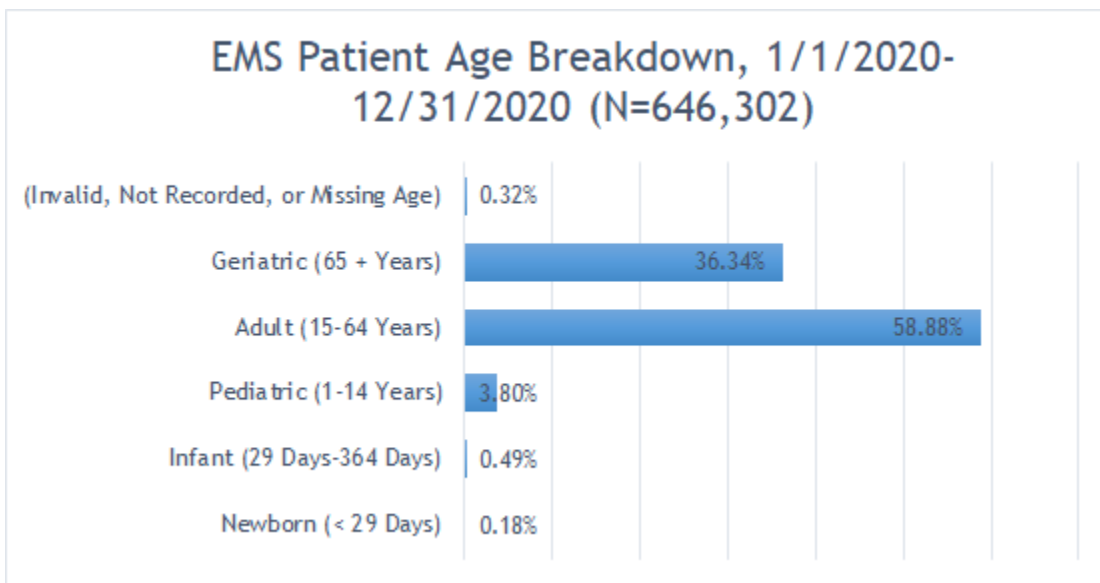
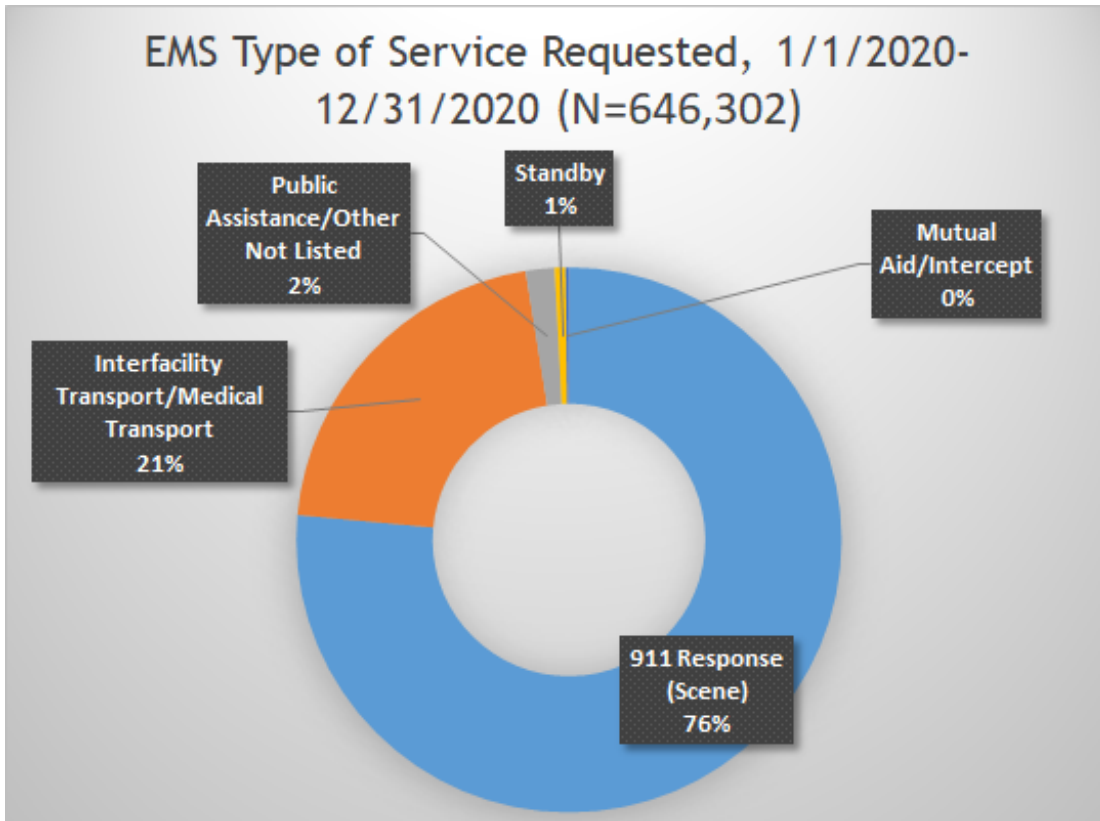


COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

EMS Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) Data

The charts below show all records for the period January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020





COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

