SOUTH DAKOTA
Foundation for Medical Care

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

EMS Regional Service Designation

Strengthening and Sustaining EMS Infrastructure

December 2024 – November 2026

AGENDA

- Project Summary and Resource Overview
- EMS Needs and Knowledge Assessment
- Regional Hub Development and Oversight



SDFMC EMS RSD Team

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Project Overview

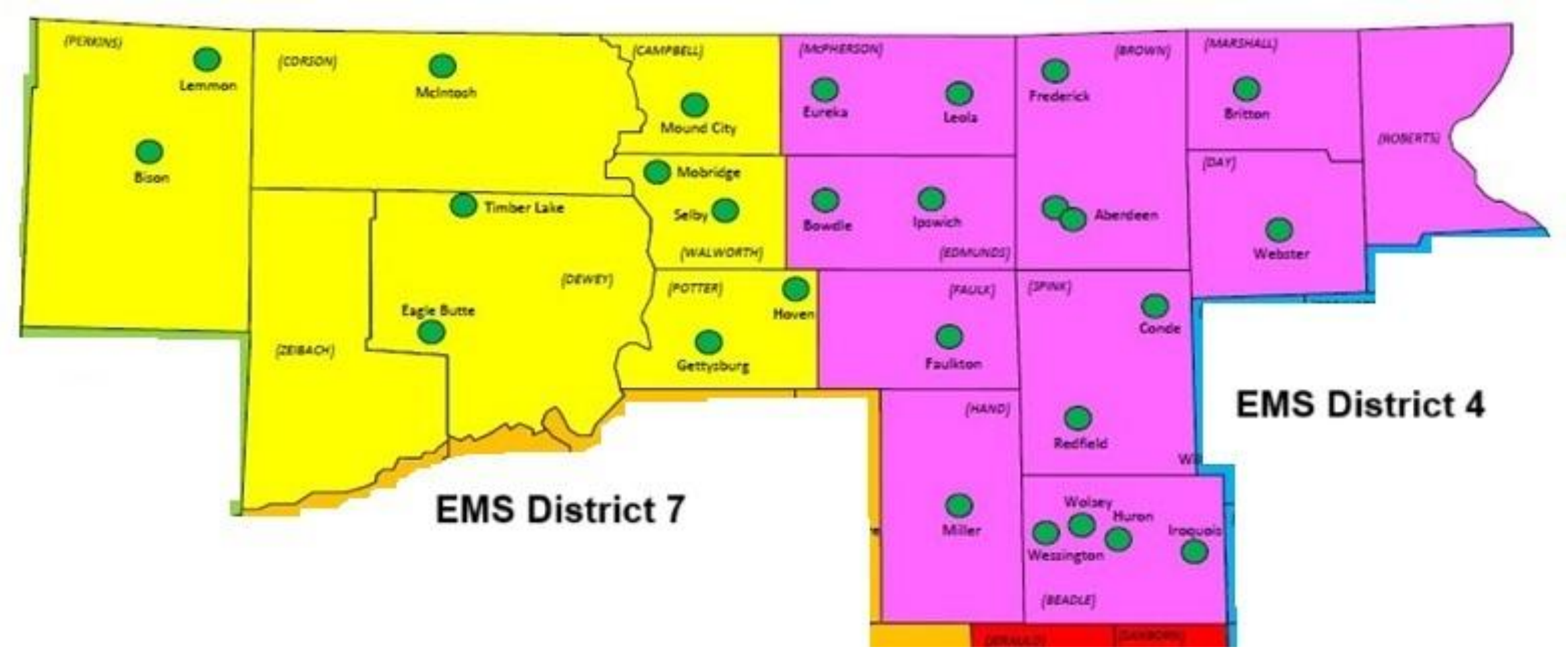


Purpose: Enhancing EMS capacity and sustainability through regional collaboration

Project Activities:

- Community Engagement
- EMS Community Assessment
- EMS Improvement Planning and Implementation
- EMS Awareness and Training

Designated Project Area



Community Engagement and Assessment

- Data Review and Analysis
- Needs and Knowledge Assessment: 317 responses
- Key Informant Interviews: 12 interviews
- Community Conversation Events (6): 93 attendees



Community Assessment

August 2025

Qualitative and Quantitative Data

Three Improvement Areas



Work Group/Action Group Engagement

WG Membership:

Collaboration: 47
25% Engagement

Workforce: 40
25% Engagement

Funding: 26
15% Engagement

Stakeholders: **209**

EMS Improvement Coalition
Meetings: **11** | Average Attendance: **23**

Priority Work Groups
Meetings: **11** | Average Attendance: **8**

Project Action Groups
Meetings: **7** | Average Attendance: **15**

EMS Improvement Plan

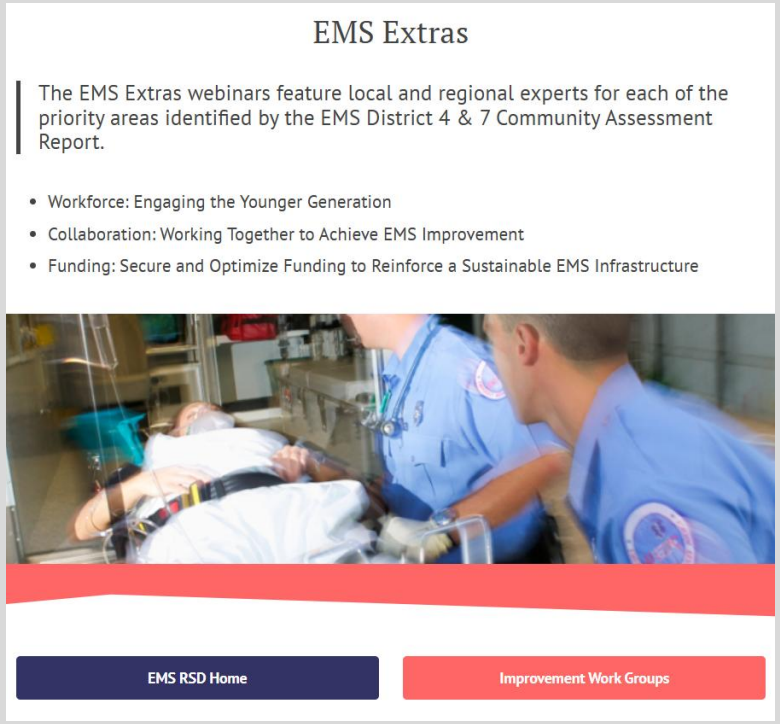
January 2026

- Collaboration
- Funding
- Workforce



EMS Extras Webinars: 11/2025 to 11/2026

https://sdfmc.org/ems-extras/



Total Webinars: 21
Total Attendees: 307
Total Views: 287

Priority Topic	Total	Average		
		Reg	Attnd	Views
Workforce	10	22	16	15
Collaboration	7	21	15	11
Funding	4	20	12	15

EMS Heroes and Highlights

https://sdfmc.org/ems-heroes-and-highlights/

Like | Share | Submit

"The ambulance crew in Scotland, SD, ***embodies the very best of rural emergency care****.*

With every patient they bring through our doors, they demonstrate exceptional teamwork, compassion, and professionalism."



