



NECCOG

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

Ashford - Brooklyn - Canterbury - Chaplin - Eastford - Hampton - Killingly - Plainfield
Pomfret - Putnam - Scotland - Sterling - Thompson - Union - Voluntown - Woodstock

Results through Regionalism

September 2023 Regular Meeting

September 23, 2023

1. **Open Meeting** - Maureen Nicholson, NECCOG Chair

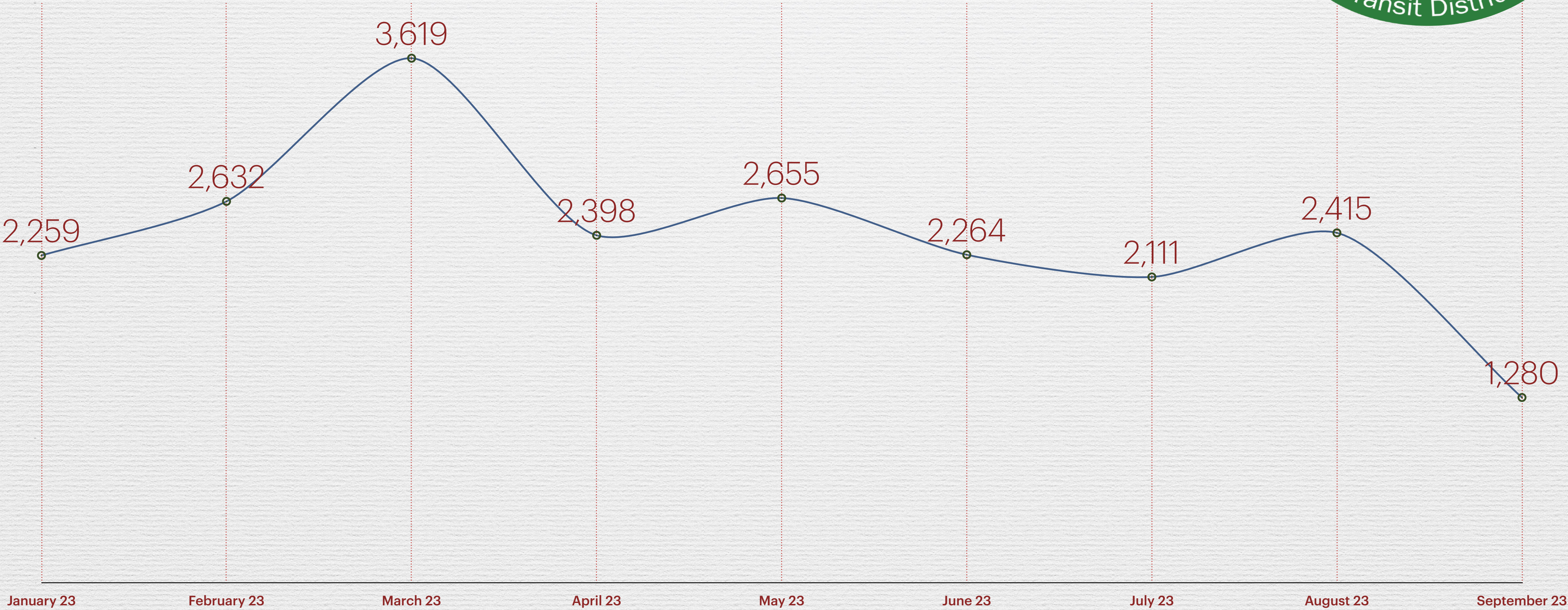
- Welcome
- Roll Call
- Previous Meeting Minutes
- Public Participation
- Other Agenda Items for Consideration (2/3 vote required)

2. **Director's Report** - John Filchak, Executive Director

- Transit Services
- Animal Services Program
- Paramedic Intercept program
- Environmental Depot
- Regional Revaluation Program
- Transportation Planning and Projects
- EDA Grant
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Housing
- Regional Election Advisor
- 2024 Legislative Session
- Staffing Update

Deviated—Fixed Route Ridership

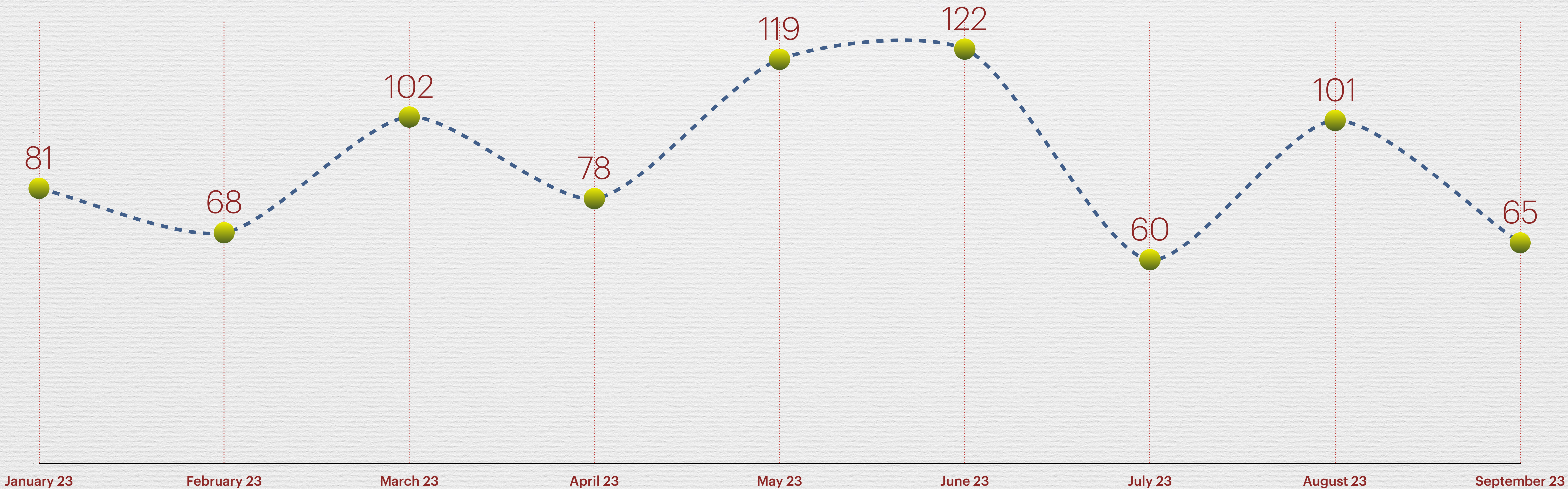
Serving Brooklyn, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam and Thompson



Elderly-Disabled Ridership

Serving Sterling, Plainfield, Canterbury, Hampton, Brooklyn, Killingly, Putnam, Pomfret, Eastford, Woodstock and Thompson

January - September



Animal Services Program



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1069

Public Act No. 23-17

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN DOMESTIC ANIMAL RELATED STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsections (e) to (h), inclusive, of section 22-329a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) If physical custody of an animal has not been taken pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and such officer has reasonable cause to believe that an animal is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or 53-252, such officer may file a petition with the superior court which has venue over such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford at Hartford, plainly stating such facts of neglect or cruel treatment as to bring the animal within the jurisdiction of the court and praying for appropriate action by the court to ensure the welfare of the animal, including, but not limited to, physical removal and temporary care and custody of the animal, an order to compel the owner of any such animal to provide care in a manner that the court determines is necessary, authorization of an animal control officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable, or a licensed veterinarian to provide care for the animal



Substitute House Bill No. 5575

Public Act No. 23-138

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REVISE MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTER REGULATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) Each municipal or regional dog pound shall provide mechanical heating and cooling systems of appropriate design and capacity to maintain an indoor ambient temperature of between fifty-five and eighty degrees Fahrenheit, unless other temperatures are medically required by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

(b) (1) In any municipal or regional dog pound, dogs shall not share the same primary enclosure, except dams or foster dams and their puppies.

(2) In any municipal or regional dog pound, primary enclosures shall be provided for each cat with space equal to or more than the space requirements for cats pursuant to 9 CFR 3.6(a) and 9 CFR 3.6(b), as amended from time to time.

(3) Whenever dogs or cats are kept in respective groups at any municipal or regional dog pound, the following shall apply:

(A) Females in heat shall not be kept with males;



Animal Services Program

PA 23-17

- **Allows ACOs, when an animal is found to be neglected or cruelly treated, to seek a court order to require the animal's owner to provide necessary care for the animal.** This is an option in addition to other court orders ACOs may already request by law (e.g., removal and temporary care and custody).
- **Increases the per diem rate** that the person must pay from \$15, or \$25 if the animal was a horse or other large livestock - to \$20 and \$30, respectively.
- **Act requires the animal's owner or other responsible person to pay for all veterinary costs** incurred for the welfare of the animal while in temporary custody. Under prior law, those costs had to be paid for if they were not otherwise covered by the per diem rate.
- **Annual Local Kennel License fee** - Requires that a municipality may only use the fees for: municipal ACO compensation and equipment, license certificates, tags, dog pound construction and maintenance, impounded animals' detention and care, animal supplies, and veterinary fees.
- The act allows an **animal subject to a quarantine or confinement order** whose owner or keeper does not comply with the order to be seized by an ACO and held in quarantine until it is over and the animal is examined by a veterinarian. The **owner or keeper who failed to comply with the order must pay all resulting costs**, including the costs of seizure, care, handling, veterinary examination, and rabies vaccination, before the animal is released to him or her.
- **ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM** - Requires the DoAg commissioner to **update** the veterinarian reimbursement payment levels under the program **biennially**

