



MINNESOTA

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
REGULATORY BOARD

Minnesota EMS 101

Dylan Ferguson | Executive Director

People

Services

System

Who are the people who make up Minnesota's EMS system?

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

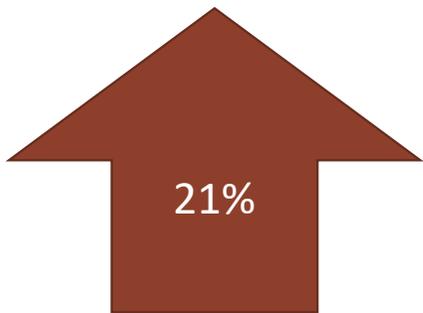
- Minn Stat. 144E.27 Subd. 2
- 40 hours of training
- Often work for fire departments or law enforcement agencies, which may or may not be recognized first response agencies, but also ambulance services.
- Bleeding control
- CPR/AED
- Vital signs
- 13,596 certified EMR's in Minnesota

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

- Minn Stat. 144E.28
- 180 – 200 hours of initial training
- Nationally recognized written and practical examinations required
- Often employed by organizations who provide ambulance service (hospitals, fire departments, municipalities, non-profits. However also work in other roles
- All the capabilities of an EMR plus
 - Limited medication administration
 - Ability to establish IV lines (fluid only)
- 10,798 certified EMT's in Minnesota

- Minn Stat. 144E.28
- 1,000 – 2,000 hours of training and clinical internship from an accredited program
 - Community and Technical College partnerships
- Nationally recognized written and practical examinations required
- Often employed by organizations who provide ambulance service (hospitals, fire departments, municipalities, non-profits. However also work in other roles
- All the capabilities of an EMT plus
 - Advanced airway management (Intubation)
 - Broad medication administration
 - Cardiac monitoring, electrical therapy
 - Scope of what is and is not permissible is set by the EMS agency medical director
- 3,851 Paramedics in Minnesota

Key Workforce Metrics



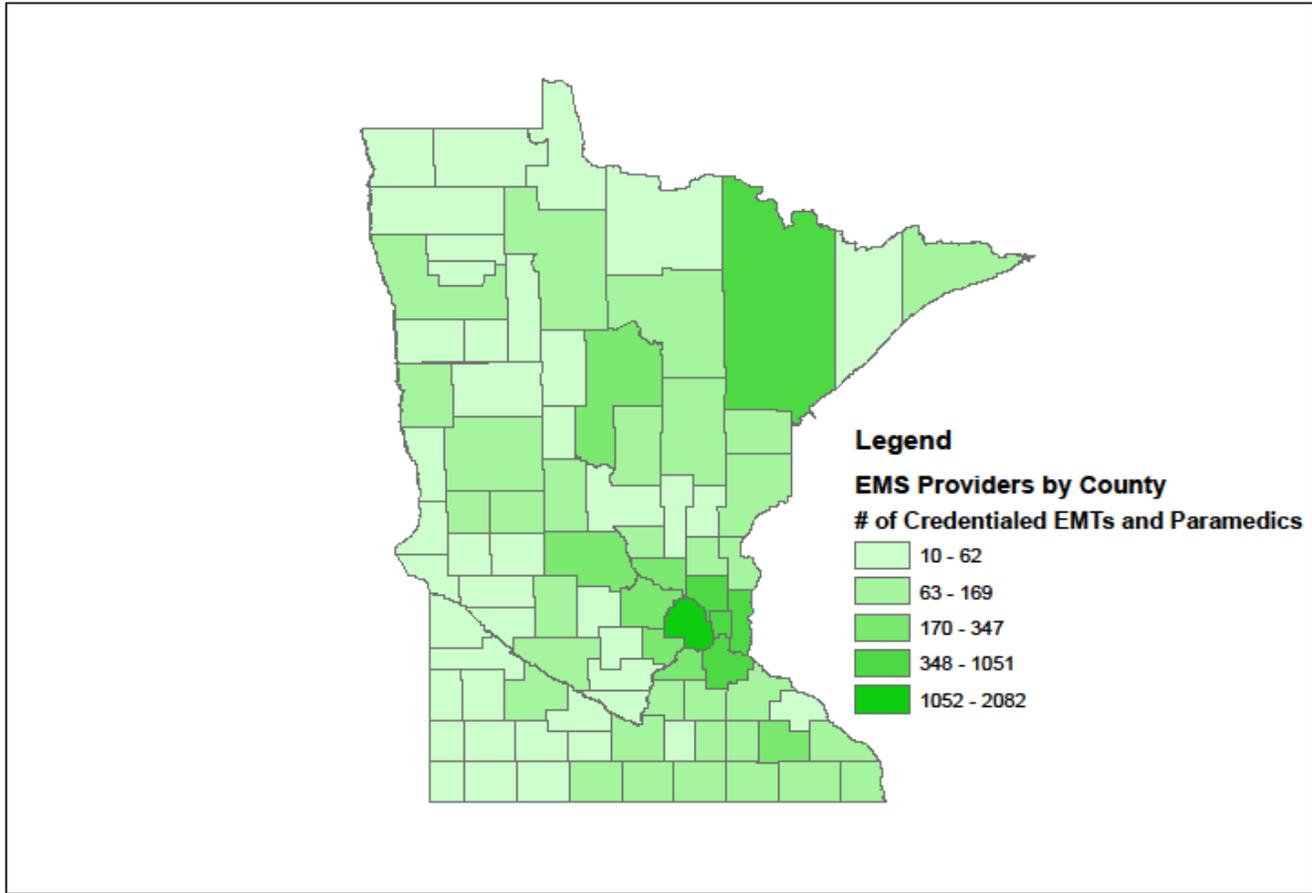
Expirations of EMS certifications up from 2022 to 2023



