



Wisconsin Legislative Council

Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Shortages

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Scope

The Committee is directed to study:

- Magnitude and areas of volunteer shortages
- Whether training and continuing education requirements contribute to the shortage
- Relationships between full-time and volunteer emergency response departments
- Whether the creation of organizations, particularly in rural areas, may help address the shortage



Terminology

- Volunteer
 - Composed of individuals who generally receive no compensation and donate services for civic or humanitarian reasons
- Career
 - Composed solely of paid firefighters and EMS personnel
- Combination



Terminology

Volunteers may receive a “nominal fee”

- Up to 20% of typical wages
- May be on a per-call basis
- Reasonable benefits are allowed – insurance plans, pension plans, length of service awards
- Reimbursement for expenses is allowed – meals and training tuition

[29 C.F.R. s. 553.106.]



Organization of Fire and EMS Response



Statutory Duty to Establish a Fire Department

	1 st Class Cities	Non 1 st Class Cities with Population 4,000+	Villages with Population 5,500+	Towns
Municipal fire department with board to oversee it	X	X	X	X
Joint fire department with another city, village, or town		X	X	X
Combined protective services department (police & fire)		X	X	X
Contract with another city, village, or town			X	X
Chapter 213 fire company			X	X
Contract with any person or corporation				X
In any other manner				X



Authorization to Provide EMS

- The following may provide EMS:
 - County, city, or village
 - Fire or police department
 - Hospital
 - Private ambulance provider
- Towns must provide, unless privately provided
- May only operate under an EMS plan approved by DHS



[ss. 59.54(1), 60.565, 61.64,
62.133, 256.12 (2), Stats.]

Fire and EMS are regulated by 2 state agencies:

DHS

DSPS



DHS

DSPS



Emergency
Medical
Services



DHS



Emergency
Medical
Services

DSPS



Fire Protection



DHS



Emergency
Medical
Services

All Aspects

DSPS



Fire Protection



DHS



Emergency
Medical
Services

All Aspects

DSPS



Fire Protection

OSHA



Fire Protection



DHS



Emergency
Medical
Services

All Aspects

DSPS



Fire Protection

Departments with
Public Employees

OSHA



Fire Protection

Departments with
Private Employees



DHS



Emergency
Medical
Services

All Aspects

DSPS



Fire Protection

Departments with
Public Employees

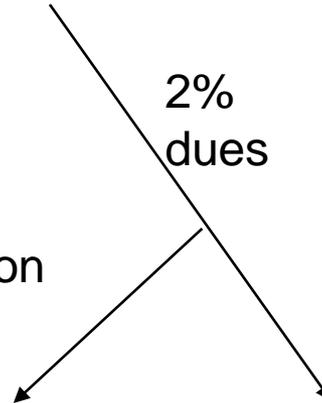
OSHA



Fire Protection

Departments with
Private Employees

2%
dues



Recent Legislation

- 2015 Wis. Acts 25 and 83 – Out-of-State EMS Licensees
- 2015 Wis. Act 113 – EMS Staffing Requirements



Out-of-State EMS Licensees

Ambulance service providers, EMTs, and first responders licensed in another state may provide:

- Incidental service of 10 or fewer patient transports per year that originate and terminate in WI
- Any requested mutual aid if the transports originate from the home state

[2015 Wis. Acts 25 and 83; s. 256.15 (2) (b) and (c), Stats.]



EMS Staffing Requirements

Reduced EMS staffing requirements apply to certain rural areas if:

- The primary service area has only municipalities with a population of less than 10,000
- The primary service area has municipalities with a population between 10,000 and 20,000 in the primary service area and DHS has granted a waiver

[2015 Wis. Act 113; s. 256.15 (4), Stats.; s. DHS 110.50, Wis. Adm. Code]