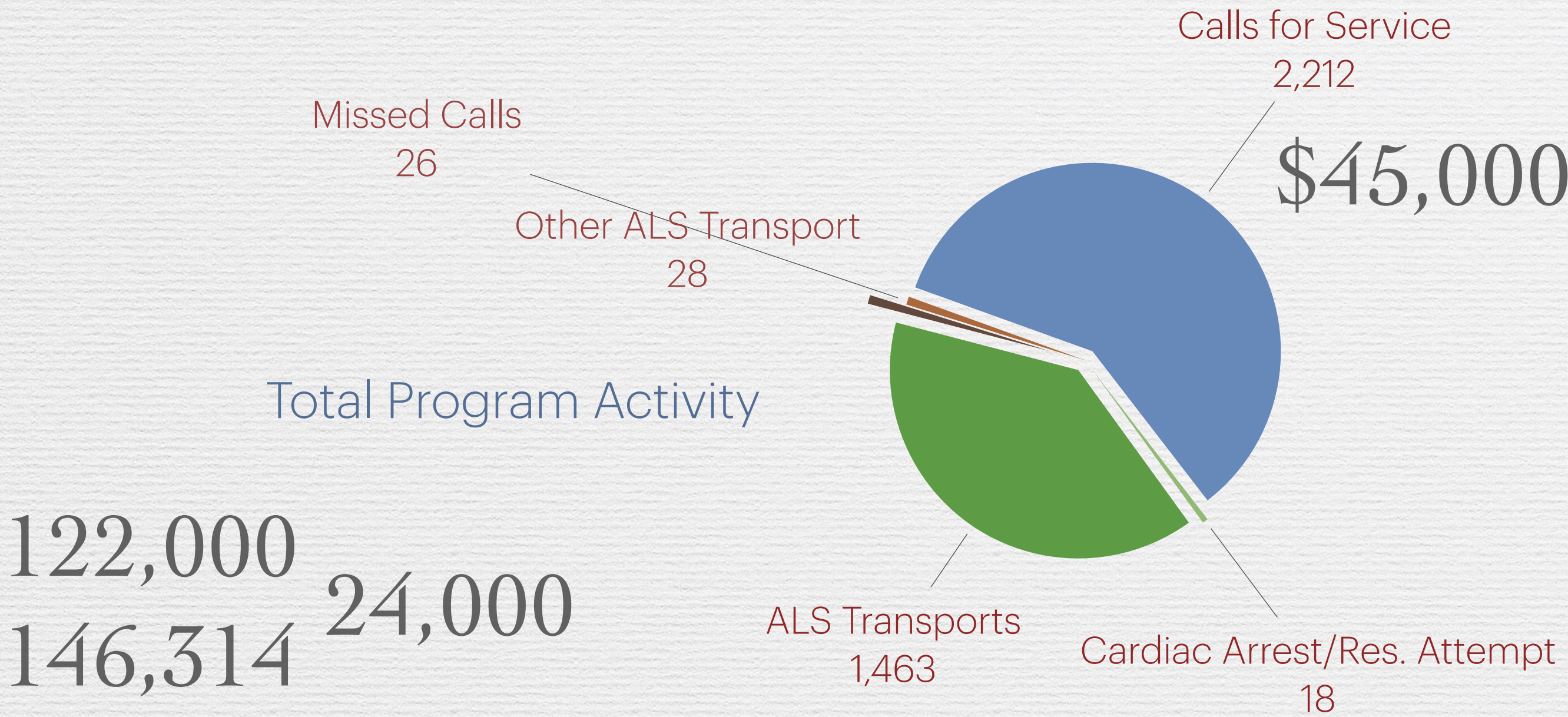
Animal Services Program

PA 23-138

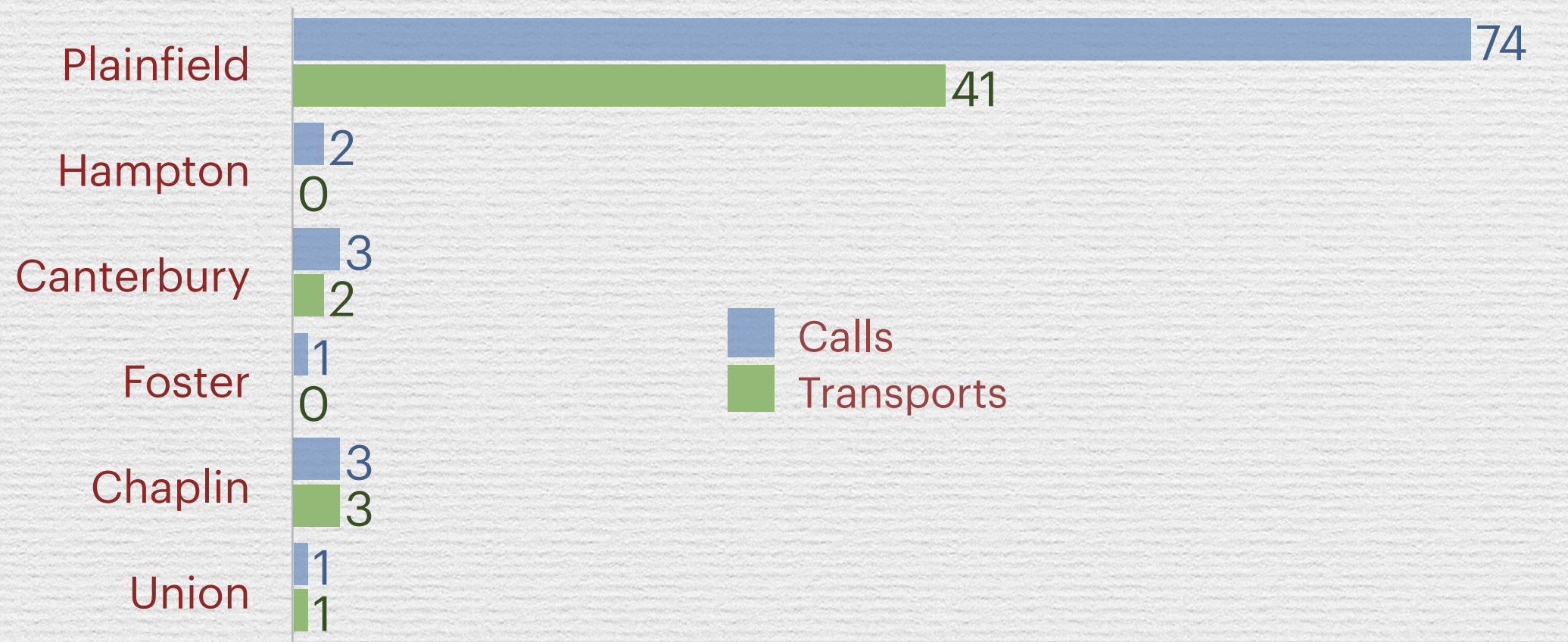
- **Requires** that municipal or regional **dog pounds have mechanical heating and cooling systems that can maintain an indoor ambient temperature of between 55 and 80 degrees** Fahrenheit, unless a state-licensed veterinarian requires other temperatures for medical reasons;
- **Requires that dogs cannot share the same primary enclosure**, except dams (i.e., mothers) or foster dams and their puppies;
- **Requires that primary enclosures must be provided for each cat** with space equal to or greater than federal regulations require (e.g., at least 24 inches high and at least three or four square feet, depending on the size of the cat);
- **Requires that females in heat cannot be kept with males;**
- **Requires that a dog or cat with a vicious or aggressive disposition must be kept separately;**
- **Requires** that until they are over four months old, **puppies or kittens cannot be kept with adult dogs or cats**, other than their dams or foster dams; and
- **Requires that a dog or cat that may have a contagious disease** must be (a) isolated from, and have no nose-to-nose contact with, healthy animals and (b) examined, treated, and handled as directed by a state-licensed veterinarian.

Regional Paramedic Intercept Program

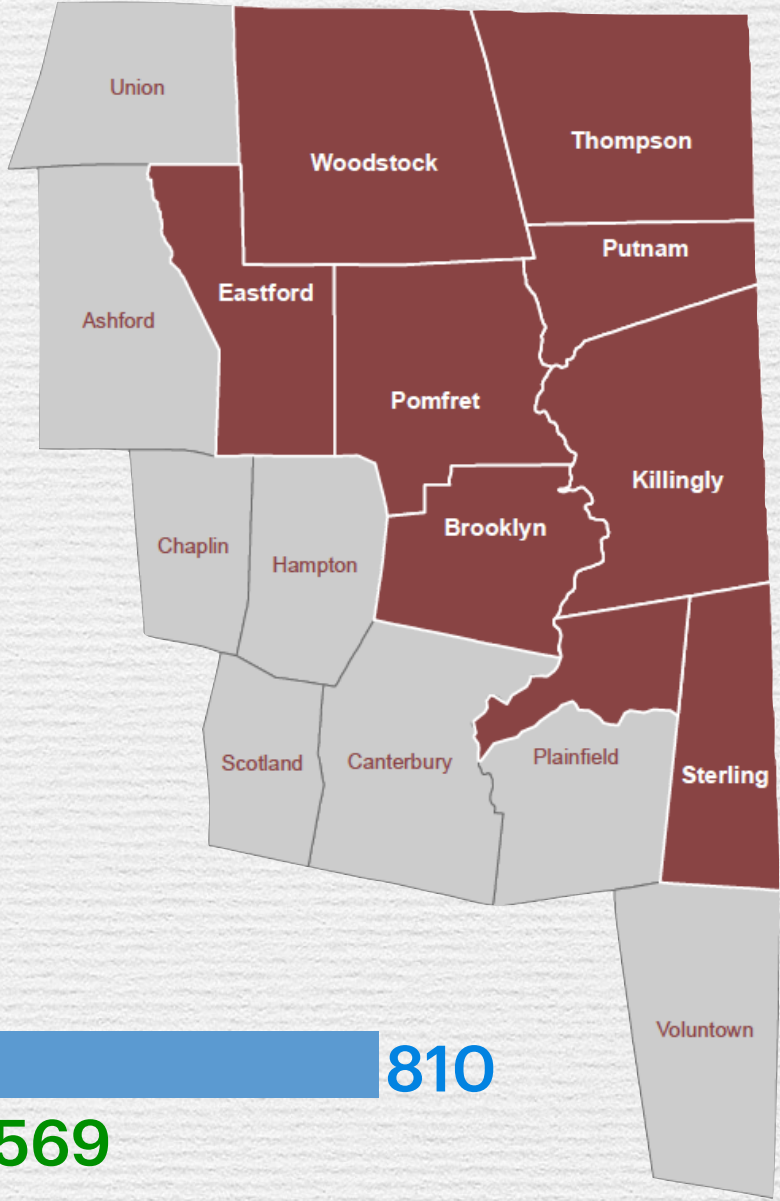
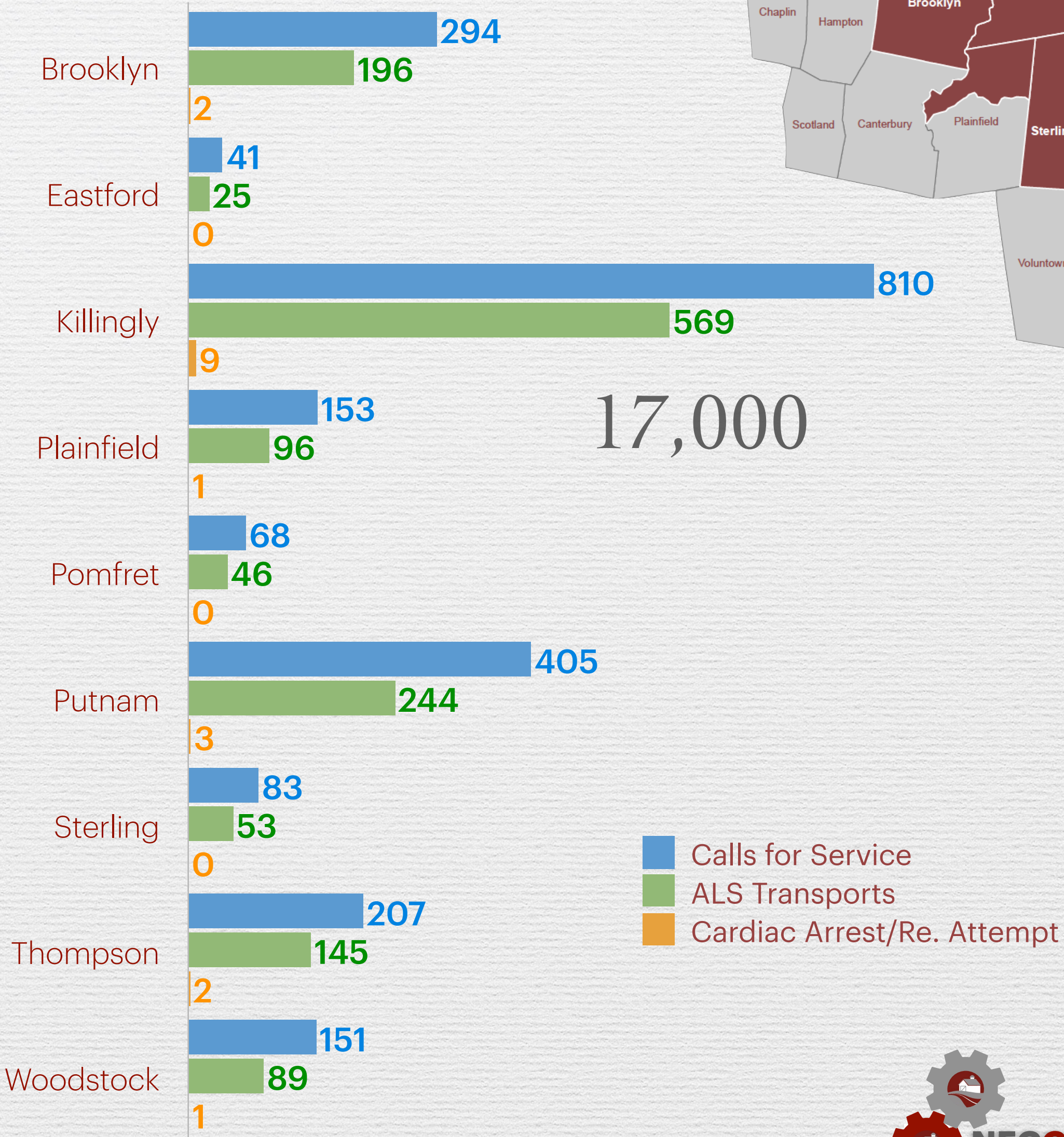
2023 Activity, January - July



Calls/Transports Outside NECCOG



Participating Town Activity



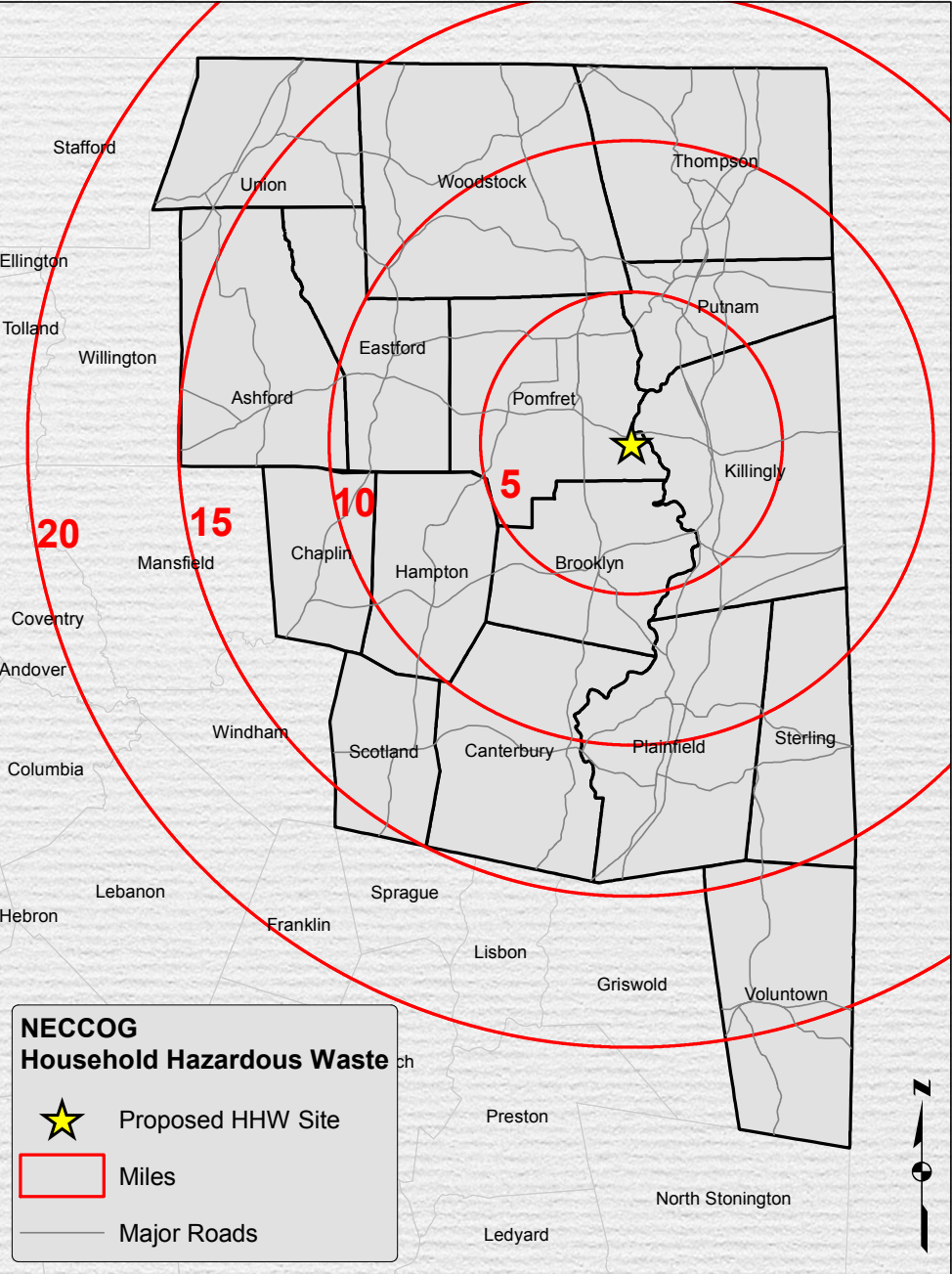
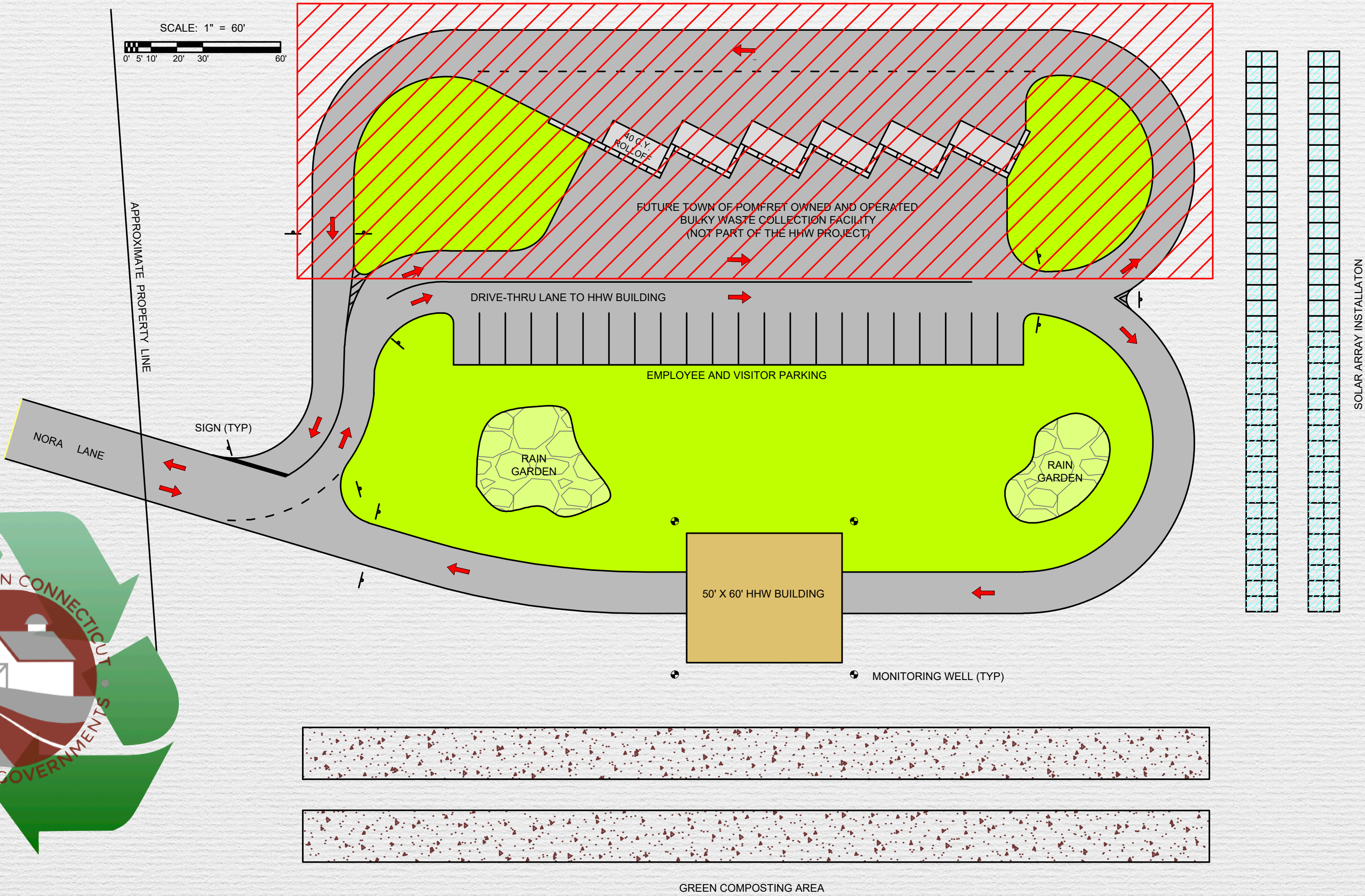