Community Training Events

QPR Virtual Training

April 2026

Attendees: 39

Community Training

May-August 2026

Estimated Attendance: 300

SDFMC partnered with NE SD AHEC to host training in five communities.







- Lemmon
- Mobridge
- Selby/Herreid
- Huron
- Webster

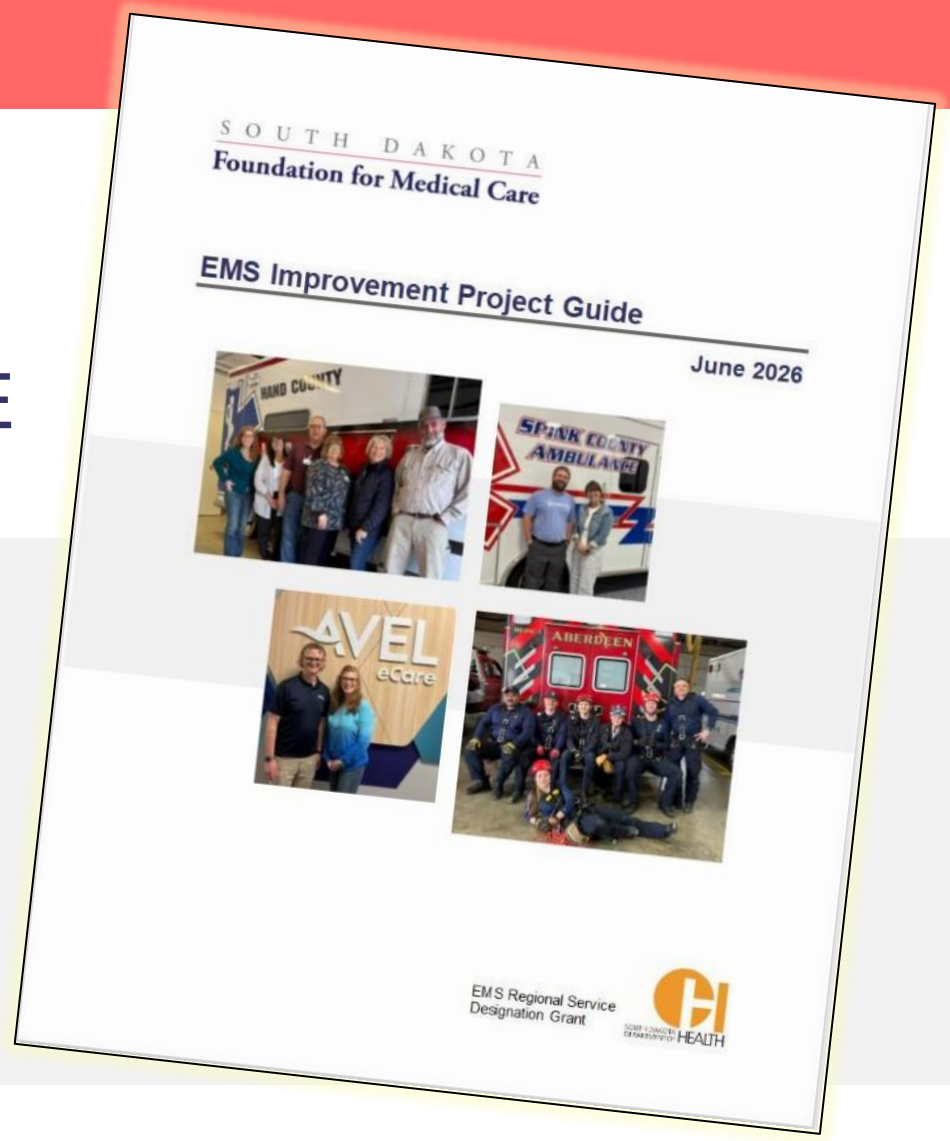
EMS Week

May 2026

- Social Media Toolkit
- Community Training Site Visits



Improvement Project Guide



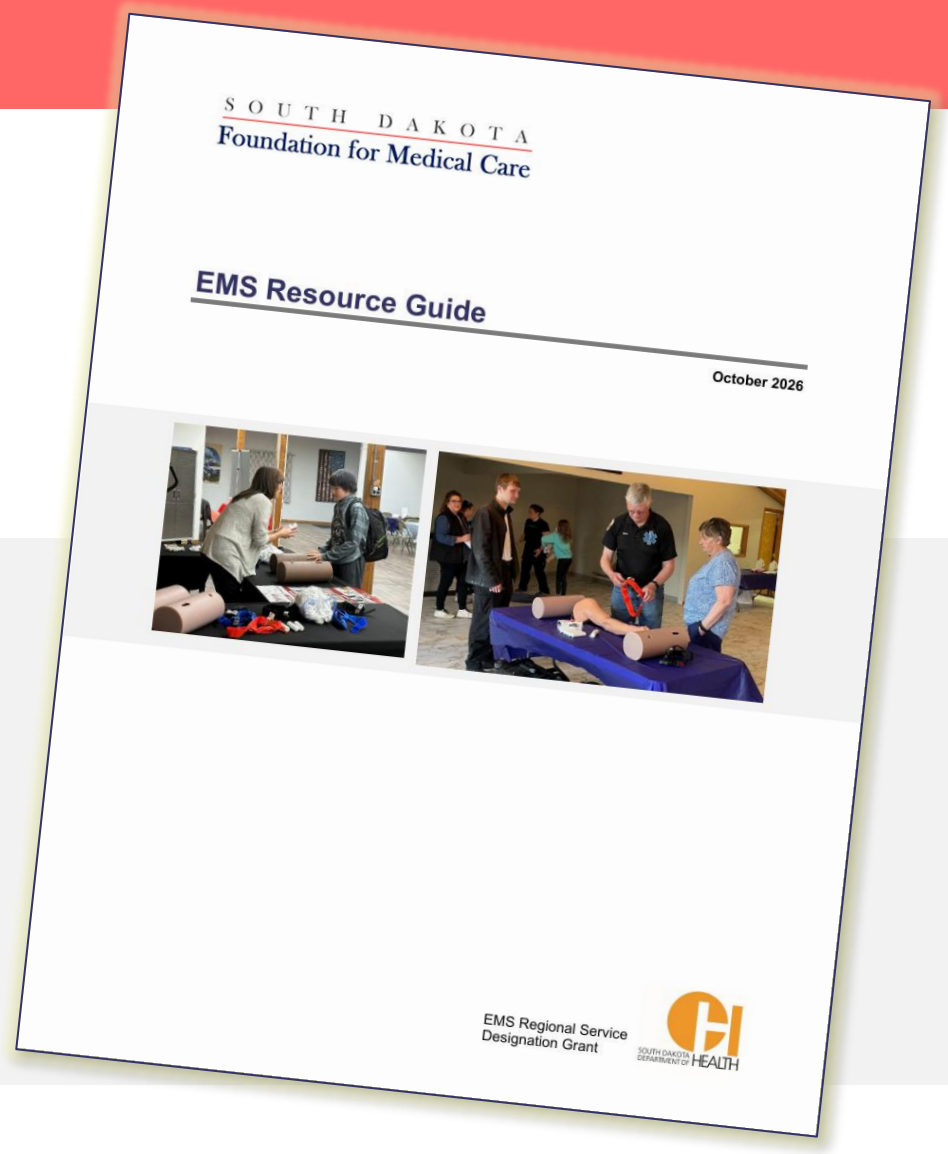
June 2026

- Career Programs
- Shared Resources

EMS Resource Guide

October 2026

- Licensure/Certification
- Education/Training
- Organizations/Programs

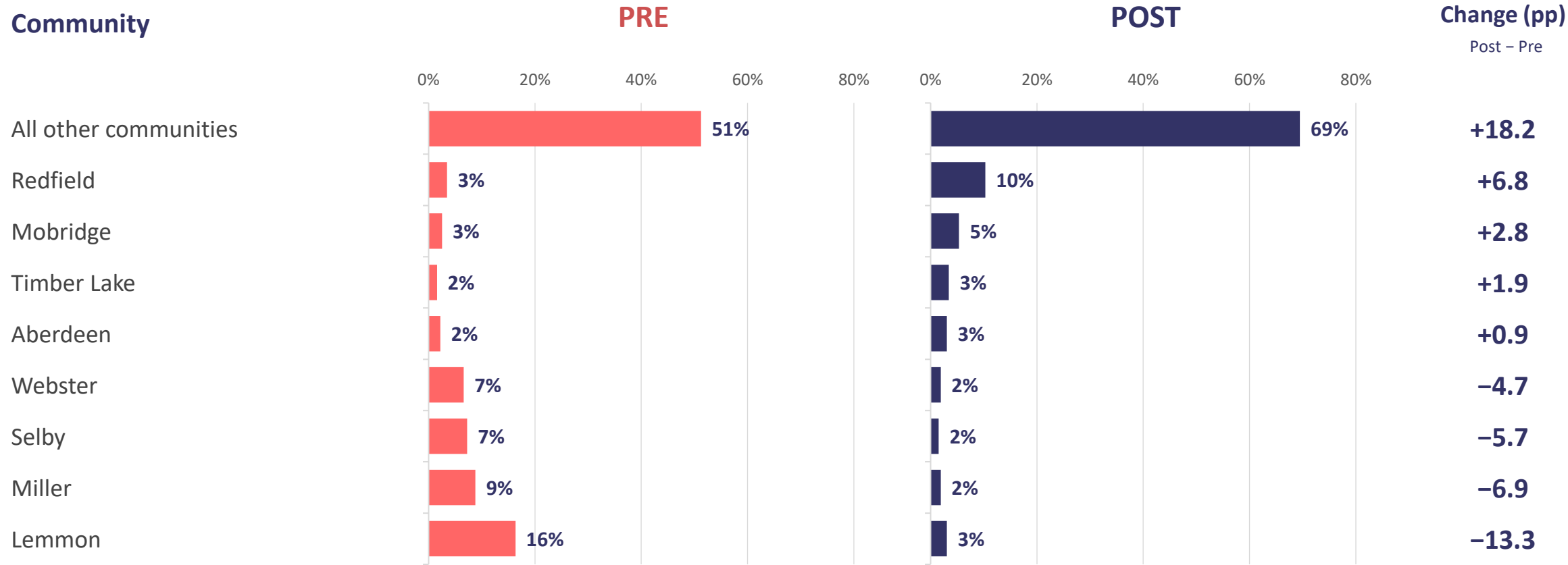