Aspects of Rural Areas in Wisconsin

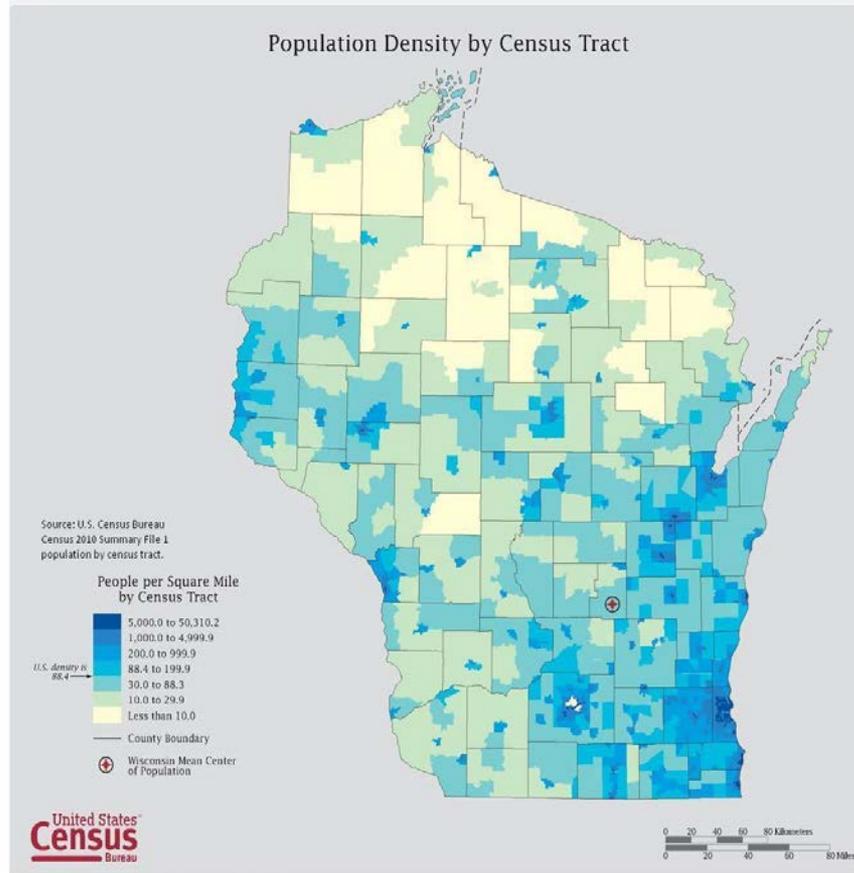


U.S. Census 2010

- Wisconsin population 5,686,986
 - 29.8% rural (1,697,348 residents)
 - 96.5% of Wisconsin's land area identified as rural