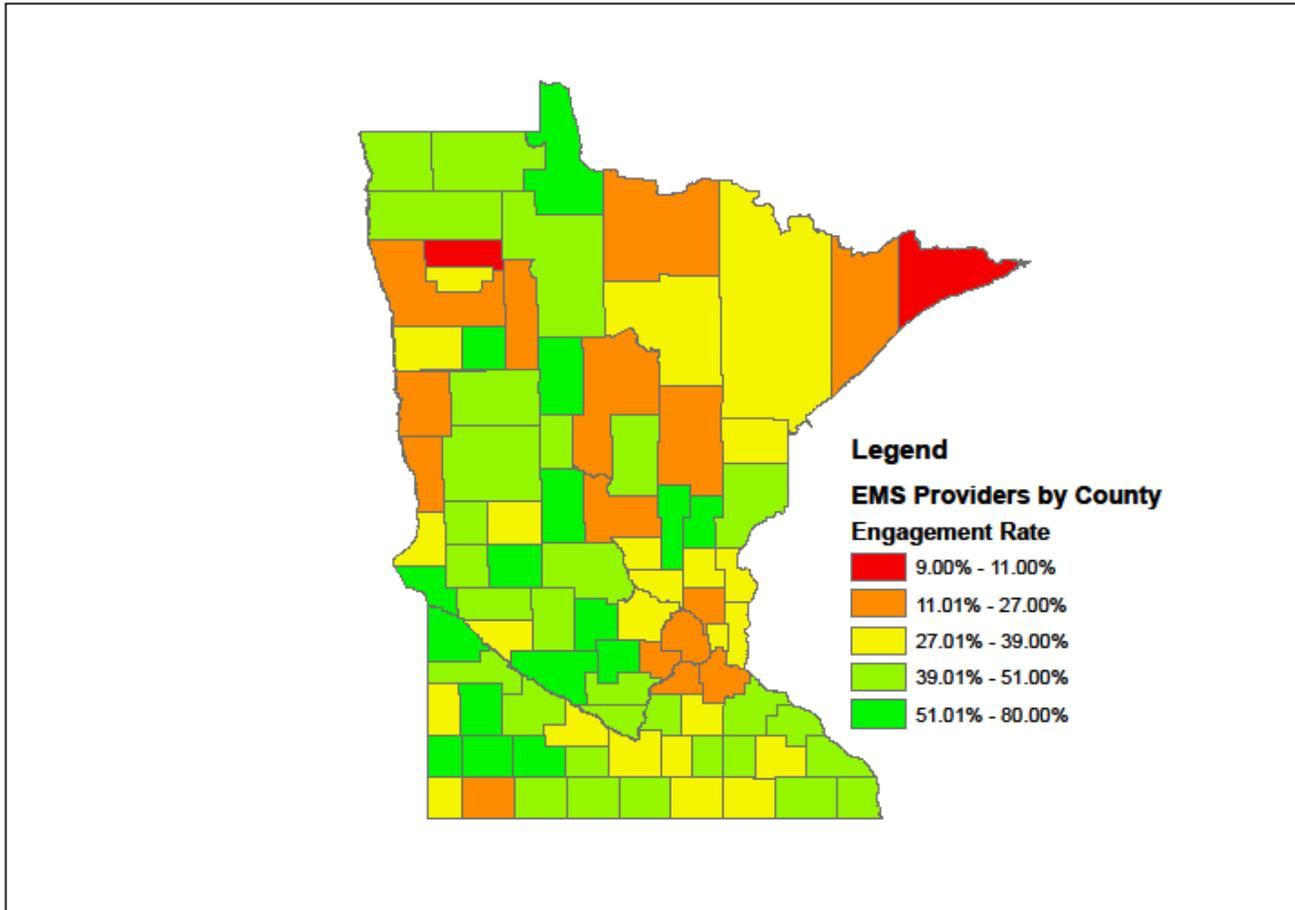
New EMS providers down from 2022 to 2023

