



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Oregon Office of Rural Health



Introduction:

Several Oregon agencies collaborated to create and complete the 2004 statewide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) survey sent to all EMS agencies in the state. In 2006, the Oregon Office of Rural Health sent a similar survey to all Oregon licensed Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)*. The purpose of the EMT survey was to gather information from Oregon EMTs to:

- Understand what EMTs perceive as key workforce and education issues;
- Understand the basic demographics of the EMT workforce; and
- Determine recruitment and retention strategies for the EMT workforce.

* For the purpose of this study, First Responders are included in the definition of EMT.

Methodology:

A total of 9,032 EMS surveys were sent to Oregon licensed EMTs. A total of 1,813 responses were received. 1,788 complete surveys were used.

Conclusion:

Top 5 Reasons to become an EMT:

- Opportunity to help others
- Professional challenge
- Community need
- Interest in health care
- Satisfaction of being part of an organization

Top 5 factors impacting volunteer EMTs decision to continue:

- Too few calls to respond to
- Effort in not valued by agency
- Difficulty getting to work
- Lack of training opportunities
- Out of pocket expenses

Top 5 factors that provide EMT job satisfaction:

- Service to community
- Challenging work
- Being part of a team
- Respect in the community
- Job benefits

Top 5 factors impacting paid EMTs decision to continue working in EMS:

- Effort is not valued by agency
- Low pay/benefits
- Long working hours
- Too few calls to respond to
- Health and/or safety hazards