SEPTEMBER 2026 POST-PROJECT

EMS Needs & Knowledge Assessment

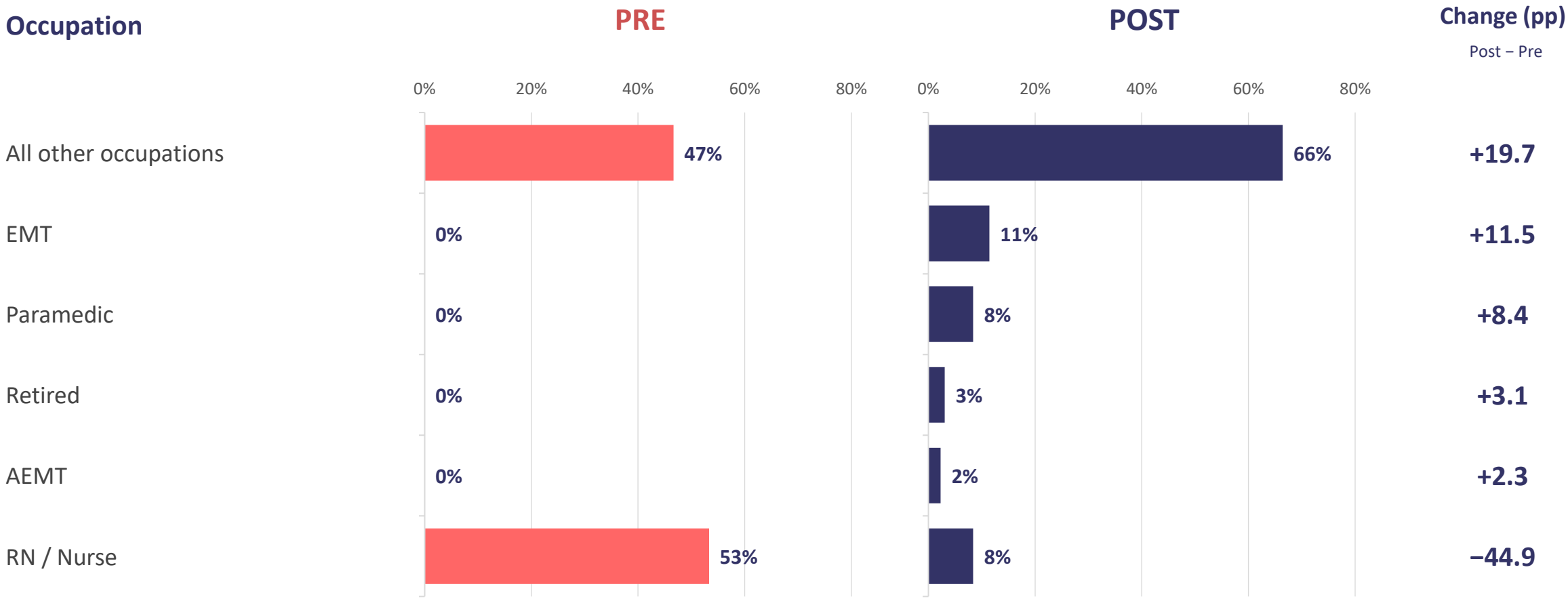
EMS Needs & Knowledge

262 Participants Post Assessment
317 Pre Assessment



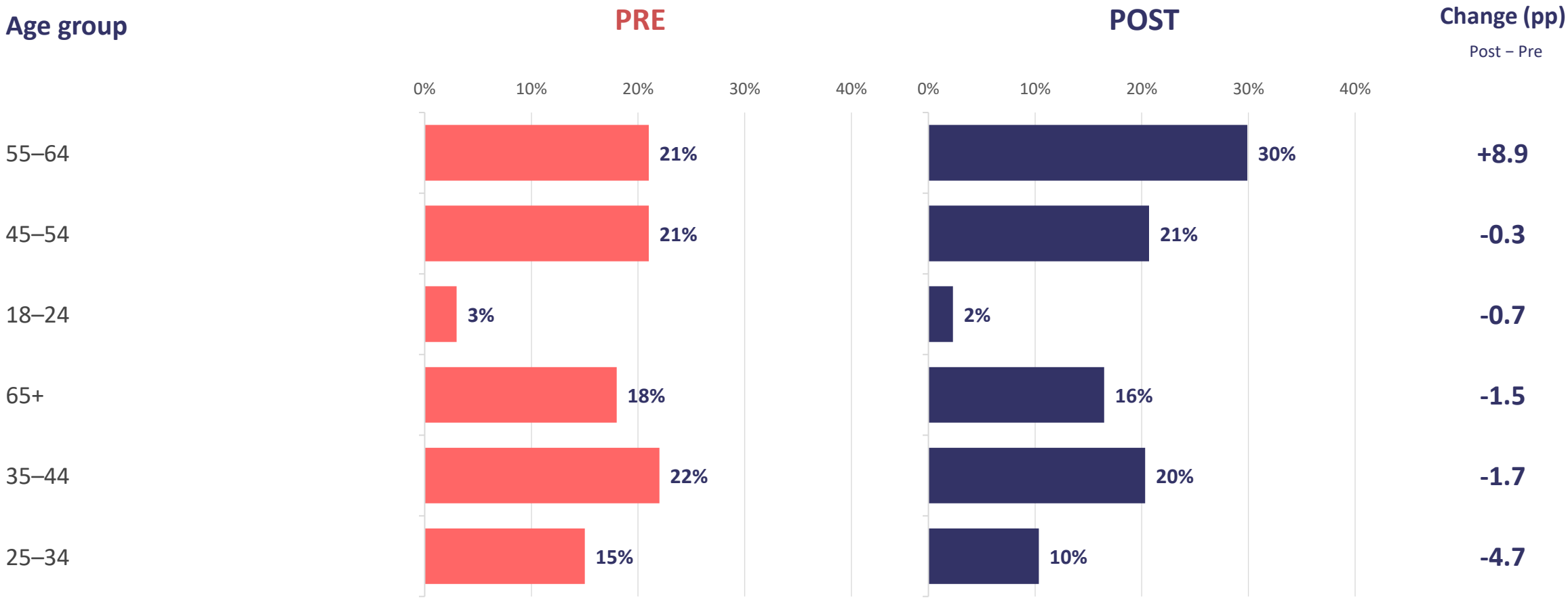
Share of respondents. Pre n = 317 (sum of chart counts); Post n = 262. Eight communities with both pre and post counts are shown; all other communities are combined. Change = post − pre in percentage points (pp). Descriptive, not a matched-person comparison.

Responses by Occupation



Share of respondents. Pre n = 75 (all health care); Post n = 262 (sum of listed counts).. Sorted by change = post − pre in percentage points (pp). Descriptive, not a matched-person comparison.