Of 1,360 expiring EMTs in 2023
50% were under 30, 68% under 40

Influencer	(% responding Important or Very Important)		
	Paid Providers	Volunteer	All Respondents
Pay	39.33%	19.29%	26.82%
Agency Leadership	33.86%	21.18%	25.94%
Burnout/Mental Health	32.49%	16.12%	22.26%
Time Commitment	28.18%	29.06%	28.73%



Credentialed EMTs and Paramedics by County



59% of credentialed EMTs are not running calls on ambulances

Engagement Rate of EMTs and Paramedics by County

Who do those people work for and how are services provided?

Ambulance Services

- Require a license from the state, administered and granted by the EMSRB
 - ALS (Advanced Life Support)
 - BLS (Basic Life Support)
 - PT ALS (Part Time Advanced Life Support)
 - Specialized
 - Medical Response Units (MRU)
 - Registration not a license
 - Provide timely first response

Advanced Life Support (ALS)

- 75 Advanced Life Support licenses in effect
 - Requires 1 ALS ambulance to be provided 24/7/365 (or other arrangements made)
- Highest level of ground-based pre-hospital care
 - Many medications
 - Cardiac monitoring
 - Advanced airway procedures
- Staffed at minimum with 1 paramedic and 1 EMT
 - Couple of different variations
- Approximate operating cost for an ALS licensed service to operate one ambulance is 1.2 million per year

