Basics of Connecticut's EMS System

Benjamin Zura ben.zura@gmail.com

Director of Innovation & Strategy, Emergency Resource Management

Region 2 Representative, CT Association of Paramedics and EMTs

Connecticut Towns by EMS Region



Connecticut Towns by EMS Region

Region 1:

Bridgeport Darien Easton Fairfield Greenwich Monroe New Canaan Norwalk Stamford Stratford Trumbull Weston Westport Wilton

Region 2:

Ansonia Bethany Branford Cheshire Chester Clinton Deep River Derby Durham East Haven Essex Guilford Haddam Hamden Killingworth Madison Meriden Middlefield Milford New Haven North Branford North Haven Old Saybrook Orange Seymour Shelton Wallingford West Haven Westbrook Woodbridge



Region 3:

Andover Avon Berlin Bloomfield Bolton Bristol Burlington Canton Cromwell East Granby East Haddam East Hampton East Hartford East Windsor Ellington Enfield Farmington Glastonbury Granby Hartford Hebron Manchester Marlborough Middletown New Britain Newington Plainville Portland Rocky Hill Simsbury Somers South Windsor Southington Stafford Suffield Tolland Vernon West Hartford Wethersfield Windsor Windsor Locks

Region 4:

Ashford Bozrah Brooklyn Canterbury Chaplin Colchester Columbia Coventry East Lyme Eastford Franklin Griswold Groton Hampton Killingly Lebanon Ledvard Lisbon Lvme Mansfield Montville New London North Stonington Norwich Old Lyme Plainfield Pomfret Preston Putnam Salem Scotland Sprague Sterling Stonington Thompson Union Voluntown Waterford Willington Windham Woodstock

Region 5:

Barkhamsted **Beacon Falls** Bethel Bethlehem Bridgewater Brookfield Canaan Colebrook Cornwall Danbury Goshen Hartland Harwinton Kent Litchfield Middlebury Morris Naugatuck New Fairfield New Hartford New Milford Newtown Norfolk North Canaan Oxford Plymouth Prospect Redding Ridgefield Roxburv Salisbury Sharon Sherman Southbury Thomaston Torrington Warren Washington Waterbury Watertown Winchester Wolcott Woodbury

Connecticut 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)

As of June 2021



2020 911 Call Volume by PSAP



<u>Certified vs Licensed Ambulance Services in Connecticut</u>

Connecticut statute 19a-175 describes the major distinctions between Certified and Licensed ambulance services:

"Certified ambulance service" means a municipal, volunteer or nonprofit ambulance service issued a certificate by the commissioner.

"Licensed ambulance service" means a commercial ambulance service or a volunteer or municipal ambulance service issued a license by the commissioner.

Got that?? In practice, the only actual difference :

Licensed ambulance services can bill for nonemergency, interfacility transports. This is the main regulatory distinction between "commercial" ambulance services and every other type.

There are currently 19 ambulance services licensed by the state, and not all of them have assigned PSAs. **Certified** ambulance services can do non-emergency interfacility transports, but can't bill for them.

The vast majority of the state's ambulance services are certified.

Primary Service Areas (PSAs) in Connecticut

The concept of **Primary Service Areas (PSA)** was introduced in Connecticut in 1974. A PSA is a specific geographic area that is served exclusively by an emergency medical services (EMS) provider. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) designates this provider. Only the **Primary Service Area Responder (PSAR)** designated by the State may answer emergency calls in the specified geographic area.*

The designation of PSARs assigned statutory and regulatory responsibilities to individual providers. It also defined levels of accountability for the coordinated emergency medical response and patient care in specific geographic areas, thus promoting statewide stability.

2014 Final Report Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force

In theory, every square inch of Connecticut has one service responsible for providing each of the four levels of service:

First Responder (FR)

Basic Ambulance

Intermediate

Paramedic

In practice, there are gaps in the assignments. The Basic level is the most important because it requires an actual ambulance, and as you can see in the Basic Ambulance PSA coverage is essentially complete.

(Technically, the Intermediate level also requires an ambulance. But Connecticut currently has 43 people certified to operate at that level and DEEP has begun tagging them with tracking collars. As a PSA level, it is effectively extinct.)

*The PSA holder can also contract with another service to provide coverage of their designated PSA, such as when a municipality utilizes a commercial ambulance service. The Town still holds the PSA in that case, but the commercial service does the calls.

Percentage of Population Age 65 and over by Town



Percentage of Population Age 65 and over by Town









Equalized Net Grand List per Capita

The Equalized Net Grand List per Capita is the estimate of the market value of all taxable property in a municipality, divided by the population.

by Town and EMS Region - 2018

ENGLPC is a general indicator of a Town's ability to fund essential services. It is used by the state to determine the split of mandated, cost-shared services like education.