Respondent by Age



Share of respondents. Post n = 261. Pre percentages from slide 29. Change = post − pre in percentage points (pp), sorted by change. Descriptive, not a matched-person comparison.

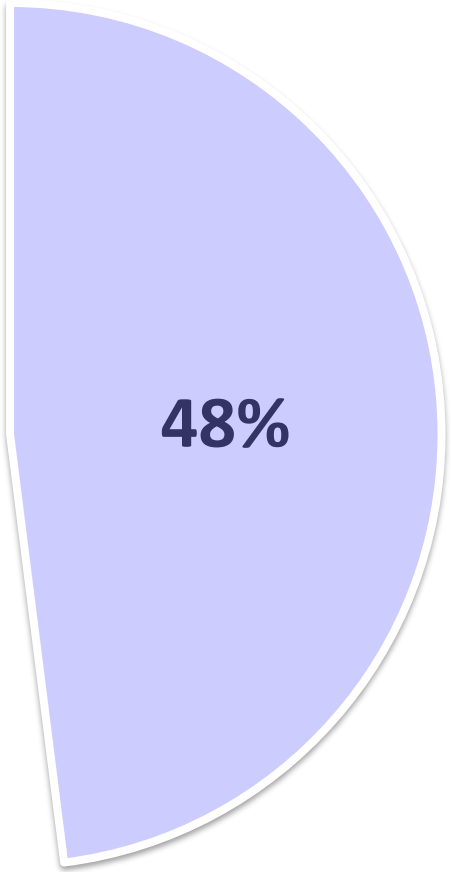
Sweet Slice of Appreciation

"Lemmon EMT Association is hands down the best medical service I have worked on in my 22 years as an EMT. The only thing they need are more people willing to step up and get trained."

"Very proud of our EMS and grateful for everything they do."

"We have great EMS people in our community, and I am thankful for them. We've needed them numerous times."

