

LEADS UPDATE

The Difference You Make | Education | Ambulance Crashes

EMS Service Type

When looking at different types of service, the majority of you worked for either private EMS agencies (38%) or fire-based services (31%). With regards to primary service officered, nearly three quarters of you (73%) worked at EMS agencies that provide 911 response and have transport capabilities.

Volunteerism

Almost 20% of you reported working as volunteers at your main EMS job. Further, over two-thirds of you (67%) worked as volunteers at one or more of your EMS jobs.

Shift Work

When asked about a typical day at your EMS agency, 88% reported working shifts at your main EMS job last year. Of these, 40% worked 12 hour shifts and 41% worked 24 hour shifts. During a two week period, these individuals worked an average of five shifts.



The Difference You Make

Dear Colleagues,

As we gear up for the third year of the second Longitudinal EMT Attributes and Demographics Study (LEADS II), we wanted to take the opportunity to thank you once more for your participation in this project and share some of the results from last year's questionnaire. Over 1,200 of you participated! If you weren't able to participate last year, don't worry you can still participate in future LEADS II questionnaires. For this year's LEADS update we wanted to focus on the well-being of EMS professionals and education.

We sincerely thank you for your participation in this study. Because of you, we are able to track changes in our profession over time. Thank you for your continued dedication to EMS research. Keep an eye out for the 2015 questionnaire, which will be coming to your inbox soon!

Best regards,

The LEADS Research Team



Education in EMS

The profession of EMS has advanced great lengths since the 1966 landmark report on *Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society* highlighted the need for improved emergency medical care. As this field continues to evolve rapidly EMS professionals require updated training. Thus, lifelong learning is an important component for a successful career in EMS. This year we took a look at the number of EMS professionals who engaged in higher learning and compared these numbers to those from last year.

- 94% of you have completed some college or more education.
- 60% of you have obtained an Associate’s Degree or higher. This number increased by 9% from last year!
- Almost a third of you (31%) are currently enrolled in a higher education program. Of these, 70% are enrolled in a health-related course of study.

Ambulance Crashes: Then and Now

We compared responses from the current LEADS group in 2014 to responses from the LEADS group in 2004. The proportion of EMS professionals who had been involved in an ambulance collision was similar in 2004 (6.9%) and 2014 (6.5%). However, the severity of collisions may be decreasing as fewer individuals required medical attention after being in an ambulance collision in 2014 compared to 2004 (10.2% versus 17.3%). With regards to location during the collision, in 2014 the proportion of EMS professionals who were in the patient compartment was more than 80% higher compared to 2004 (33.9% versus 18.8%). Finally, more providers were consistently wearing their seatbelts while riding in the patient compartment in 2014 compared to in 2004 (26.7% versus 10.0%). While these results may suggest that the EMS community is beginning to embrace a culture of safety, much work remains to be done as less than one third of EMS professionals are consistently using seatbelts while riding in the patient compartment.

Figure 1. Seatbelt Use in Ambulance Patient Compartment