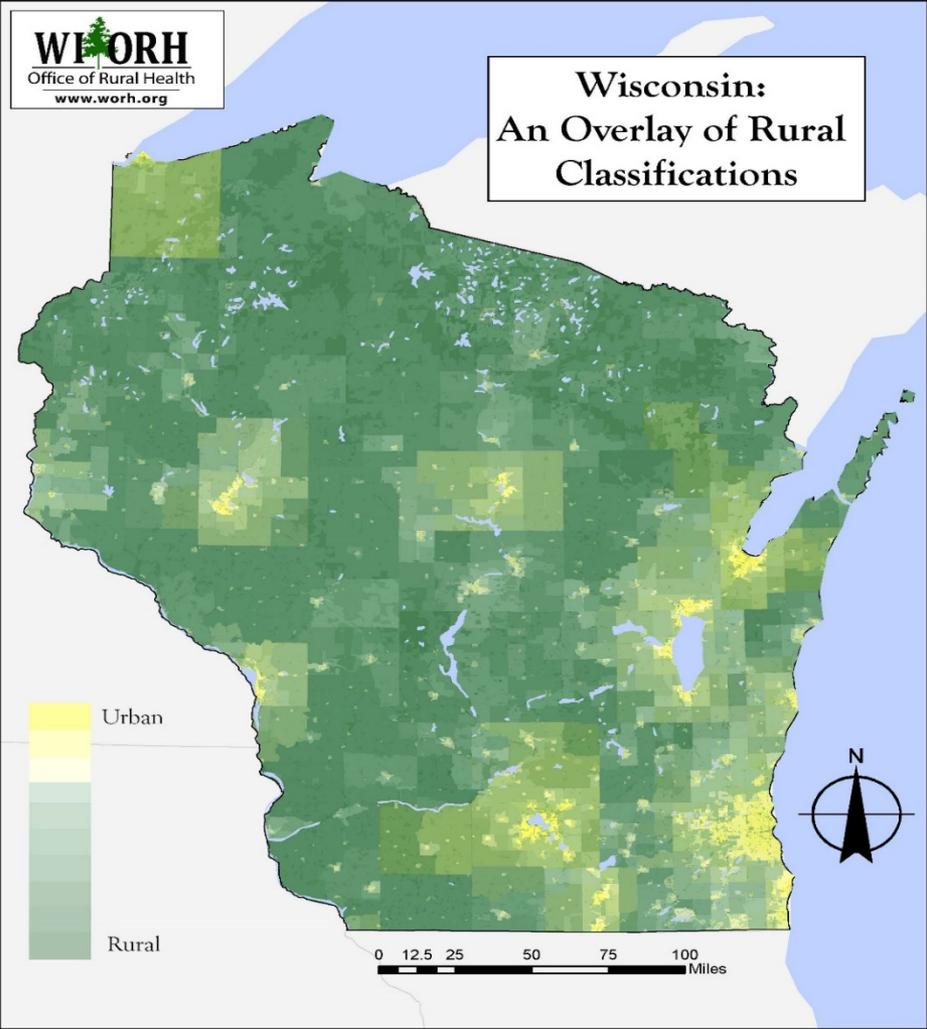


2010 Census: Wisconsin Profile



U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

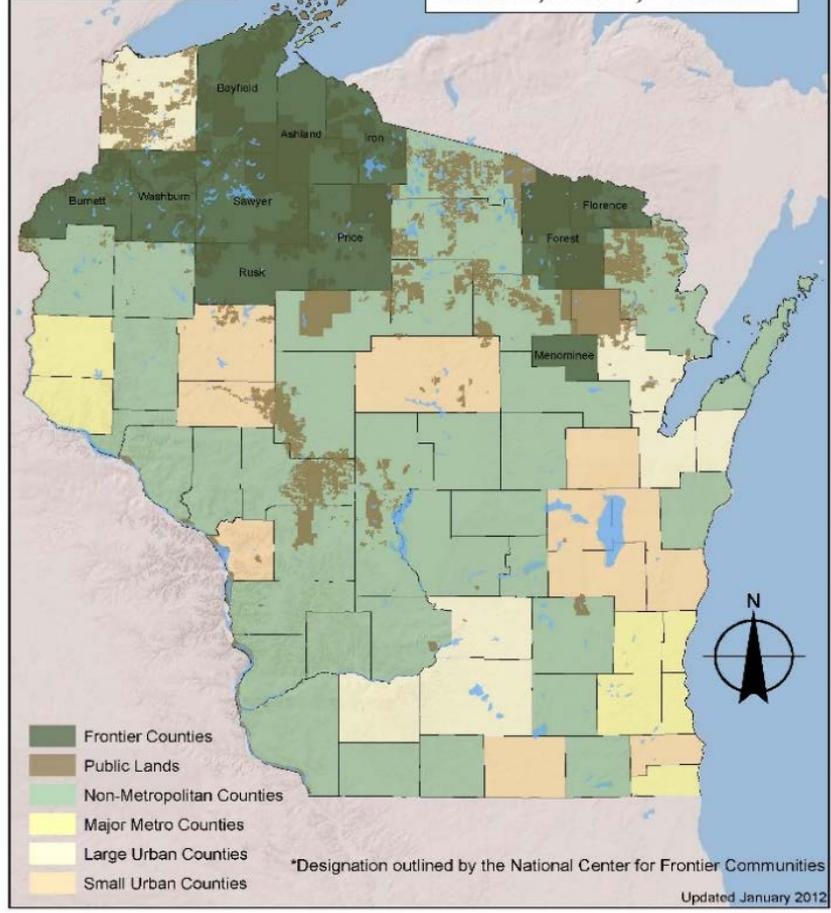


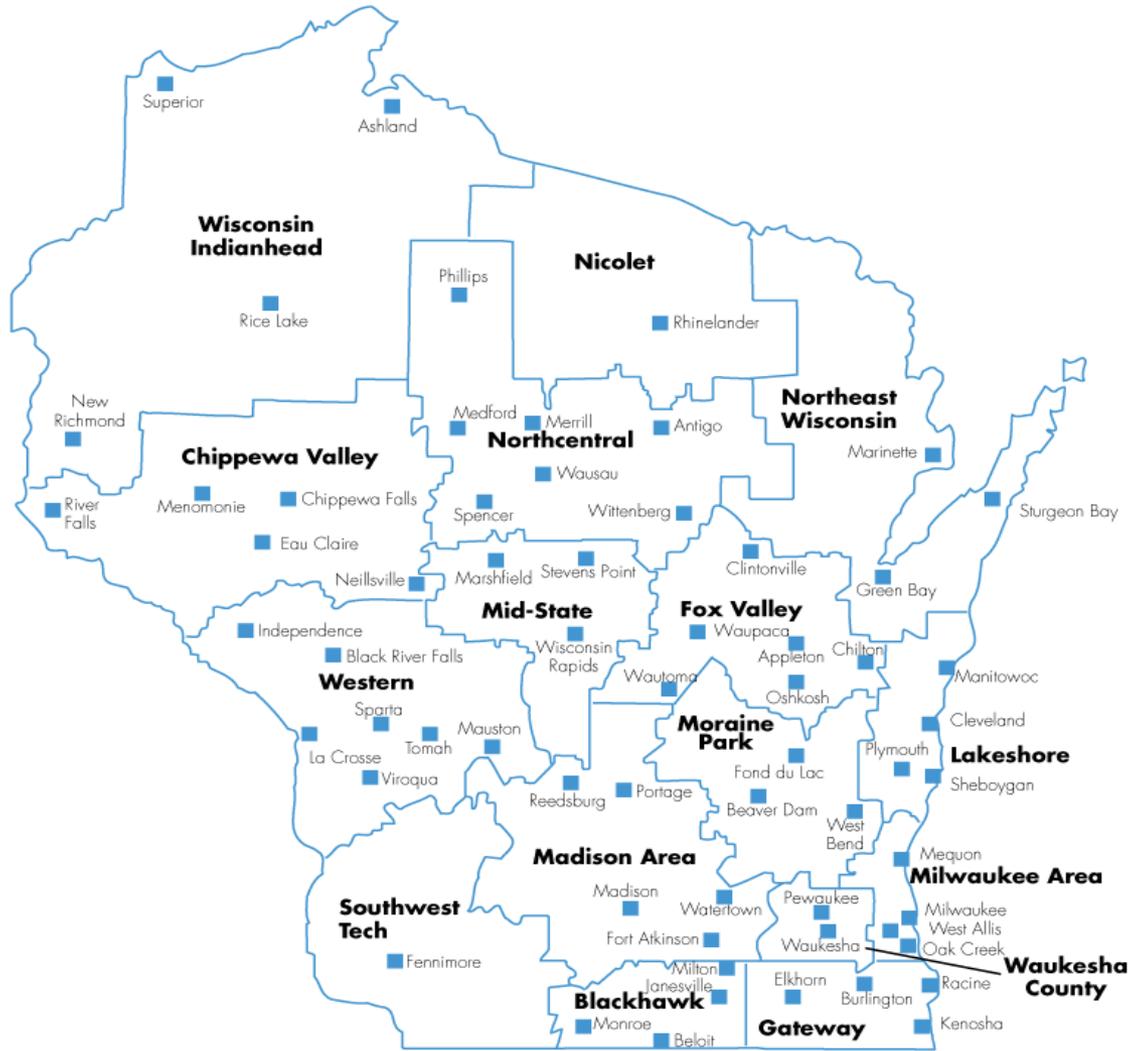