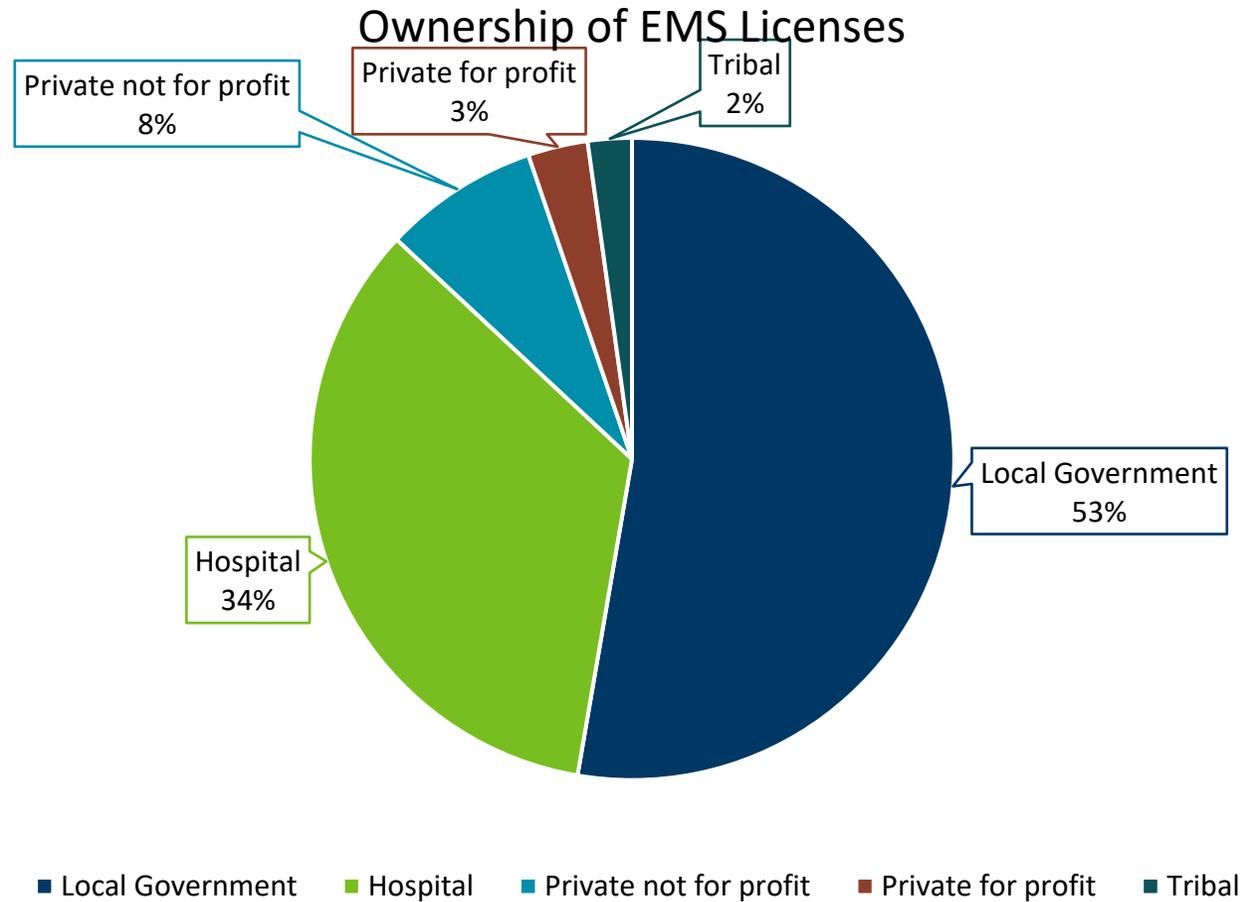
Basic Life Support (BLS)

- 174 Basic Life Support licenses in effect
 - Requires 1 BLS ambulance to be provided 24/7/365 (or other arrangements made)
- Most common and relied upon level of ground EMS particularly in rural areas
 - Fundamental bedrock of which EMS is built
 - CPR/AED
 - Automated CPR devices
 - 12 Lead EKGs
 - Opiate antagonist (Narcan)
 - Limited medication administration
- Staffed at a minimum of 1 EMR and 1 EMT
 - Waivers and variations
- The cost for a BLS licensed service to operate one ambulance varies greatly based on geography, volume, and most impactful the usage of volunteers (\$15,000 – \$822,262.60)