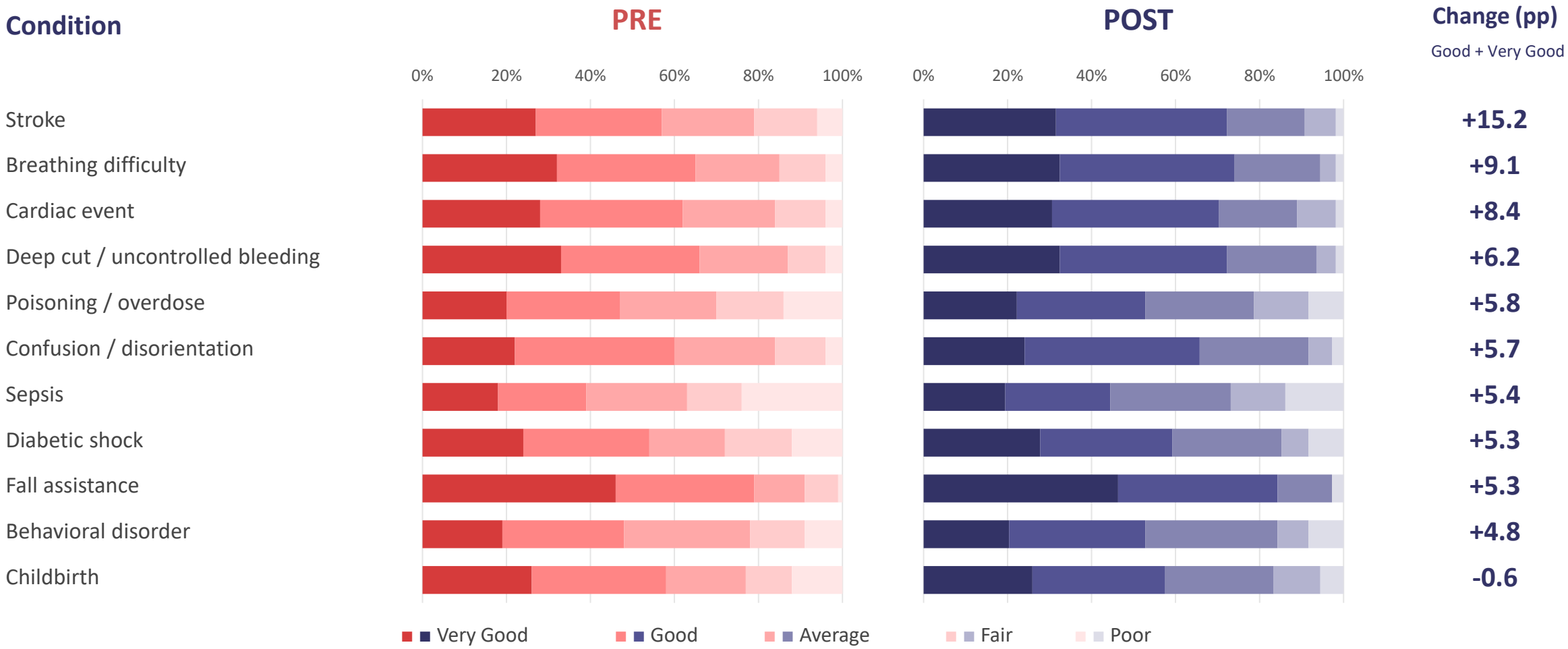
"We are very fortunate to have the level of EMS in this area. Many rural areas do not."



48%

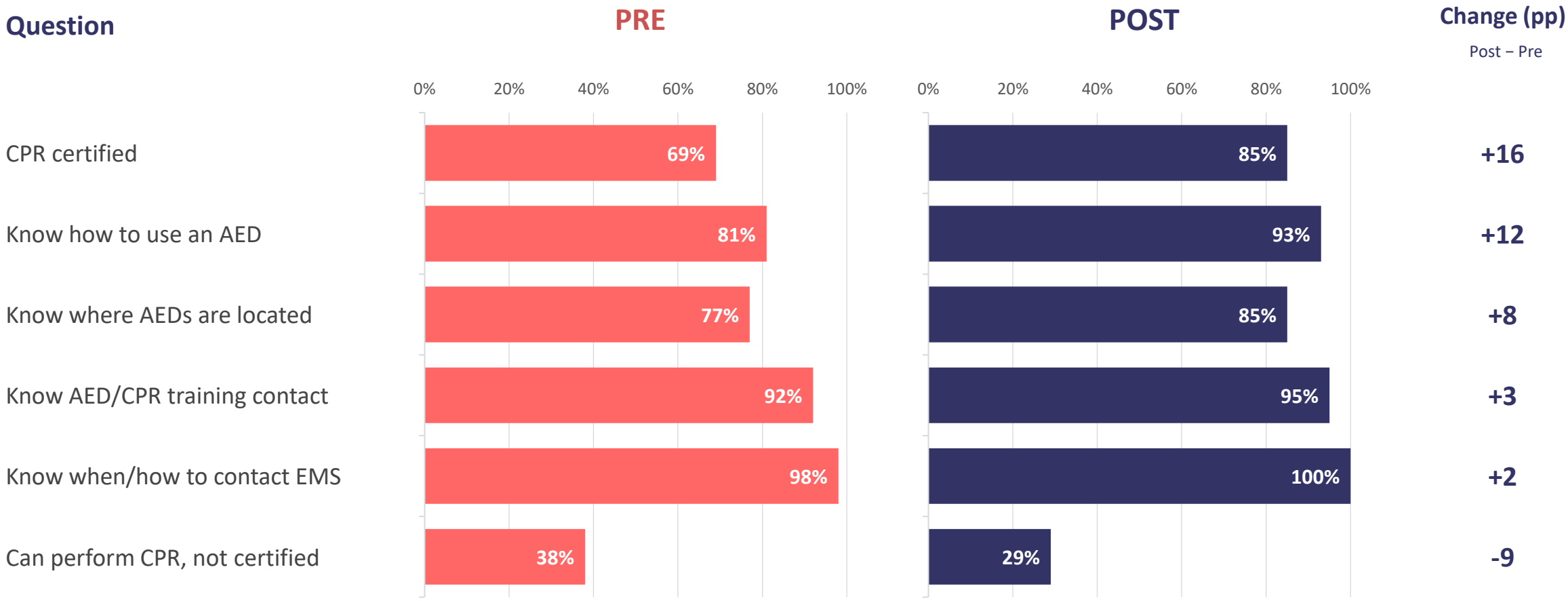
of comments volunteered praise for EMS. That's worth celebrating!