This maps was created by overlaying several semi-transparent rural classification schemes, along with a map of Wisconsin's housing density in 2000.



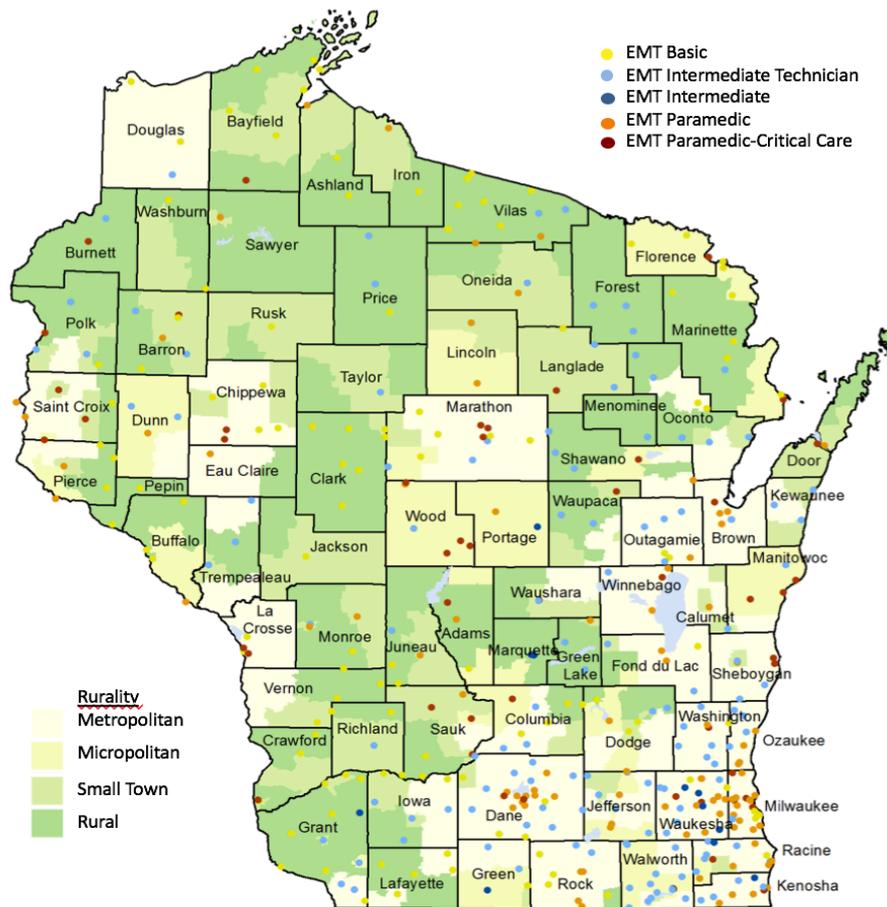
Wisconsin Counties:
Urban, Rural, Frontier*