Part-Time Advanced Life Support

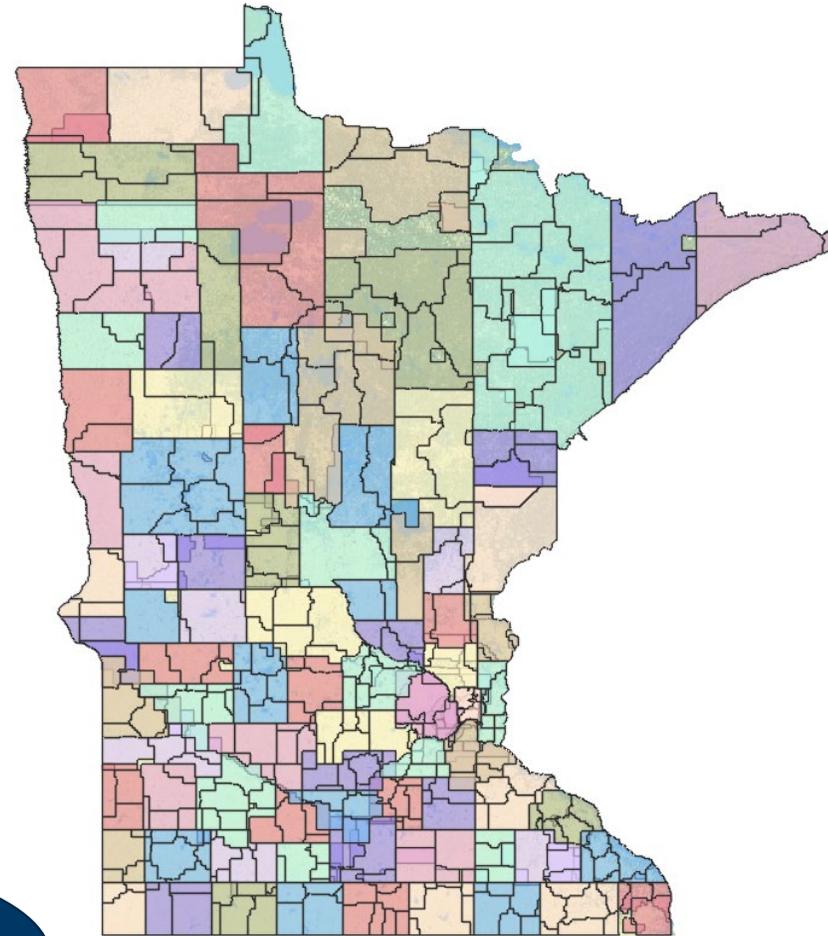
- 59 Part Time ALS Licenses in effect
 - Each of these entities also hold a BLS license, so their obligation is the same under the BLS license.
 - This license allows them to provide ALS when a paramedic is available and to provide BLS when a paramedic is not available.
- Operational costs for these licenses were included in the ALS section