EMERGENCY IDENTIFICATION & RESPONSE RATING



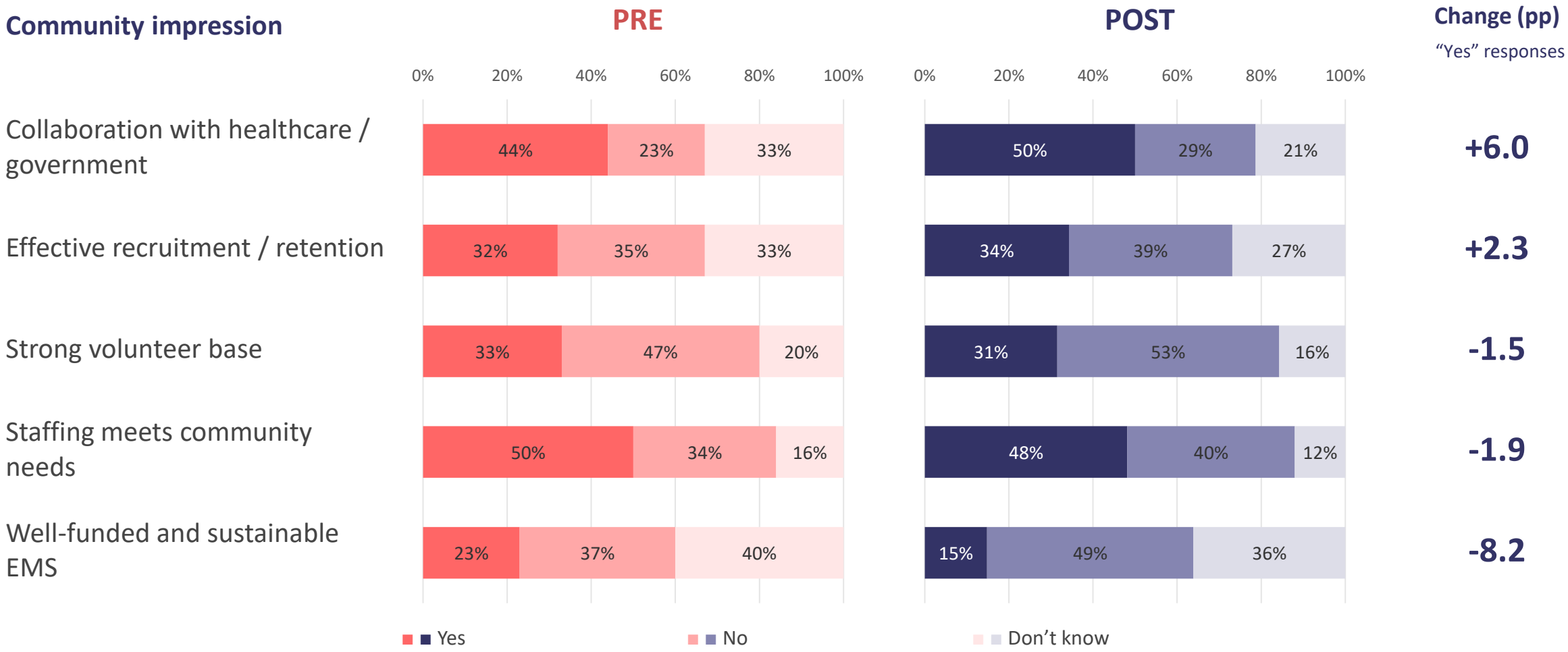
Pre: slides 33–34 (rounded %). Change = post − pre in percentage points (pp). Descriptive, not a matched-person comparison.

Community Emergency Equipment and Knowledge



Pre: original survey results. Post: 149 answered. Change = post − pre in percentage points (pp). Descriptive, not a matched-person comparison.

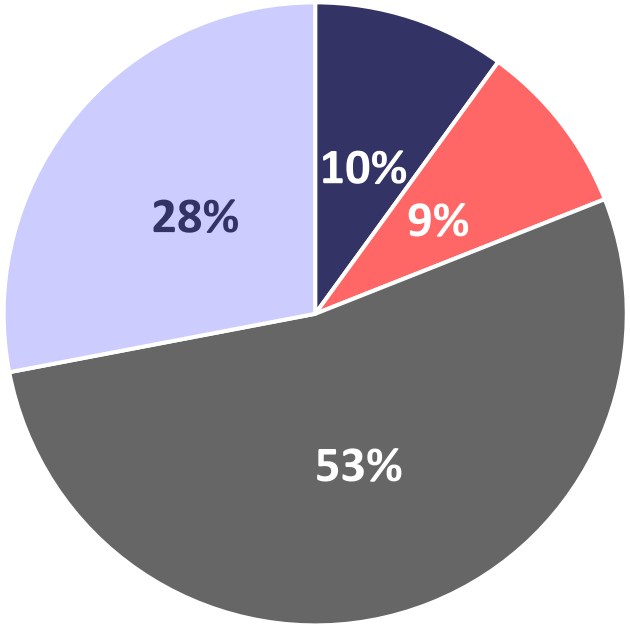
Community Impression of EMS



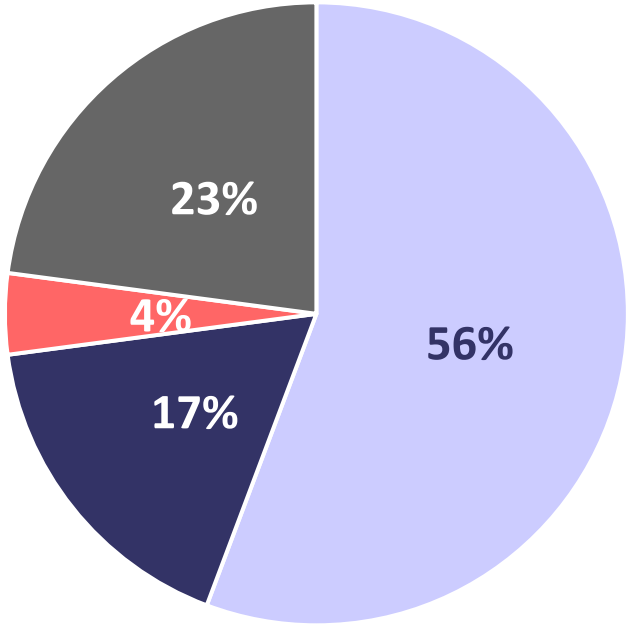
Change = post − pre in "Yes" responses, in percentage points (pp). Pre values rounded. Descriptive, not a matched-person comparison.