Getting close to 800 families foundations repaired
2,202 registered applicants in CFSIC

<https://crumblingfoundations.org/latest-news-september-18-2023/>

Sustainable Materials Management Regional Waste Authority (RWA) Grant Program

Environmental Depot



Transportation Planning and Projects

Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP)

CONNDOT expects to submit projects to the Commissioner by the end of this month

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Safe Streets for All Grant Status

In final stages of completing the agreement

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)

Projects with Commitment to fund

- **Putnam, Woodstock Ave/ Church St. Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements** - Project Completed and closed out
- **Putnam, Grove Street Sidewalk Replacement** - Total Cost \$ 1,894,716 - In process with estimated completion of this fall
- **Thompson, Riverside Dr./RT 12 Sidewalk Improvements** - Total Cost \$ 2,108,400 - Two cross walks remain to be est. completed end of October.
- **Plainfield, RT 647 Lathrop Rd. Pedestrian Safety Improvements** - Current Cost Estimate \$743,600 - Final Design to be completed this fall.
- **Putnam, School Street/RT 44 Sidewalk Reconstruction** - Current Cost Estimate \$1,418,601 - Final design submitted to NECCOG

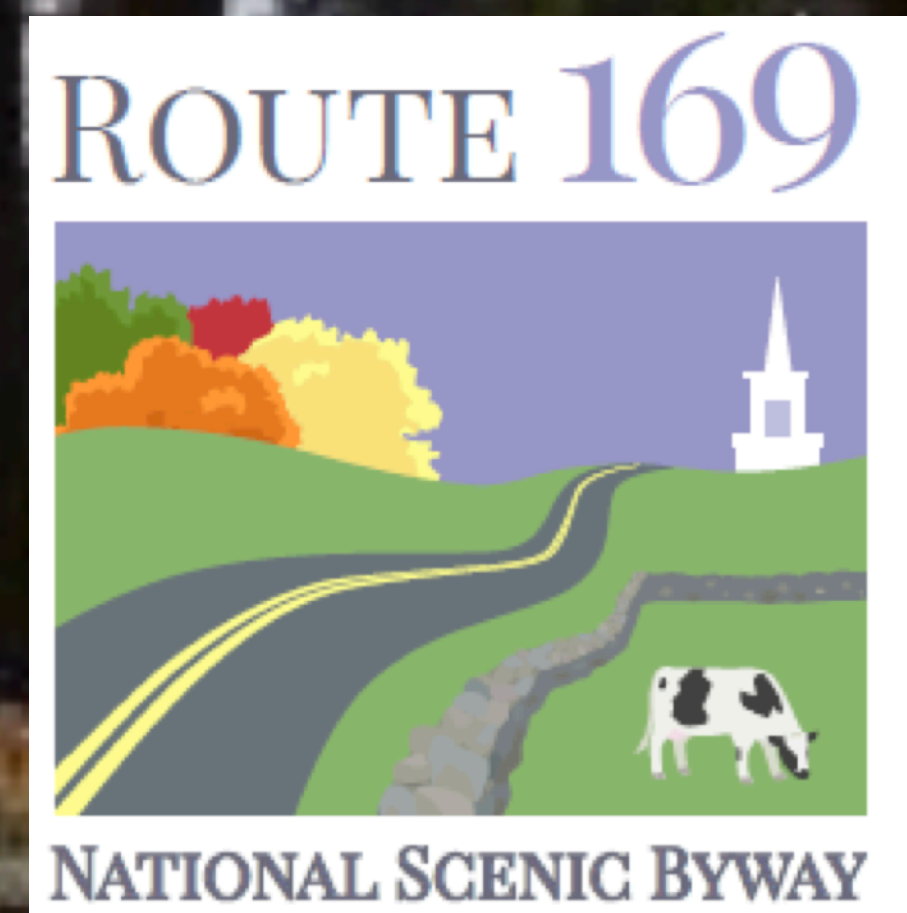
Balance of Program Funds \$996,845 - SFY 2024 LOTCIP allotment of \$ 812,000 has been requested

Current Total funds \$1,808,845

Application Submitted to NECCOG

- **Thompson, Main Street Reconstruction** - estimated cost \$3,05,560 (has also been submitted as a Community Investment Fund Project.





IIJA

The **state can now use ARPA money to cover match sharing** for state grants for surface transportation projects and community development projects. **Community development projects also qualify** which could be very broad but usually includes: **water, sewer, drainage, housing, ADA, historic preservation, community facilities, housing rehab, community facilities such as senior centers**

- **Great opportunity to cover local cost share and free up funds for other projects or holding down tax increases.** state/local bridge match, locip engineering, lotcip, bonus funds for Town aid for roads, community connectivity grants, bikeway and trails grants, Drainage, TRIP
- **Great opportunity to push CT to use funds for to push projects ahead and catch up on infrastructure needs**

CCM, COGs, and Cost should ask for a meeting with Governors office and Boughton to hammer out. State could ensure that priority project would get a real push, and funds will be spent in timely way.

Regional Revaluation Program

Section 7 of Public Act 22-74 sets up new revaluation zones based on the council of governments as well as new revaluation dates.

Brooklyn, Canterbury and **Pomfret** are being moved to 2024 from 2025 to accommodate the new law.

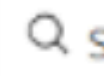


EDA/DECD COVID Recovery Plan



NECCOG CEDS Update

Search, Visualize, Download, Create

 Search...

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. Below you will find web applications and data related to the update.

Explore our Regional information and web applications.



Agriculture



Boundaries



Business



Community Safety

Key Facts

NECCOG

KEY FACTS

95,443

Population

44.1

Median Age

2.4

Average Household Size

\$80,595

Median Household Income

BUSINESS



3,333

Total Businesses



35,746

Total Employees

INCOME



\$80,595

Median Household Income



\$42,544

Per Capita Income



\$210,578

Median Net Worth

EDUCATION

8%

No High School Diploma



35%

High School Graduate



29%

Some College



28%

Bachelor's/Grad/Pr of Degree

EMPLOYMENT



58.4%

White Collar



26.5%

Blue Collar



15.1%

Services

4.5%

Unemployment Rate

2023 Households by income (Esri)

The largest group: \$100,000 - \$149,999 (20.2%)

The smallest group: \$35,000 - \$49,999 (6.2%)

Indicator ▲	Value	Diff	
<\$15,000	6.5%	-1.7%	
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7.3%	+1.0%	
\$25,000 - \$34,999	6.9%	+0.5%	
\$35,000 - \$49,999	6.2%	-2.6%	
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.4%	+4.2%	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	16.5%	+5.1%	
\$100,000 - \$149,999	20.2%	+1.9%	
\$150,000 - \$199,999	9.9%	-0.7%	
\$200,000+	8.0%	-7.7%	

Bars show deviation from

Connecticut

This infographic contains data provided by Esri, Esri-Data Axle. The vintage of the data is 2023, 2028.

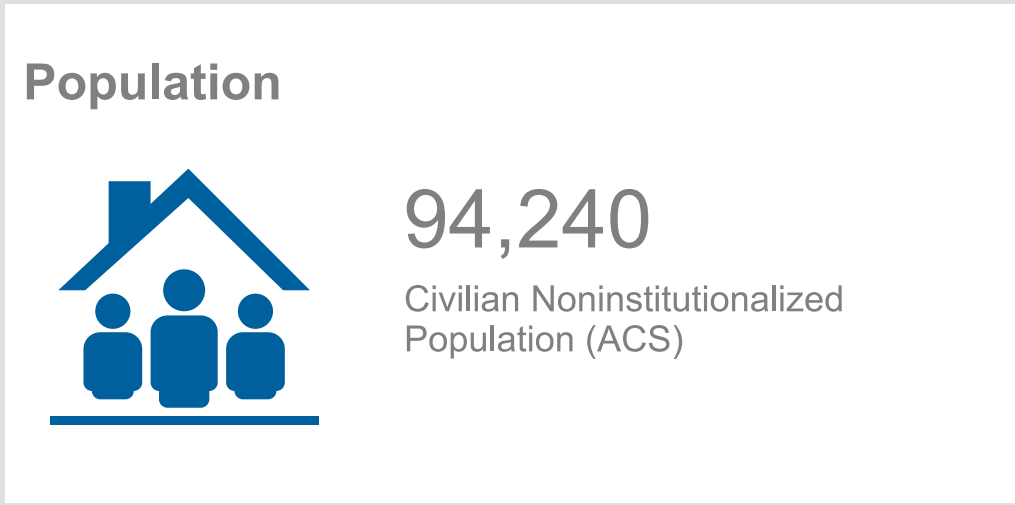
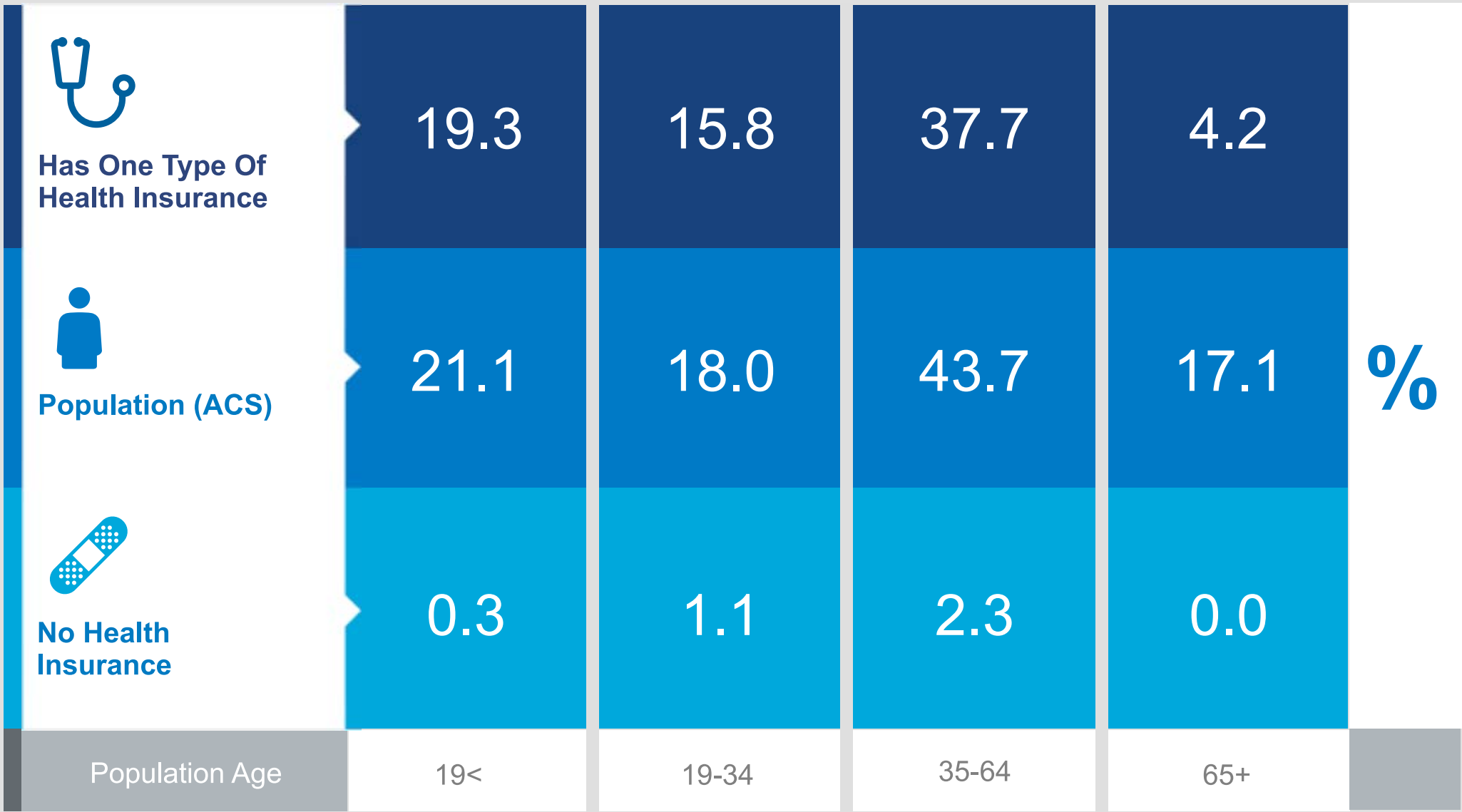
© 2023 Esri

Source: This infographic contains data provided by Esri, Esri-Data Axle. The vintage of the data is 2023, 2028.