Wisconsin Emergency Medical Service Providers

All Licensed Services - May 2015

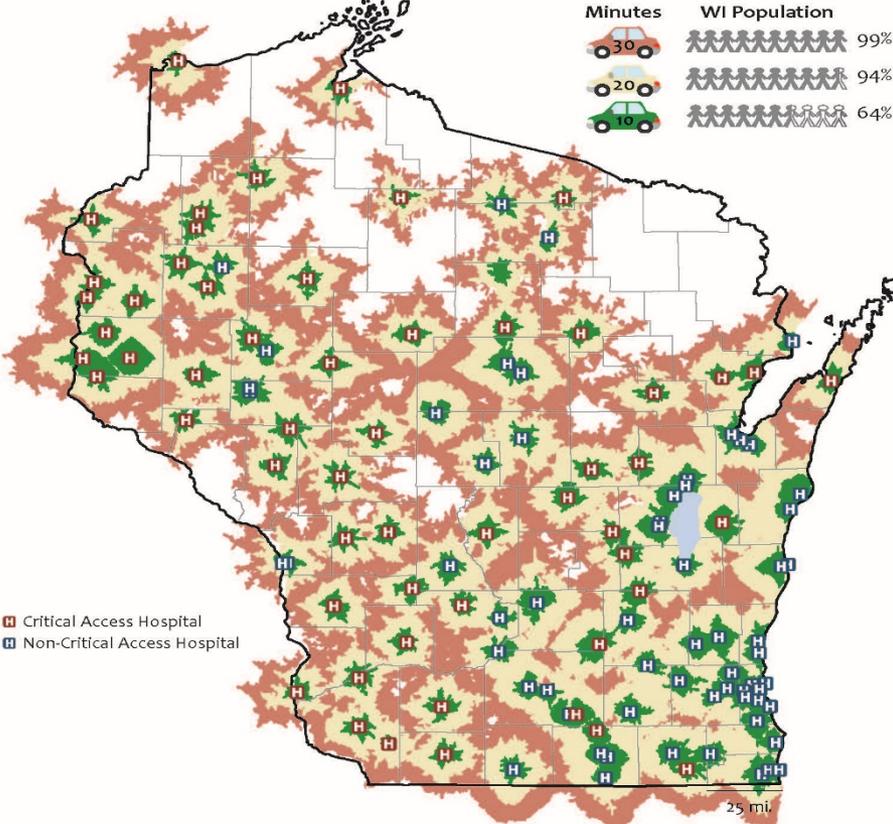


EMS provider locations: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems/index.htm>

Rurality: WWAMI Rural Health Research Center. Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes, 2010.
<http://depts.washington.edu/uwruca/>



Drive Time to Emergency Care in Wisconsin



Drive time analysis was conducted using ArcGIS Business Analyst, Navteq 2014 Quarter 3 routing data, and methodology recommended by the State Cartographer's Office. Hospital location data source: [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#). Population data source: Wisconsin Legislative Technology Services Bureau.



NHTSA EMS Workforce Assessment

- No quantitative data indicating a national shortage of EMTs or paramedics
- But interviews in the study consistently reported shortages in rural areas
- Data likely underestimates workforce demand, because labor statistics do not include volunteers

[NHTSA, *EMS Workforce for the 21st Century: A National Assessment* (2008).]