Ownership of Ambulance Licenses

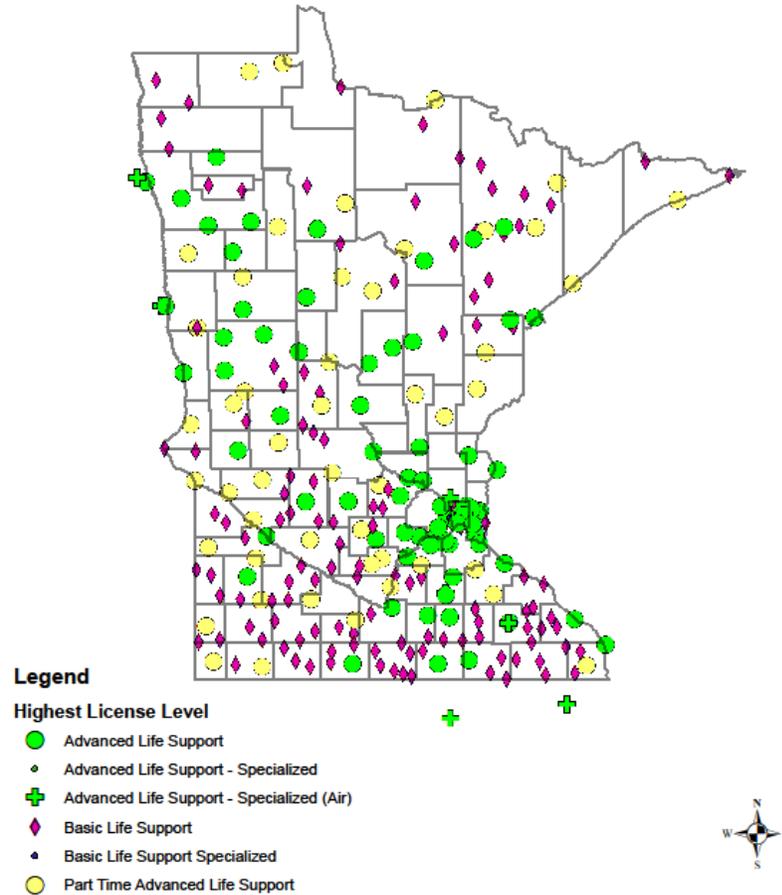


Primary Service Area (PSA)

- Each of these licenses comes with a designated primary service area (PSA)
- An obligation to provide service to all sections of the service area and in return given an exclusive right to operate unless an overlap exists
- A lot of strong opinions and feelings
- As a state agency creature of statute
- The only way to presently update is by mutual agreement of all license holders involved
 - 4 updates in 2023
 - 2 updates in 2022
 - 1 update in 2021

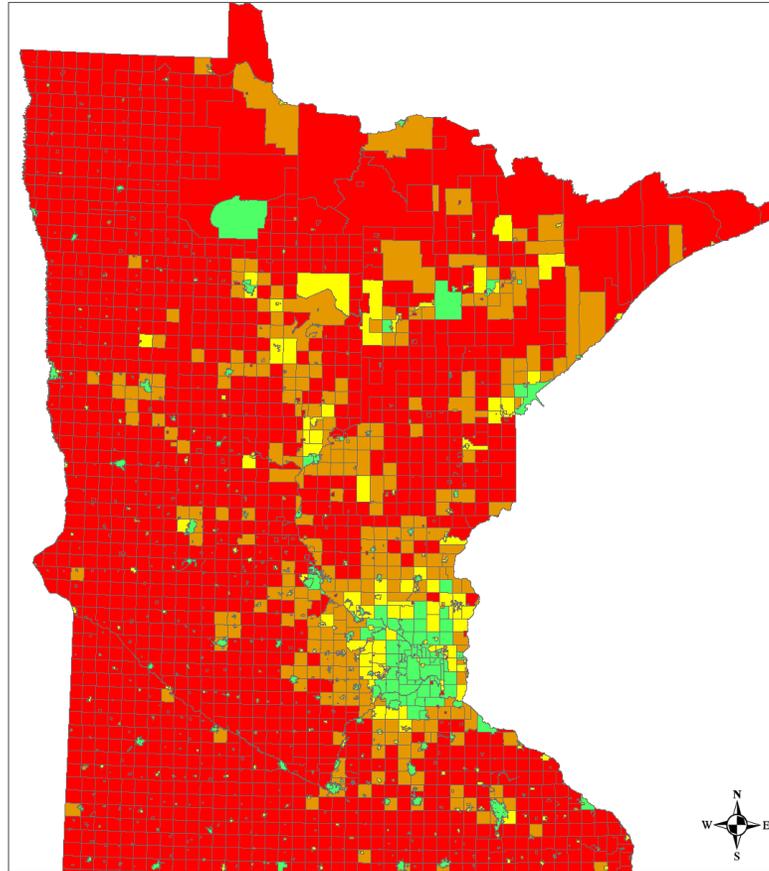


Audit related work



Minnesota Ambulances Bases by Level

CY 2022 EMS Transport Distribution by MN Municipality



EMS Transports by Municipality
0 - 24 EMS Transports
25 - 99 EMS Transports
100 - 499 EMS Transports
>=500 EMS Transports