Health Care & Insurance

NECCOG

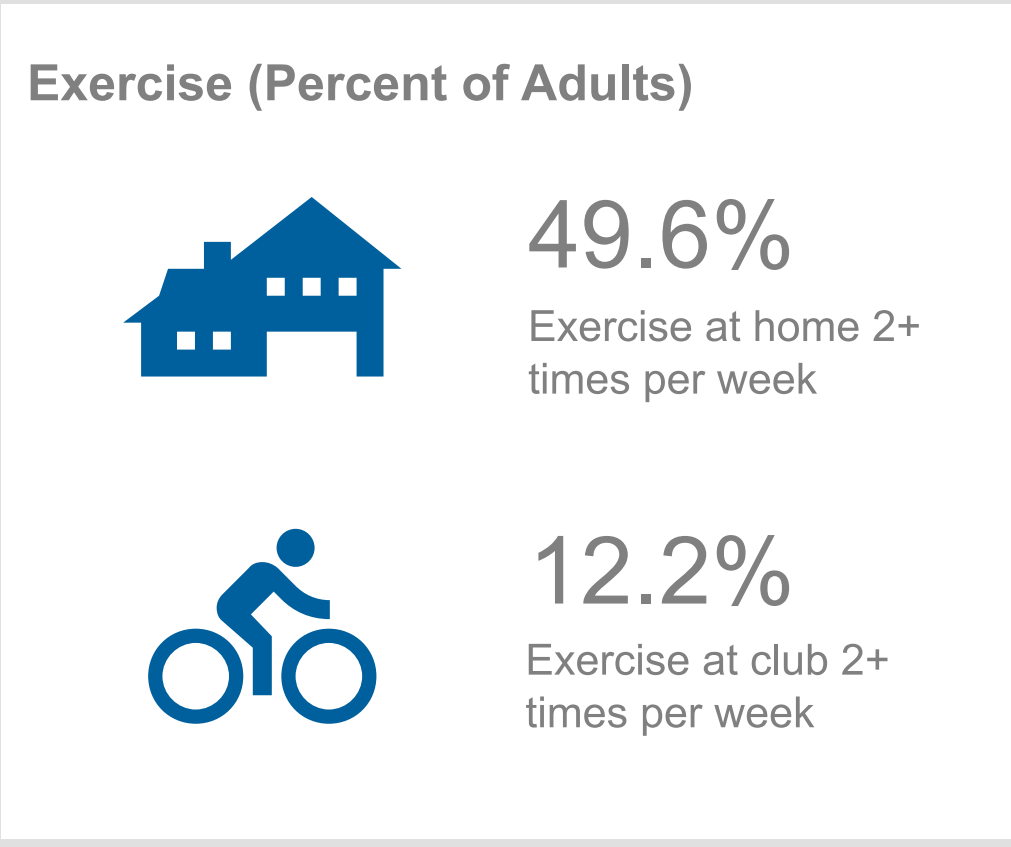
This infographic provides a set of key demographic and health care indicators. [Learn more about this data](#)



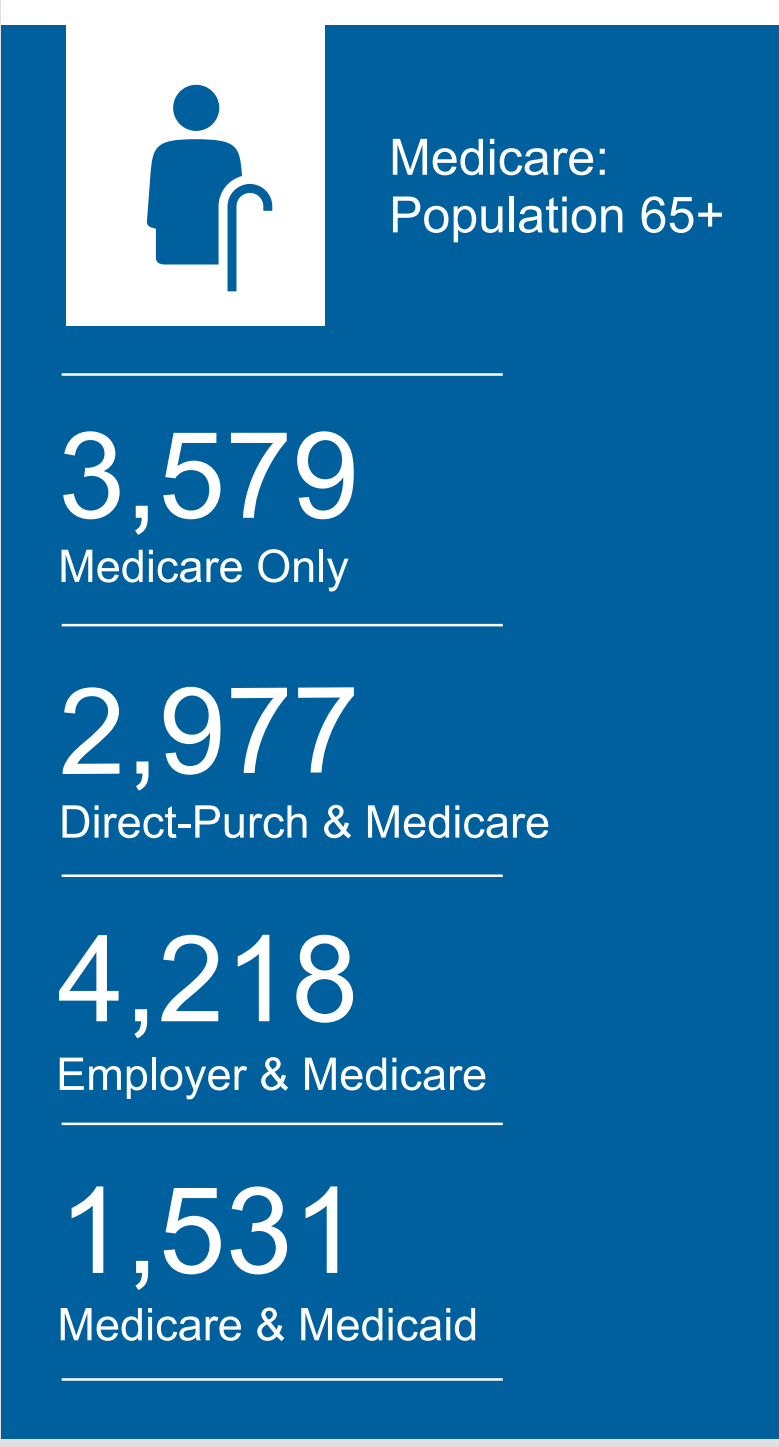
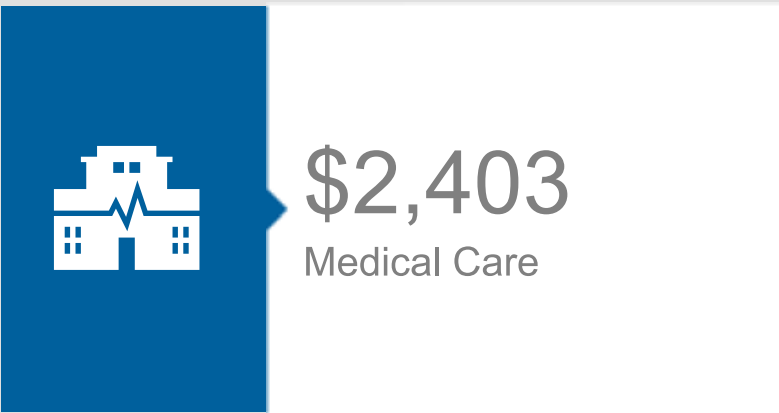
esri THE SCIENCE OF WHERE™

This infographic contains data provided by ACS, Esri-MRI-Simmons, Esri-U.S. BLS. The vintage of the data is 2017-2021, 2023.

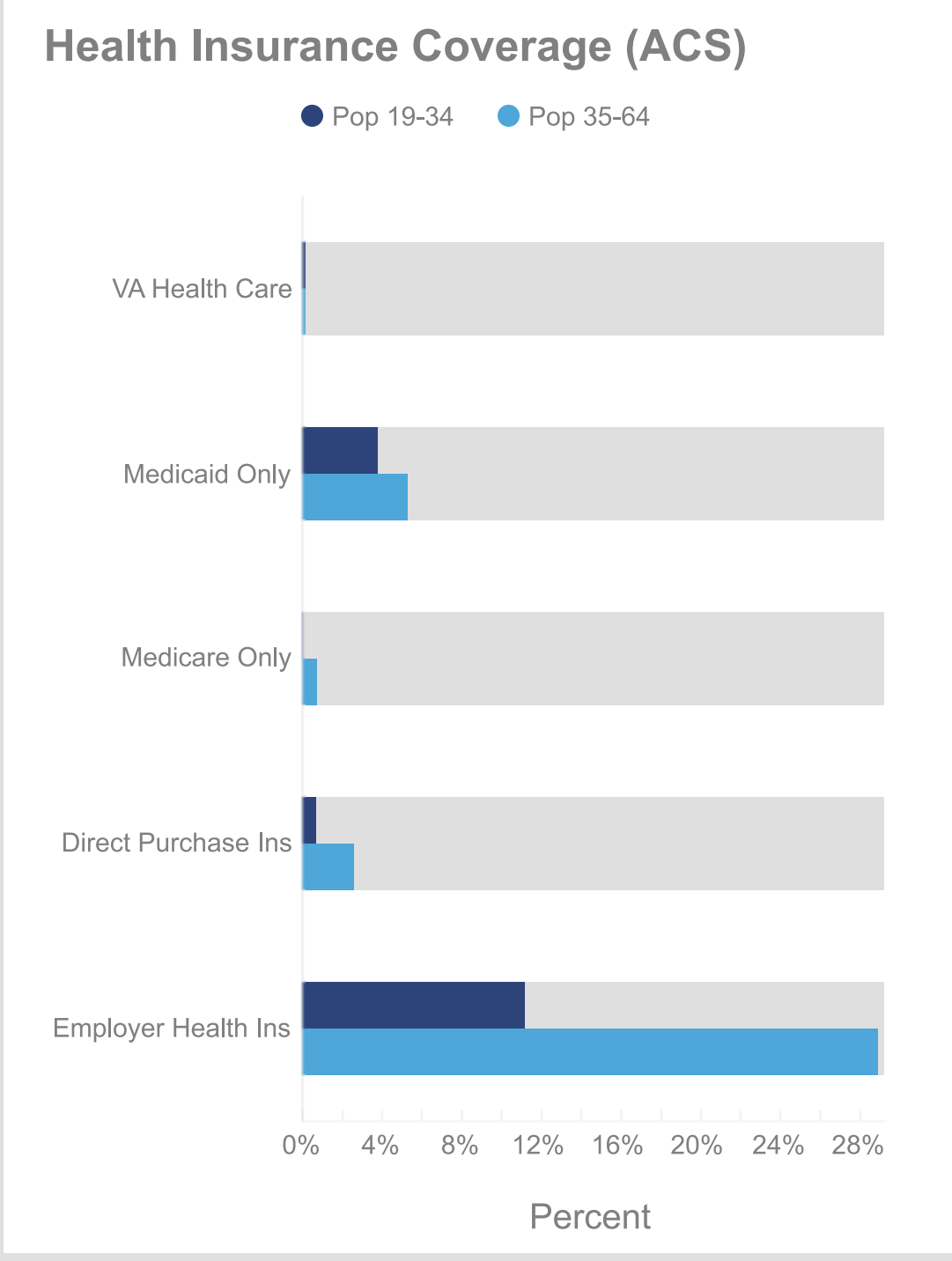
© 2023 Esri



Health Care Expenditure



Health Care (Consumer Spending)	Annual Expenditure
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	\$1,330.1
Medicare Payments	\$1,023.1
Physician Services	\$279.4
Dental Services	\$450.3
Eyecare Services	\$85.8
Lab Tests/X-rays	\$78.8
Hospital Room & Hospital Service	\$254.8
Convalescent/Nursing Home Care	\$32.7



COMMUTE PROFILE

NECCOG

This infographic provides information about how population age 16+ travels to work. This data comes from the American Community Survey (ACS) from the US Census Bureau. Read an in-depth analysis on the [ACS documentation page](#).