Community Level of Interest

Pre results

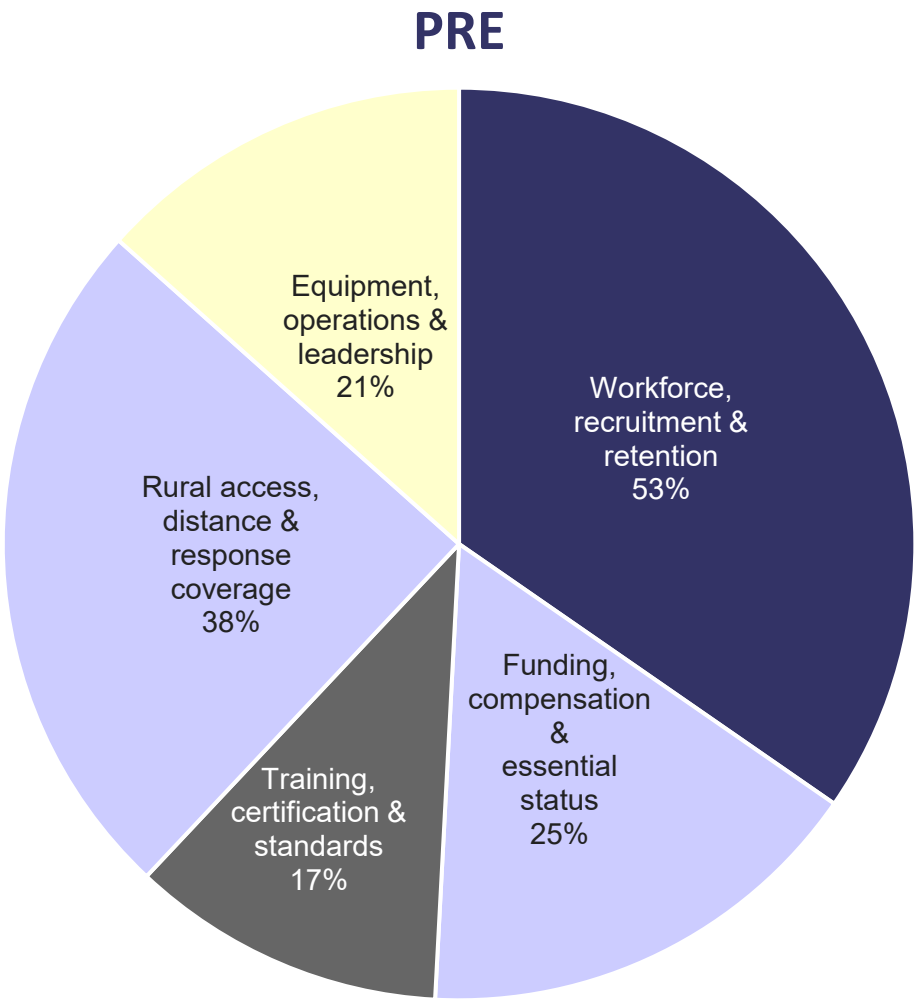


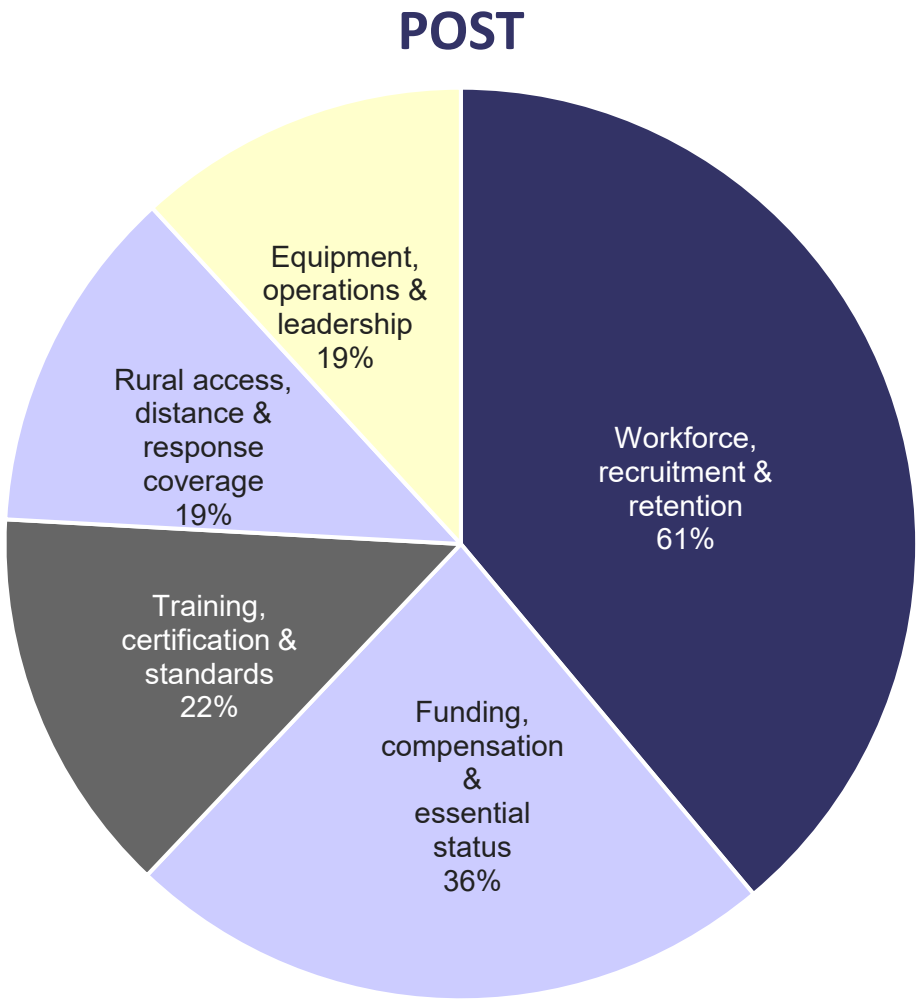
Post results



EMS team member
Volunteer
Interested in volunteering
Not interested in volunteering