Prepared by DJF 01/23/2023
Source: Elite Patient Care Reporting, Biospatial

Ambulance Transports by MN Municipality

- Specialized Licenses
 - 11 ALS Specialized Ground
 - 9 ALS Specialized Air
 - 5 BLS Specialized Ground
- Typically focused on a specific population and schedule of operations

Medical Response Units (MRU)

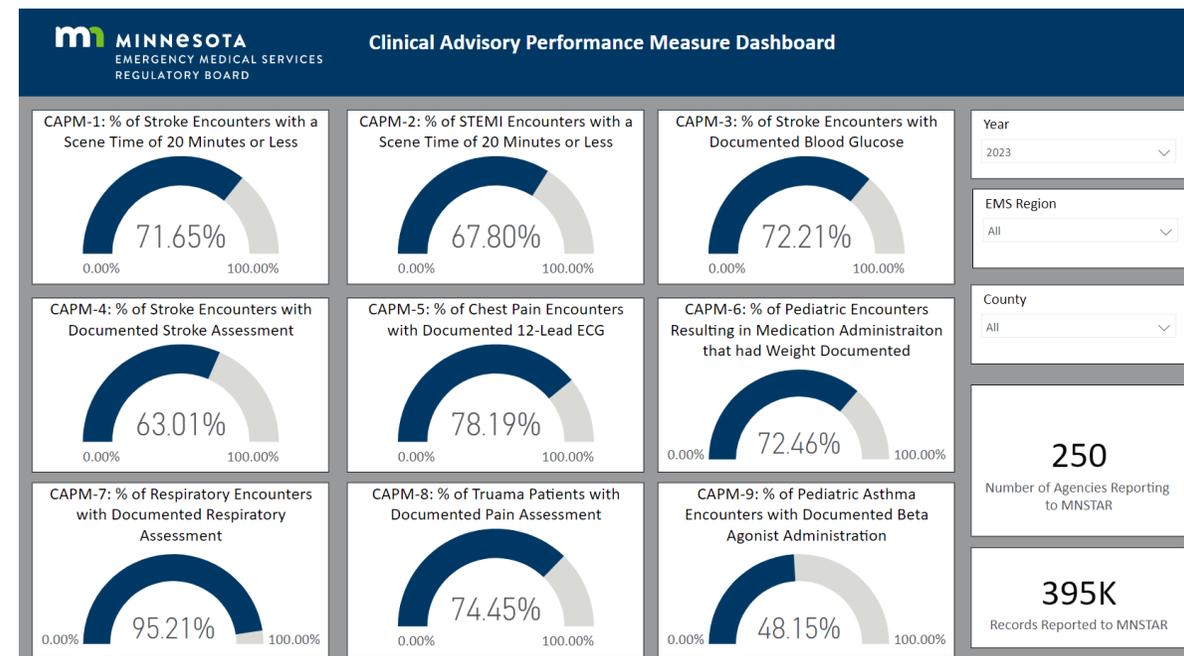
- Medical Response Units are organizations who have voluntarily registered with the state
- Purpose is to provide emergency stabilization care until such time that an ambulance arrives as part of a tiered response system
- Staffed by a minimum of 1 EMR
- 74 registered MRU's with an undetermined number of unregistered groups providing medical care

Performance measures and EMS evaluation

EMS Performance

- Existing statute is silent on many evaluation aspects of EMS
 - Mainly focused on requirements of equipment
 - Capabilities vs Performance
 - “Notably, statutes do not appear to authorize EMSRB to set performance standards for the speed of ambulance response” (OLA Audit p 41)*
- Workgroup evaluating additional operational and clinical performance measures
- Excellent clinical care, great performance outcomes related to what is measured including cardiac arrest
 - In 2022 MN exceeded national performance in every measurement of the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES)

Clinical Advisory Performance Measures



Audit related work

How much does all this cost?