WORKERS



47,084

ACS Workers Age 16+



82.8%

Drove Alone to Work

TRANSPORTATION TO WORK



0.2%

Took Public Transportation



7.2%

Carpooled



0.9%

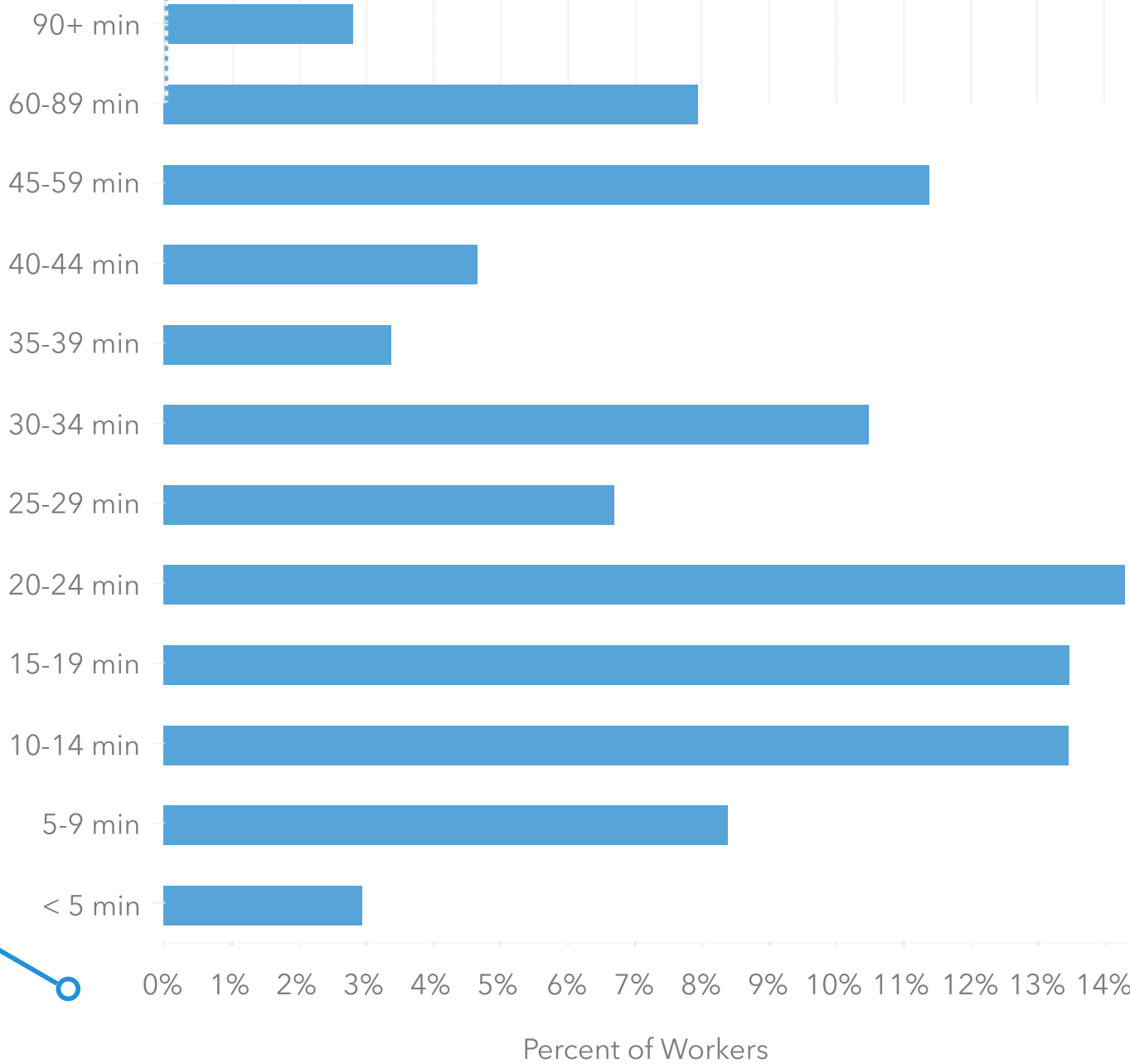
Walked to Work



0.1%

Bike to Work

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



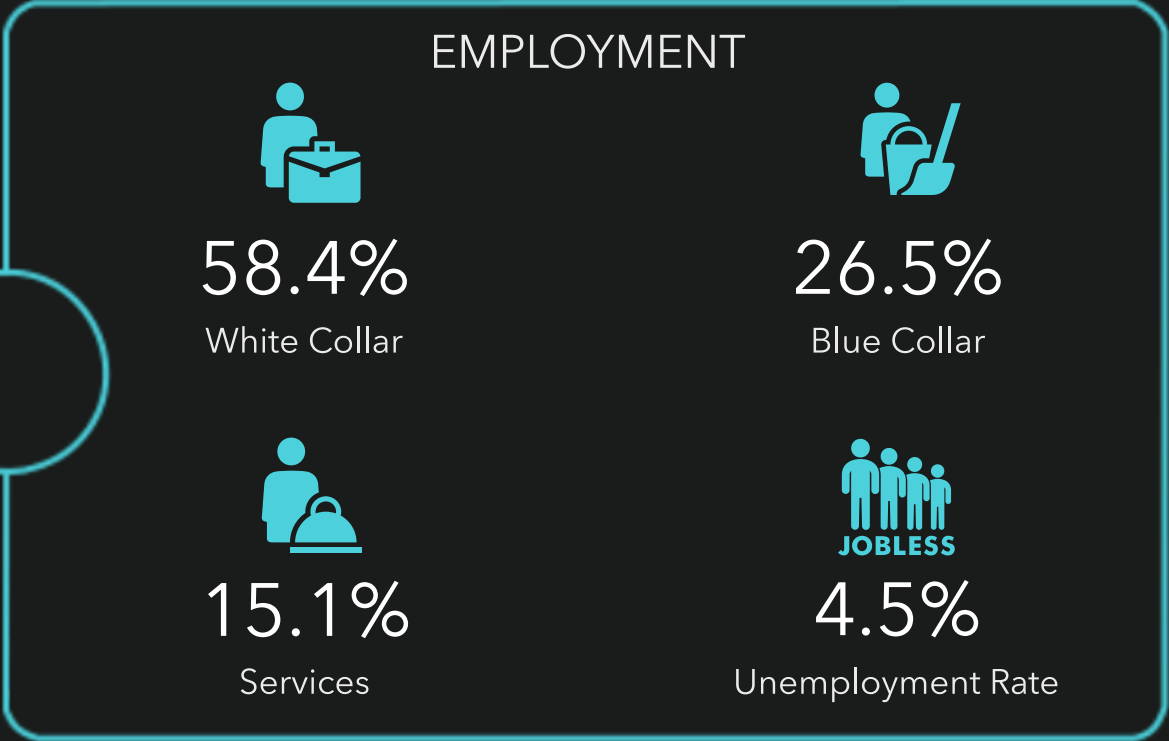
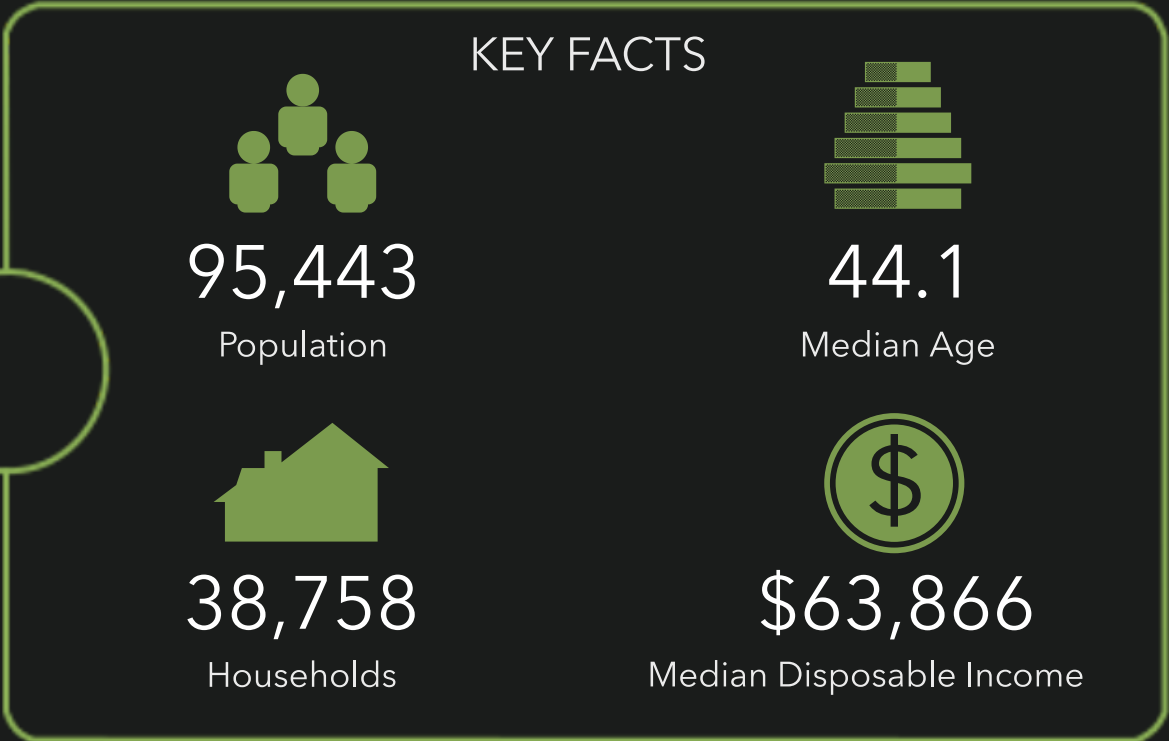
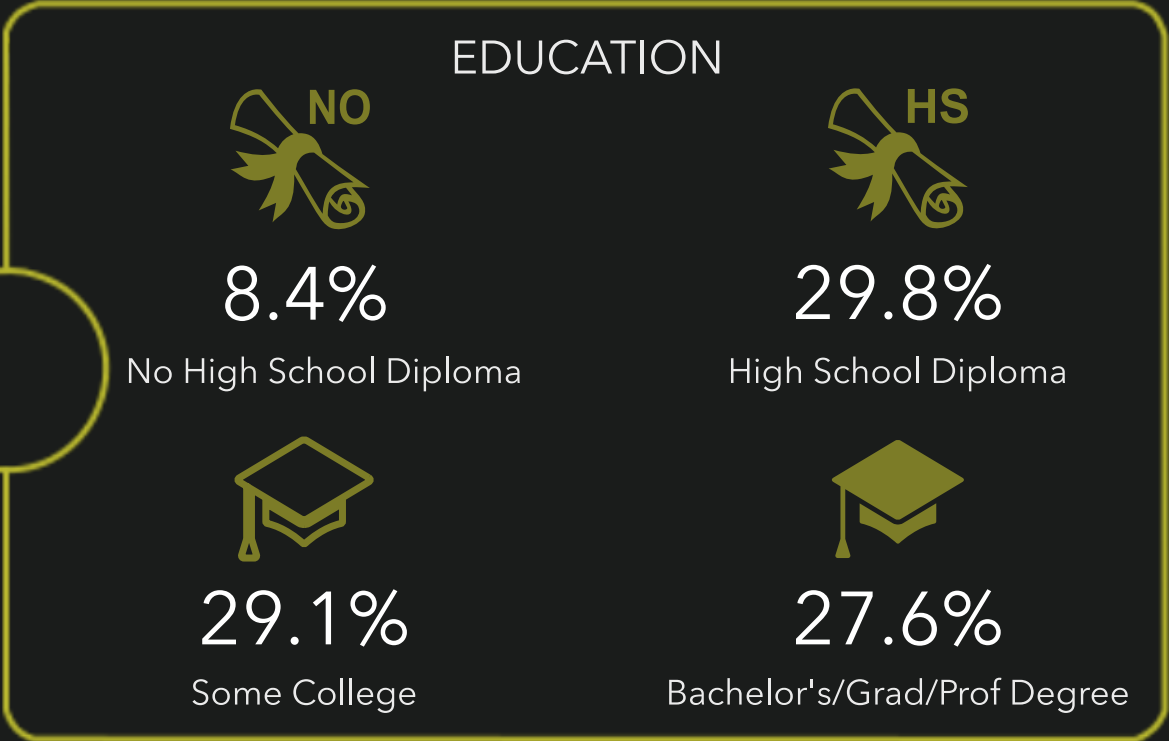
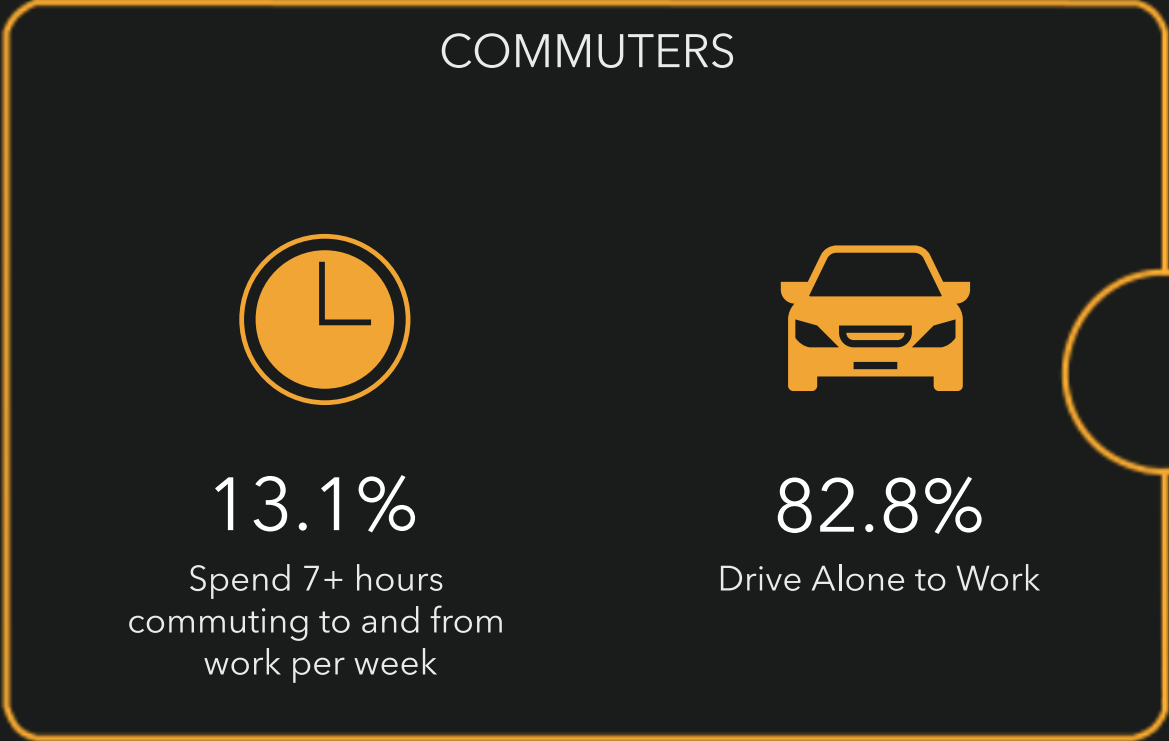
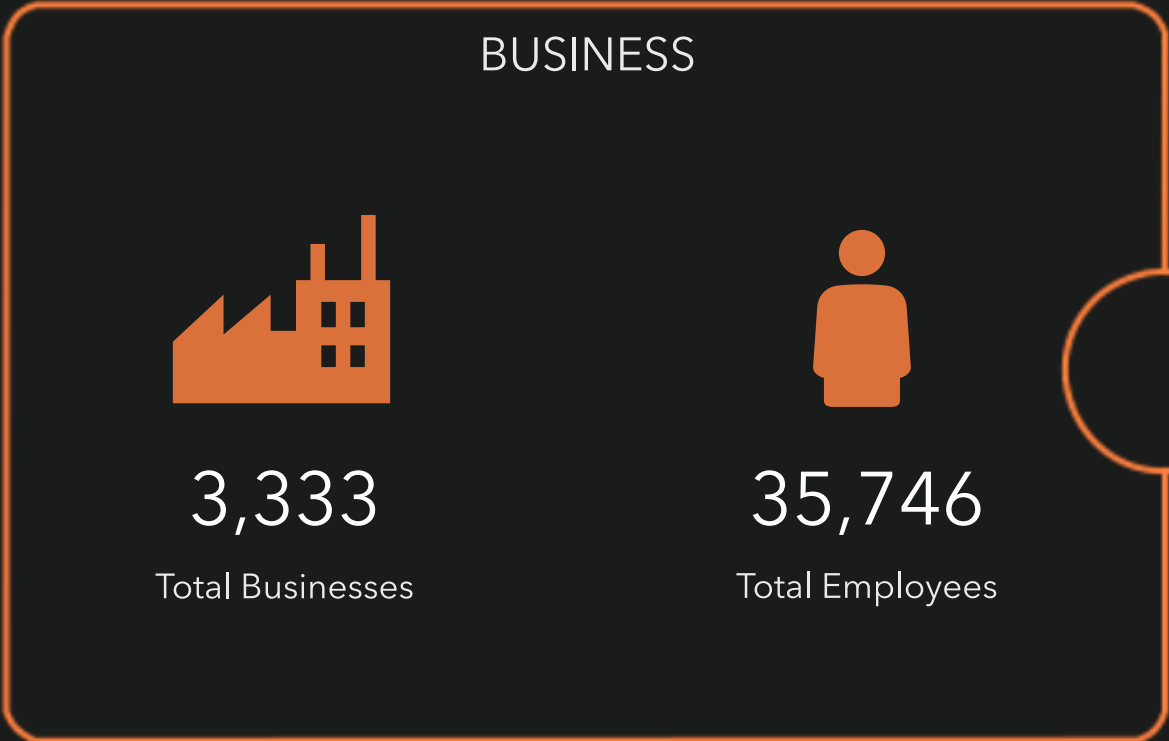
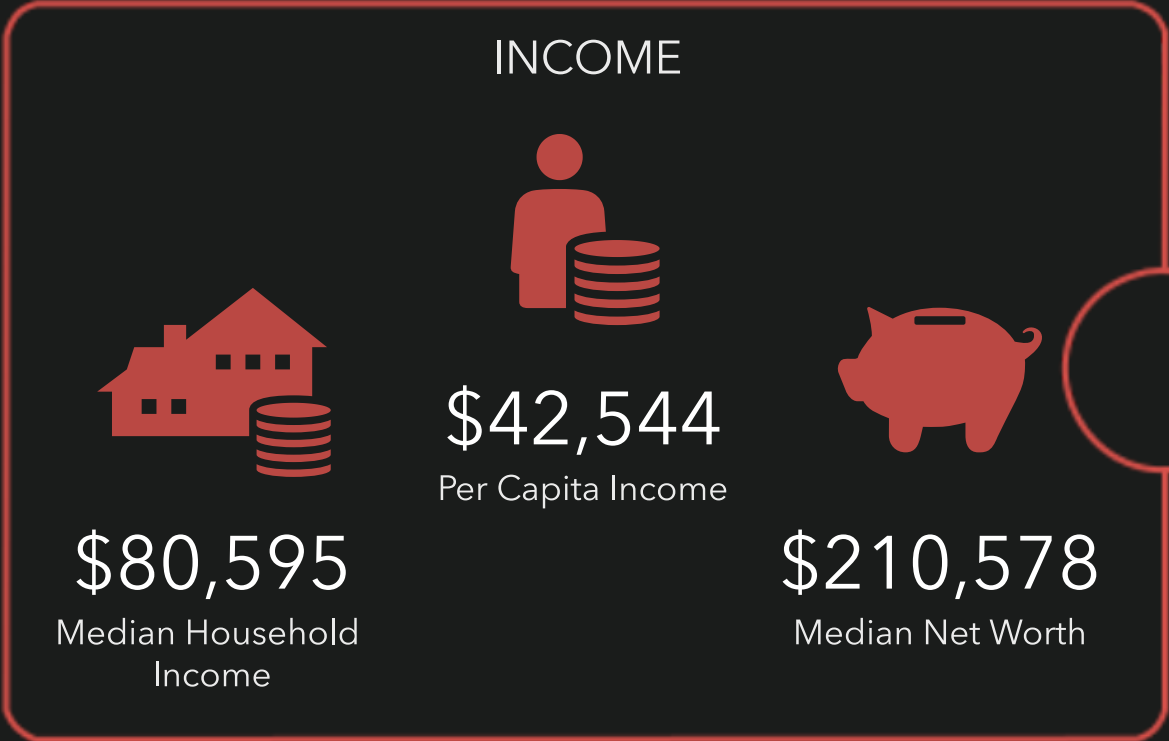
This infographic contains data provided by American Community Survey (ACS). The vintage of the data is 2017-2021.