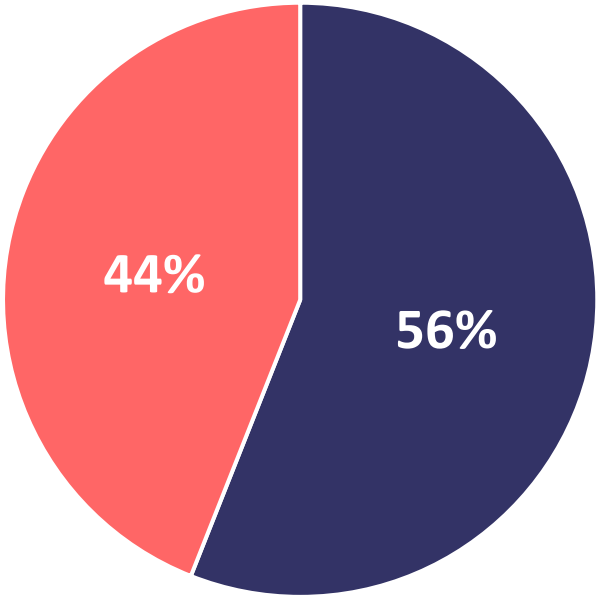
KEY CONCERNS FROM COMMENTS



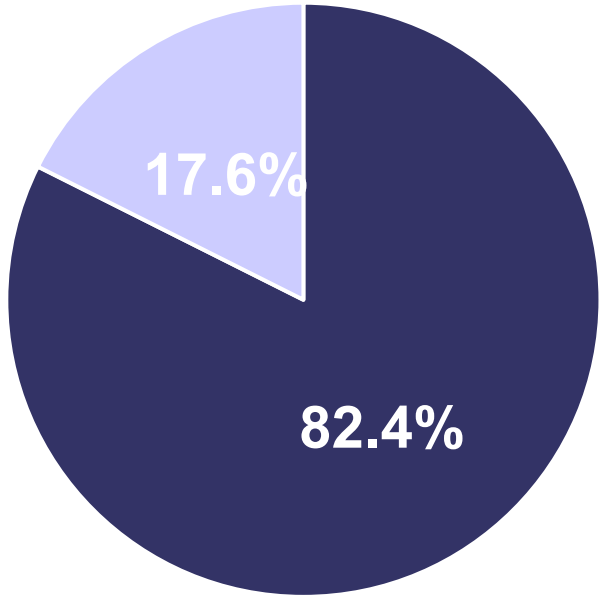


AWARE EMS IS NOT CONSIDERED AN "ESSENTIAL SERVICE" IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Pre results



Post results



- Aware EMS is not considered an essential service
- Did not know EMS is not considered an essential service

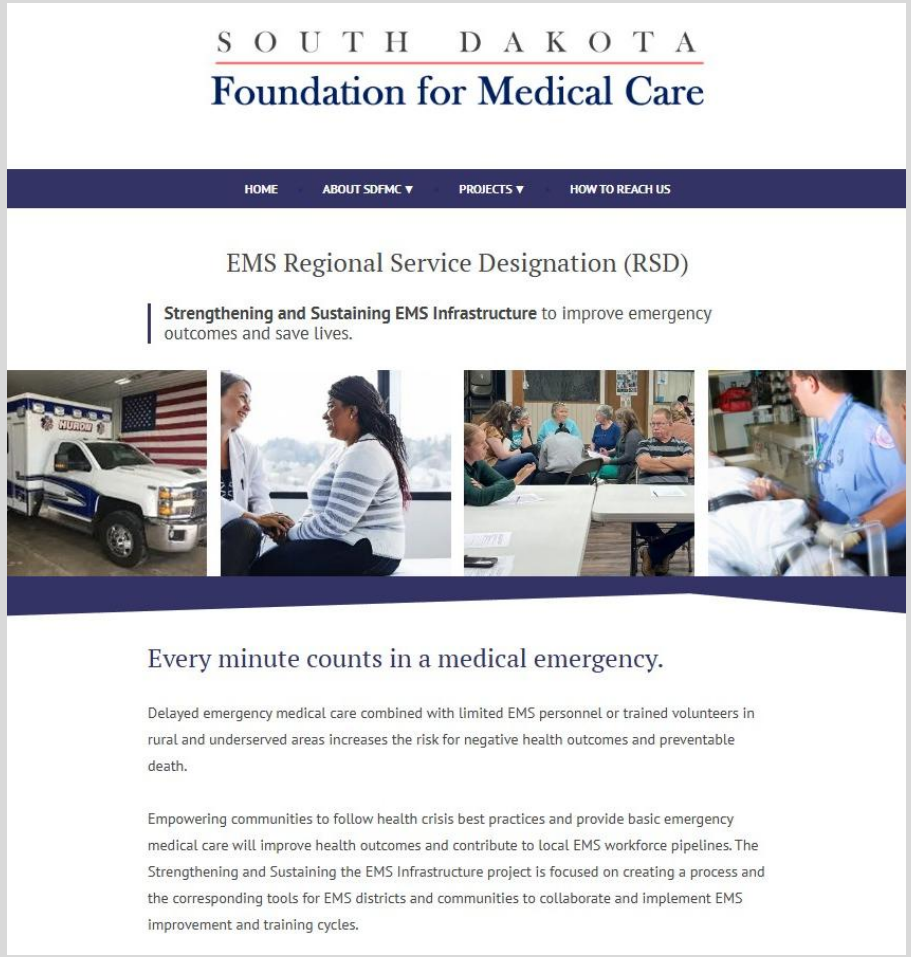
Awareness increased by 26.4 percentage points

EMS Funding Task Force

EMSTF Bill Draft 83 – Reimbursement and Coverage

EMSTF Bill Draft 84 – EMS Advisory Council and Regions

EMS RSD Project Resources



Project Page:

- https://sdfmc.org/projects/ems-regional-service-designation/

EMS Extras Webinar Series:

- https://sdfmc.org/ems-extras/

Improvement Project Guide:

- https://sdfmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/26-0112-EMS-Improvement-Plan-FINAL.pdf

Social Media Toolkit:

- https://sdfmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/EMS-Social-Media-Toolkit.pdf

EMS Resource Guide

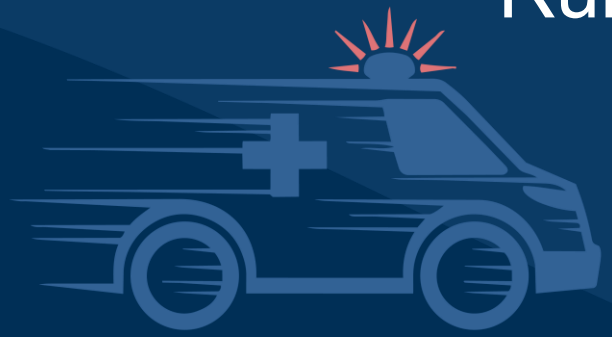
- https://sdfmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/26-1015-EMS-Resource-Guide-FINAL.pdf

SOUTH DAKOTA
RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Regional Hub Development and Oversight

South Dakotans Deserve EMS.

Rural EMS Providers Deserve Support.



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Join the Conversation

Engage

EMS Collaboration and Shared Resources Feedback

7-10 minutes to complete

Respond by **November 13, 2026**

Individuals employed by a healthcare setting of facility (ambulance, clinic/practice, hospital, long term care)

Communicate

Regional Hub Development and Oversight Overview

November 5, 2026

Lunch Option:
12:00 PM/11:00 AM Central/Mountain

Evening Option:
6:30 PM/5:30 PM Central/Mountain

EMS Extras: November 18 at 12:00 PM Central

Beyond the Textbook: Creating Engaging Curriculum Through Real-World Experience

Matt Helling, Paramedic/Faculty
Western Dakota Technical College

1. Describe strategies for incorporating real-world experiences into engaging curriculum.
2. Explain how scenario-based learning encourages critical thinking and student participation.
3. Highlight interactive teaching techniques and technology that enhance student engagement.



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