- Cost reporting information, report released in November 2023
 - Previously shared with taskforce members via email
- Operational costs for ground ambulance services totaled **\$455,627,714.20**
- Insurance revenues totaled **\$449,906,664.82** which makes up 93% of all revenue reported by ambulance services
- Additional yearly capital expenses of **\$51,645,411.41**
- Projected volunteer labor subsidy of **\$55,789,660.53**

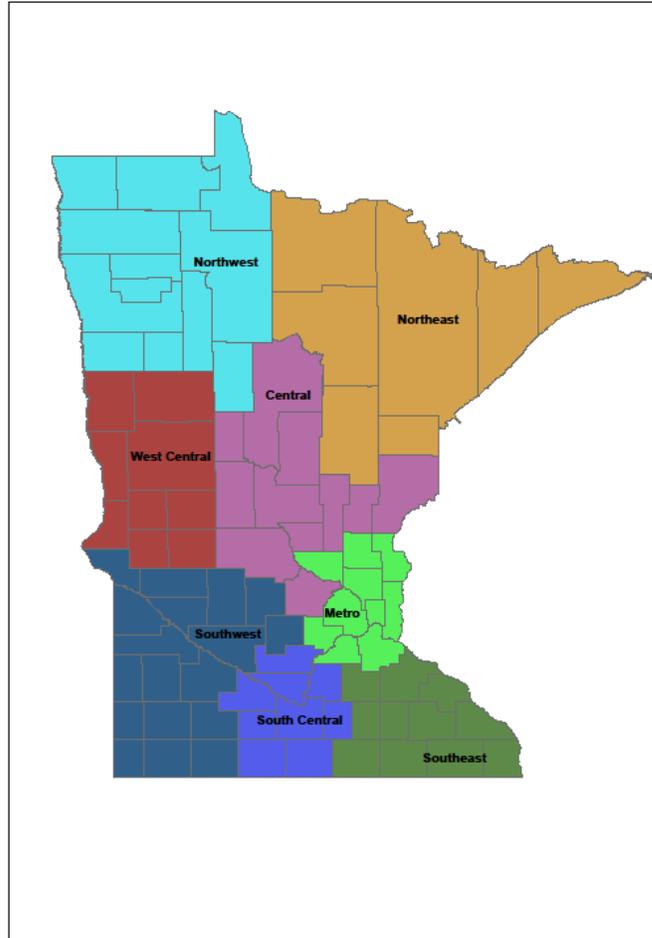
The statewide system costs \$1.25 million per day in operational expenses or \$52,012.29 per hour

Audit related work

EMS System Structure

Invaluable resource for local emergency response system

Increase in dedicated funding during last legislative cycle



Funded by grants from EMSRB

Boots on the ground support

EMS Regional Systems

Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB)

- 19 Member Board
 - Emergency physician
 - Family practice physician
 - Pediatrician
 - MN hospital representative
 - Fire chief
 - FT firefighter
 - Volunteer firefighter
 - DPS and MDH rep
 - Ambulance service director
 - EMT/Paramedic
 - MN Sheriff
 - Community health board rep
 - 2 regional EMS reps
 - Registered nurse
 - Public member
 - House/Senate ex-officios

Scope of Work

- Inspect ambulance services to ensure meeting established laws
 - Inspections
- Managing licensure of services
- Complaint resolution
- Credentialing of workforce and education
- Collection/Analysis of EMS related data
- Support of regional systems through grants administration process
- Making recommendations to the legislature
 - Clean up language to 144E
 - Revision of board composition
 - 13 policy recommendations related to EMS workforce
- Administration of length of service awards program (Cooper Sams)
- Compliance and enforcement of 144E and Chapter 4690
- Appoint and evaluate an executive director

Thank You!

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