© 2023 Esri

Source: This infographic contains data provided by ACS. The vintage of the data is 2017-2021.

Employment Overview

NECCOG

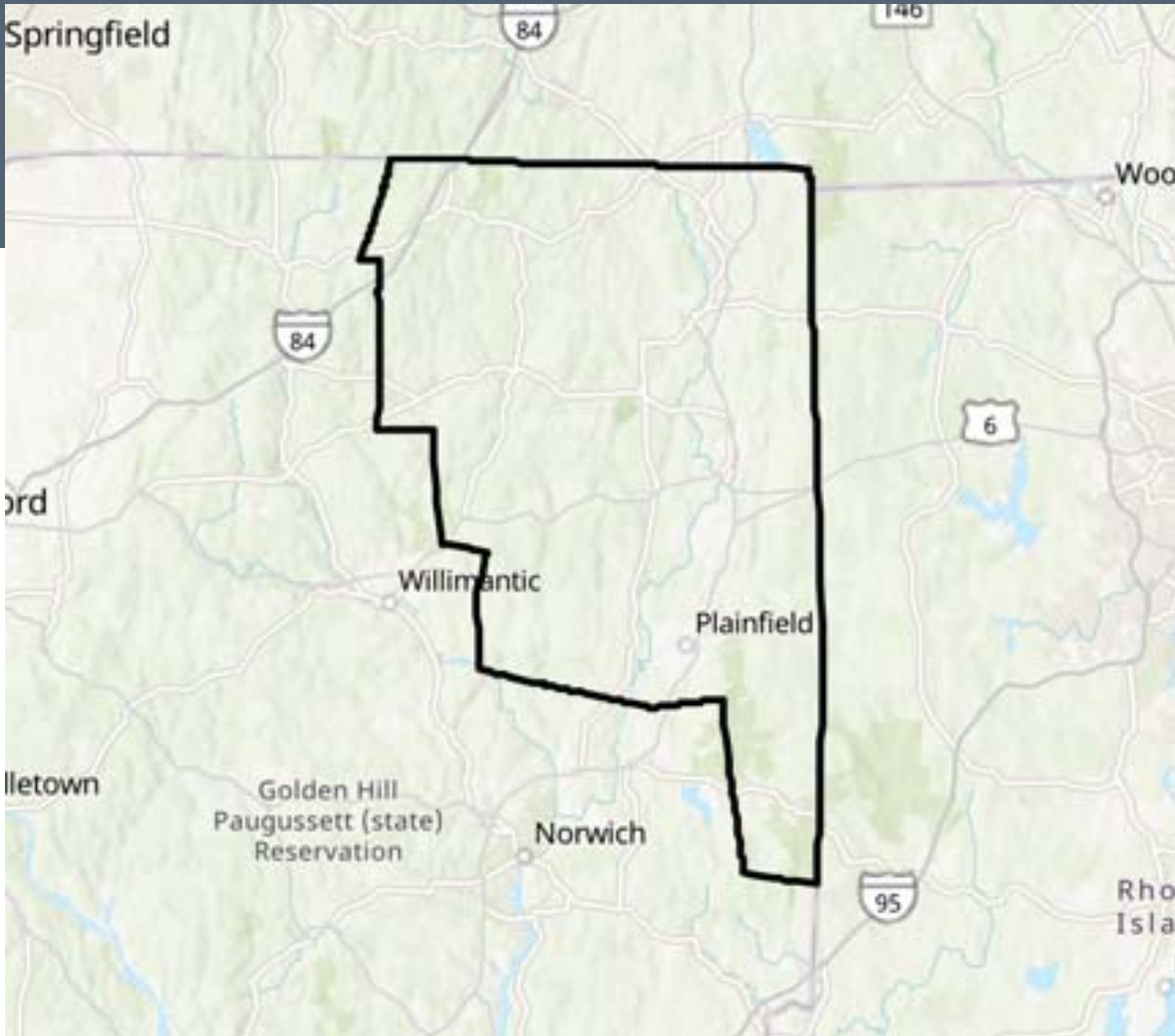



This infographic contains data provided by Esri, Esri-Data Axle, Esri-MRI-Simmons, ACS. The vintage of the data is 2023, 2028, 2017-2021.

© 2023 Esri

Source: This infographic contains data provided by Esri, Esri-Data Axle, Esri-MRI-Simmons, ACS. The vintage of the data is 2023, 2028, 2017-2021.







AT RISK POPULATION PROFILE

NECCOG

95,443

Population

38,758

Households

2.42

Avg Size
Household

44.1

Median
Age

\$80,595

Median
Household Income

\$286,649

Median
Home Value

98

Wealth
Index

102

Housing
Affordability

AT RISK POPULATION



10,122

Households With
Disability



18,454

Population 65+



1,925

Households
Without Vehicle

POVERTY AND LANGUAGE



8%

Households Below
the Poverty Level



3,051

Households Below
the Poverty Level



0

Pop 65+ Speak
Spanish & No English

POPULATION AND BUSINESSES



80,772

Daytime
Population



3,333

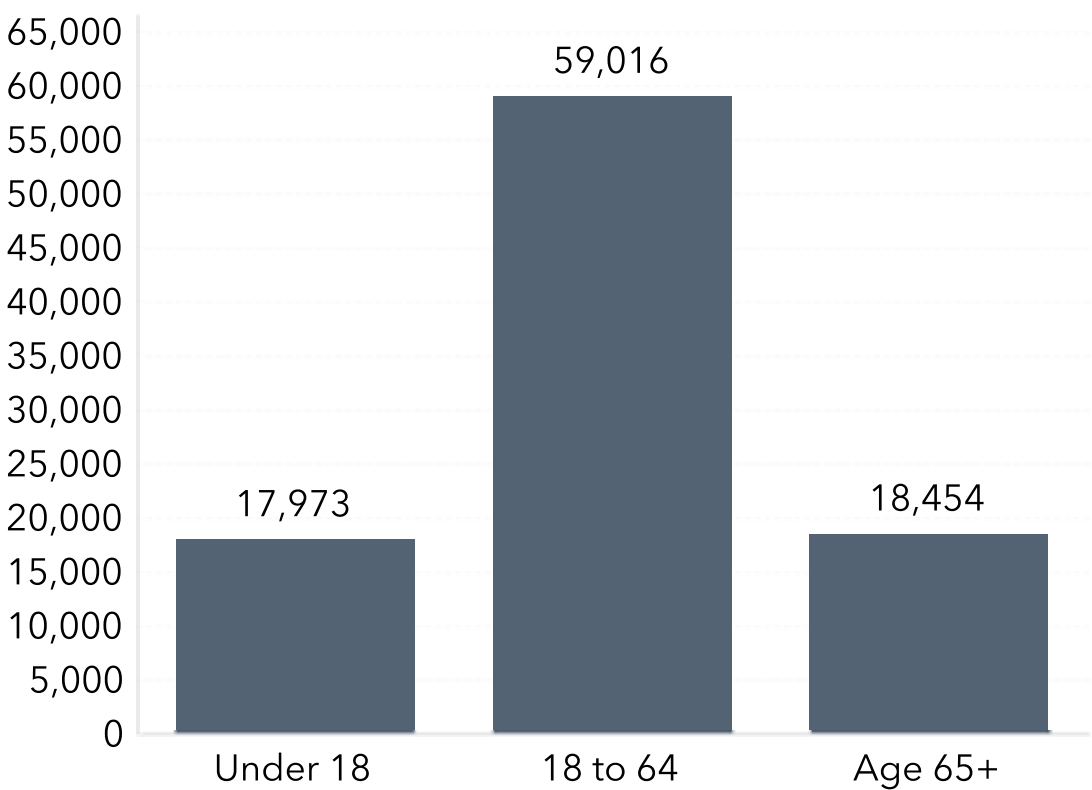
Total
Businesses



35,746

Total
Employees

POPULATION BY AGE



Language Spoken (ACS)	Age 5-17	18-64	Age 65+
English Only	13,639	55,714	15,998
Spanish	321	1,823	130
Spanish & English Well	279	1,410	103
Spanish & English Not Well	42	343	27
Spanish & No English	0	70	0
Indo-European	137	1,404	429
Indo-European & English Well	137	1,331	408
Indo-European & English Not Well	0	26	2
Indo-European & No English	0	47	19
Asian-Pacific Island	88	601	70
Asian-Pacific Isl & English Well	88	436	39
Asian-Pacific Isl & English Not Well	0	112	31
Asian-Pacific Isl & No English	0	53	0
Other Language	13	174	64
Other Language & English Well	13	174	64
Other Language & English Not Well	0	0	0
Other Language & No English	0	0	0

Source: Esri, ACS, Esri-Data Axle. Esri forecasts for 2023, 2028, 2017-2021.

MassGIS, UConn/CTDEEP, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan



Public Act 23-205, Sections 166, 167, 168, 169 & 170

- **Regional Election Advisor**
- **Task force to study means of ensuring that election administration in each municipality is fully staffed by personnel properly trained in all tasks necessary for effective election administration.**
 - An **examination of functions, activities or services related to election administration, which are currently performed by individual municipalities, that may be performed more efficiently on a shared or regional basis;**
 - An **examination of functions, activities or services related to election administration, which are currently performed by municipal election officials,** that may be performed in a more efficient, higher quality, more cost-effective or more responsive manner by regional councils of governments;
 - A **review of training available to municipal election officials;** and
 - An **analysis of and recommendations for any other initiative, which shall be offered to municipalities on a voluntary basis, that may facilitate effective election administration** in a more efficient, higher quality, more cost-effective or more responsive manner.

Public Act No. 23-207

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND ADDRESSING
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTS IN THE STATE

§ 18 — FAIR SHARE HOUSING ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

Requires OPM, by December 1, 2024, to establish a **methodology** meeting certain requirements for each municipality's fair share allocation by (1) **assessing the affordable housing need** in each of the state's planning regions and (2) **fairly allocating a portion of this need to each of the region's municipalities**; requires each chamber of the General Assembly to approve the methodology

Affordable Housing Roundtable Group

1. **Existing affordable housing policies, programs, and initiatives** in the state;
2. The **possibility of converting state properties into affordable housing** developments;
3. **Successful models and best practices** from other states or regions to inform potential policy recommendations;
4. The **possibility of converting commercial properties** (e.g., hotels, malls, and office buildings) into residential buildings; and
5. **Any other topics related to promoting and developing affordable housing** in the state.

3. Discussion and Actions

A. **Regional Referrals**, made In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-3b:

- I. **Town of Killingly - Zone TEXT Change Application** - (1) Zone TEXT Change Application #23-1315 - Town of Killingly, Zone TEXT Change to add more definitions of uses etc. to the Town of Killingly Zoning Regulations, Article III Definitions, Section 310.
- III. **Town of Killingly - Zone - TEXT & MAP Change Application** - #23-1310- Town of Killingly, RE: National Flood Insurance Program; a) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Maps; b) T.O.K. Zoning Regulations, Section 440, Flood Hazard Districts; c) T.O.K. Subdivision Regulations, Article IV, Section 20 Floodplains.
- V. **Town of Killingly - Zone TEXT & MAP Change Application** #23-1311- Borough of Danielson, RE: National Flood Insurance Program, a) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Maps; b) Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations, Section 1, Flood Damage Prevention Regulations; and Section 460, Flood Hazard District.
- VI. Town of Killingly - Zone TEXT & Change Appl #23-1300- Town of Killingly, Zone Text Change to complete update and revision of Section 436. Business park District to include a proposed use table.
- VII. **Town of Killingly** - Zone TEXT & Change Appl #23-1320- Town of Killingly, Zone Text Change that would allow a redemption center as an allowed (permitted) use in the Borough of Danielson's Central Business District.
- VIII. Town of Killingly - Zone TEXT & Change Appl #23-1321- Town of Killingly, 543 Wauregan Rd, GIS Map 262: LOT20:2.1 acres: LI- request to change zone district from Light Industrial back to General Commercial.
- IX. Town of Plainfield - Zone TEXT & Change Appl #23.IZS- Town of Plainfield, Zone Text amendment to delete Section 12.21 Municipal Uses and new Section 15.9 Municipal Uses.
- X. VIII. Town of Chaplin- Zone PLanning & Zoning, Town of Chaplin, revision to section 5.3 of Zoning and Regulations.
- XI. IX. Town of Brooklyn - Zone TEXT & MAP Appl #ZRC 23005/ZC 23-002/SRC 23-001 — Town of Brooklyn, Zone and Map Update, Floodplain Overlay, Subdivision Regulation update (FEMA/NFIP).

C. RPIP Initiatives

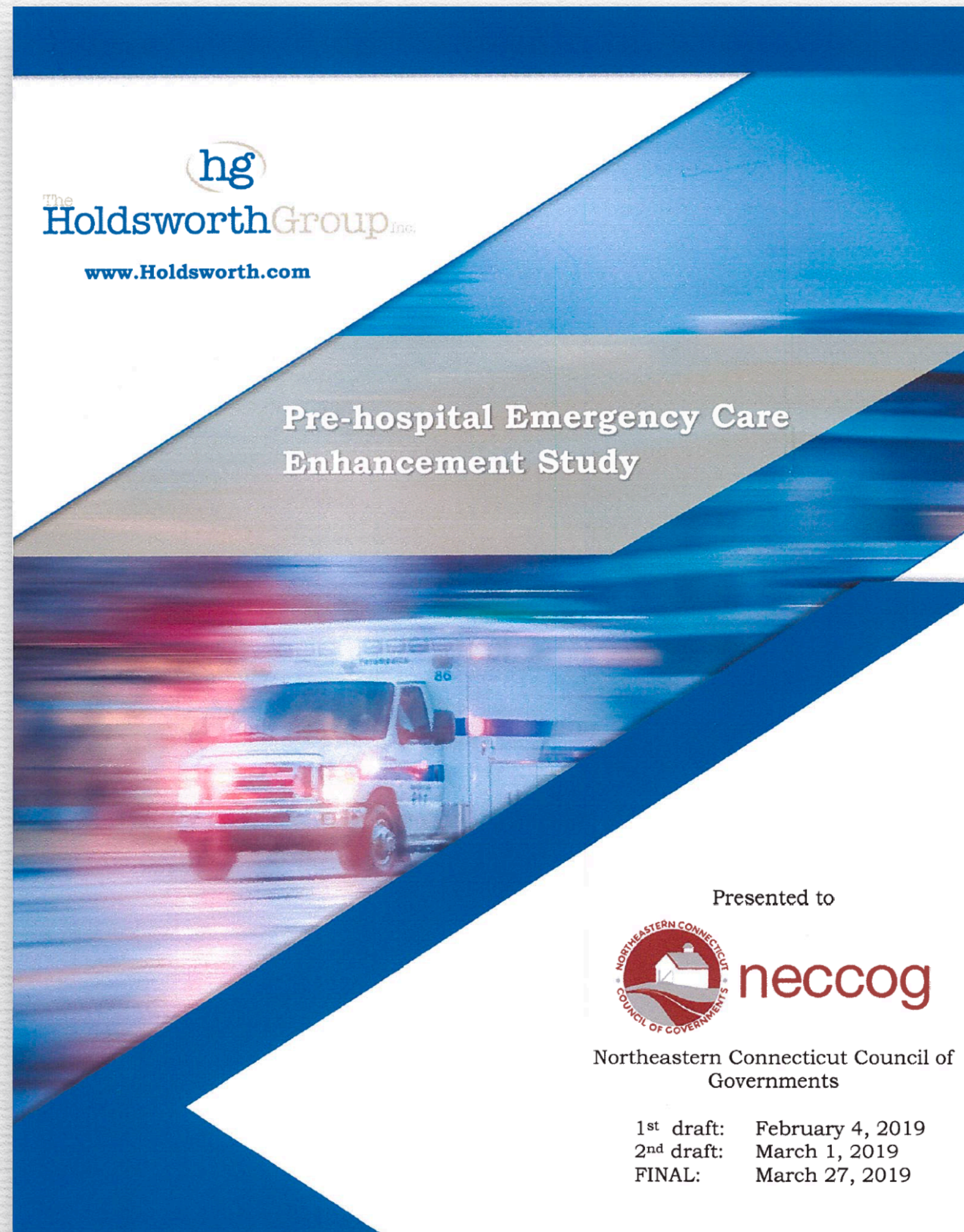
- I. Town Administration
- II. Assessor Services
- III. Inspection and Enforcement
- IV. Emergency Medical Services**



Pre-Hospital Emergency Care

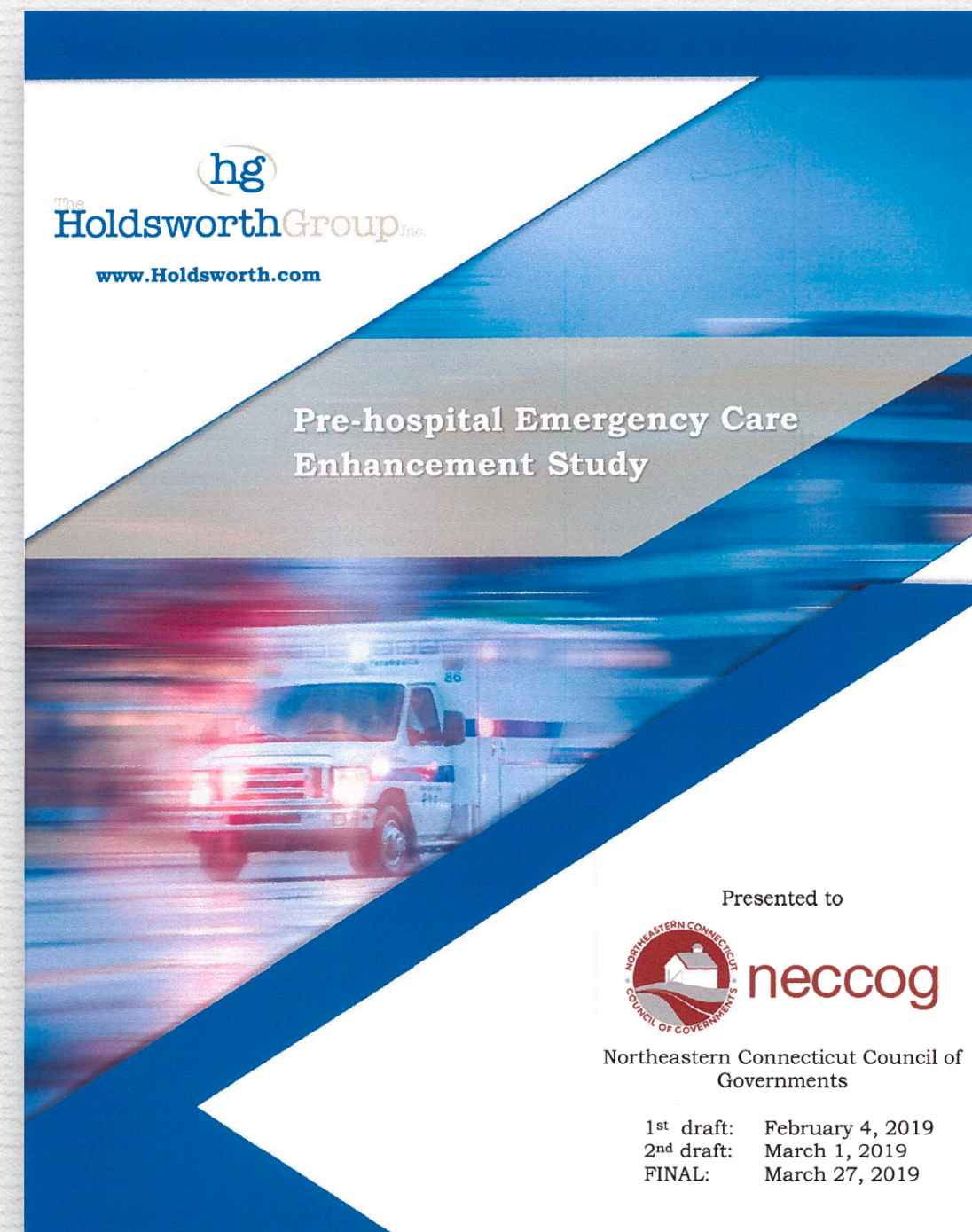
- Examination of the **current issues related to the recruitment and retention of volunteers** - as well as the **impacts of hiring paid staff and/or services** to perform in lieu of volunteers.
- **Administrative options**, including but not limited to collaboration/consolidation, primarily focusing on savings through combining human resources, clerical, and other functions across several departments.
- **Partial collaboration/consolidation** maintaining separate departments but creating a joint working group to identify potential efficiency gains, such as jointly operating a station or team.
- **Functional collaboration/consolidation** keeping departments legally separate, but having the departments work together to perform special functions, such as training services.
- **Operational collaboration/consolidation** combining aspects of functional and administrative consolidation to make multiple legally separate departments deliver standard and special services as if a seamless single entity.
- **Selected geographical collaboration/consolidation** taking advantage of variations in service demands across an area to keep certain functions separate where demand is high while taking advantage of economies of scale in low-density areas.
- **Full regional consolidation** combining departments to make one legal and operational entity.





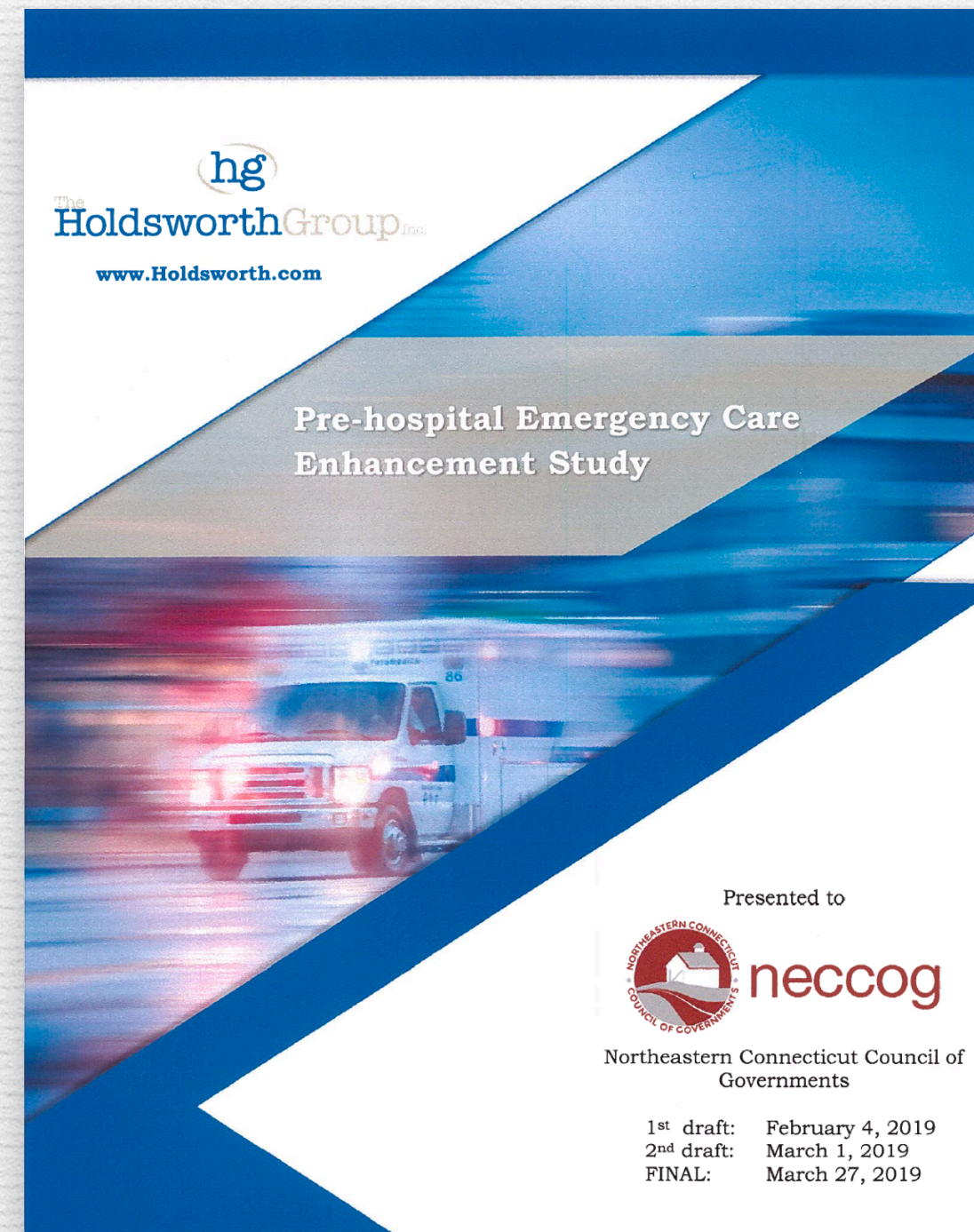
... the [EMS] system **is not providing the best possible patient care to the residents** in the region **nor is it making the best use of the system resources.**"

Emphasis added



The system is **highly fragmented** and there is a **significant lack of communication** between the agencies...**Almost every EMS agency leader indicated that they would welcome something more formal but that they could not recall anything being attempted.** All indicated that **nothing specific was available or planned to pro-actively address future issues, ways to collaboratively work together or to address common problems.**

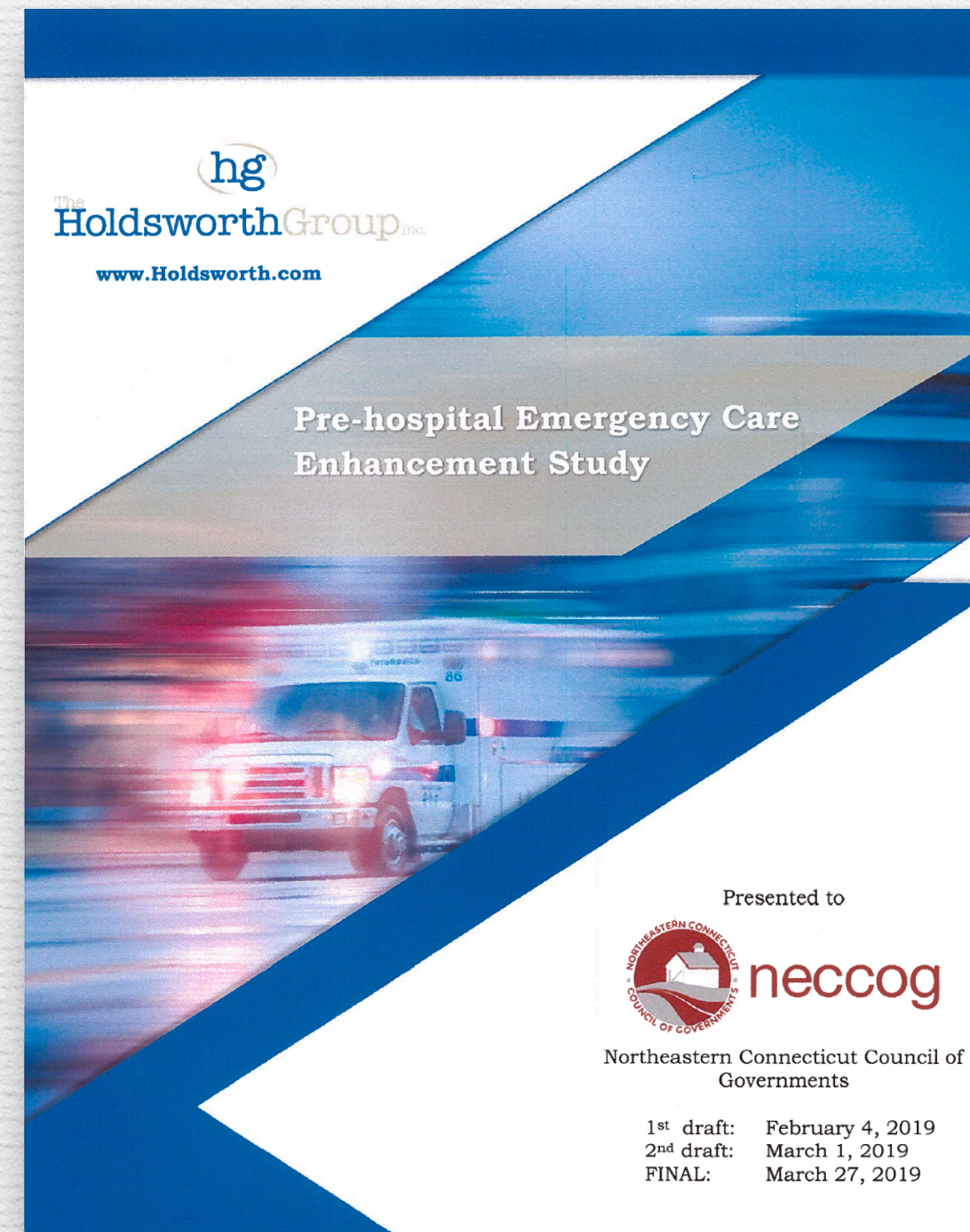
Emphasis added



... smaller towns ... will be **hard**
pressed to subsidize stand-alone
EMS services at price points in
excess of \$500,000 per
community for 100-400 calls per
year.

Emphasis added

As the regional population continues to age the call volume will continue to rise.

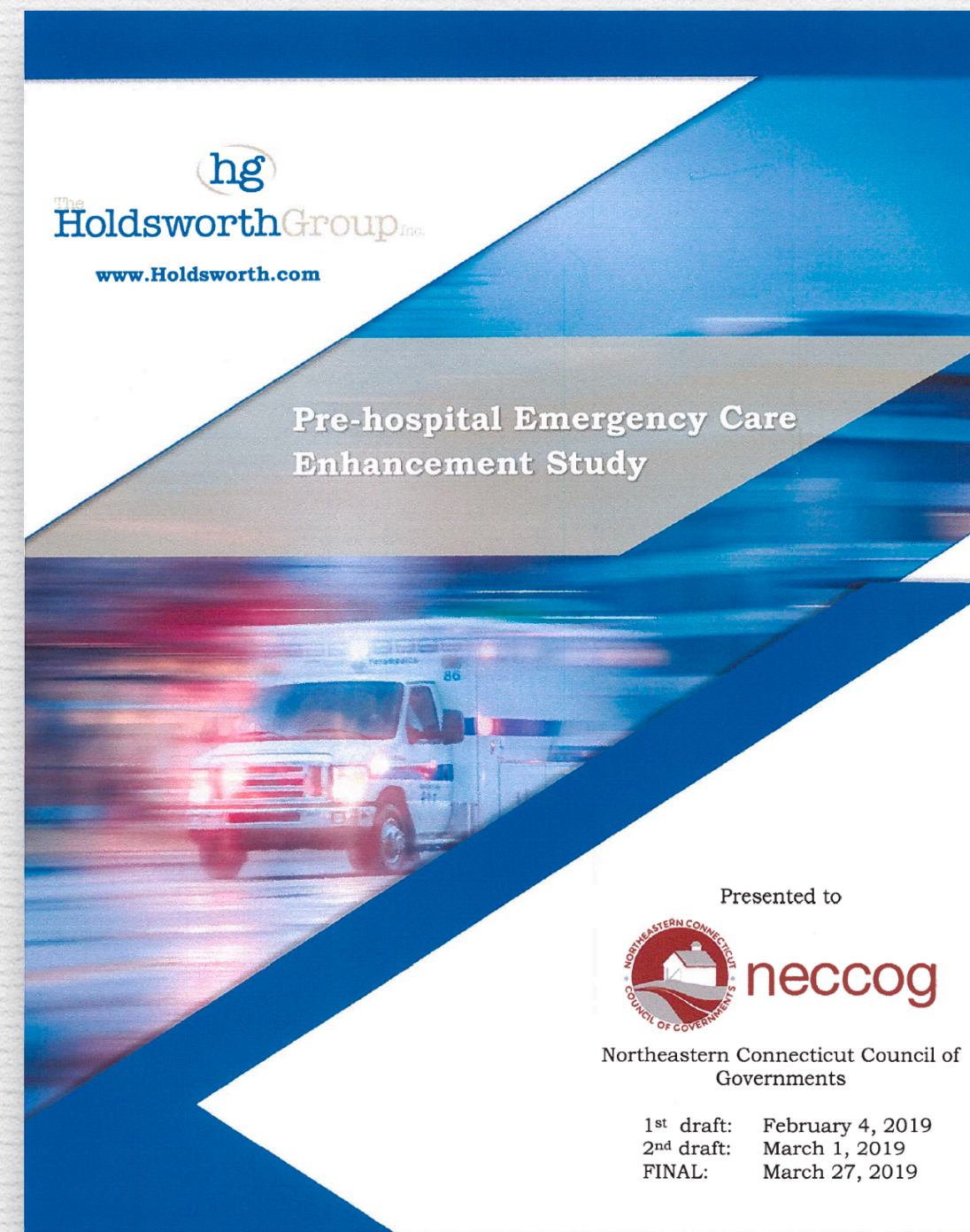


An industry predictive formula identifies that **for every 10,000 residents there should be approximately 1-3 EMS system activations** per day. Where there are **special circumstances** such as a **high senior population, significant poverty levels**, an influx in daytime population or high tourist populations these **numbers rise to 3-6 activations or more per day**. This **rule holds true in the NECCOG region due to the growing number of seniors in the region**.

Using the formula: an average of 3 activations per 10,000 per day / 100,000 people = 30 responses per day x 365 = 10,950 calls).

In 2018, there were 11,175 requests for service (30.6 per day)

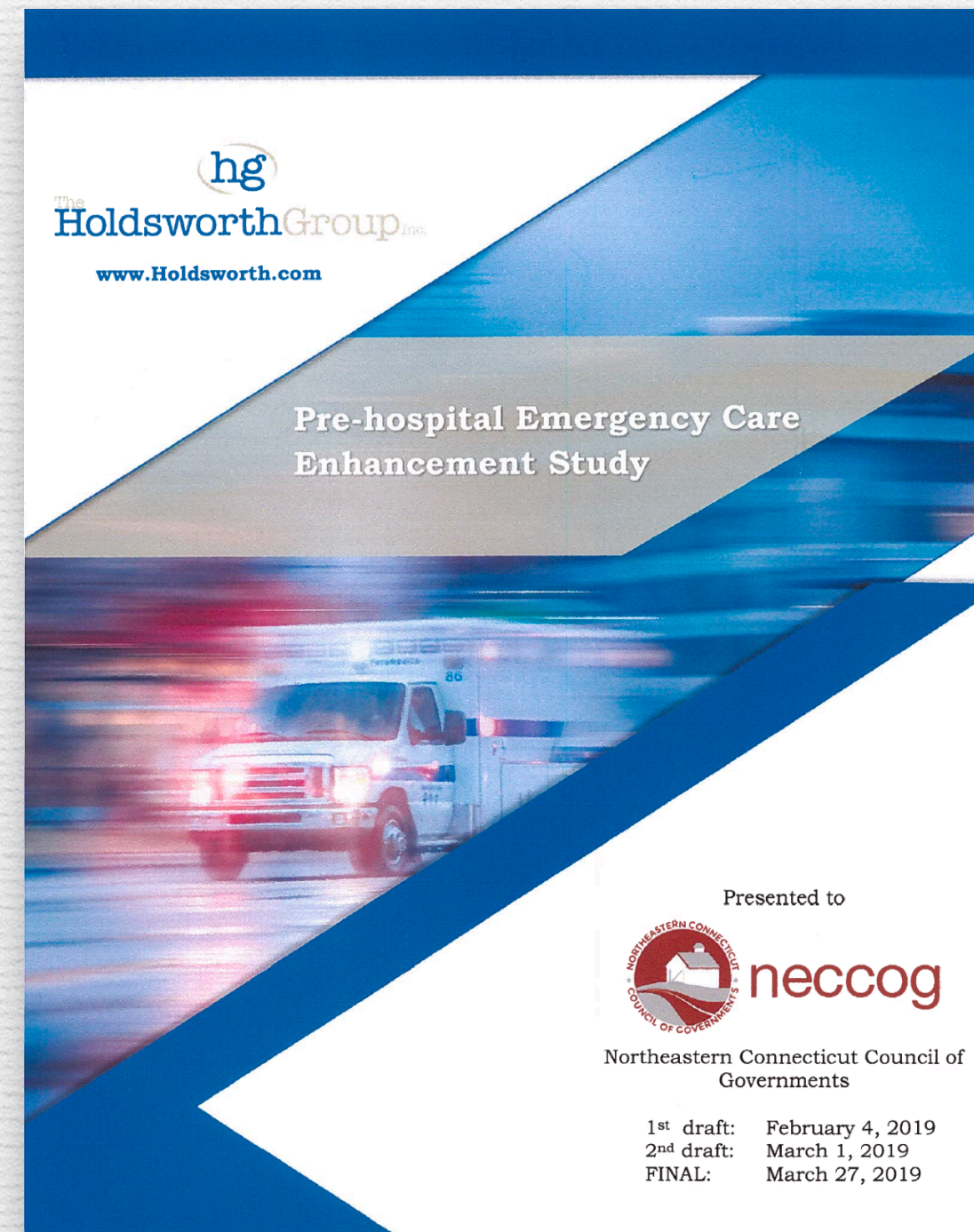
Emphasis added



There are **significant redundancies and issues amongst the services**. Every agency has a need for some or all of the following services: **bookkeeping, scheduling, training, recruiting, public relations, website updating and hosting, tax preparation, access to legal services, billing services, annual physicals and state reporting...**

... this might be a very good place for NECCOG to play a significant support role. ... Providing support staff that work directly for the EMS agencies, lightening the burden on the volunteer and part-time staff would be of significant value.

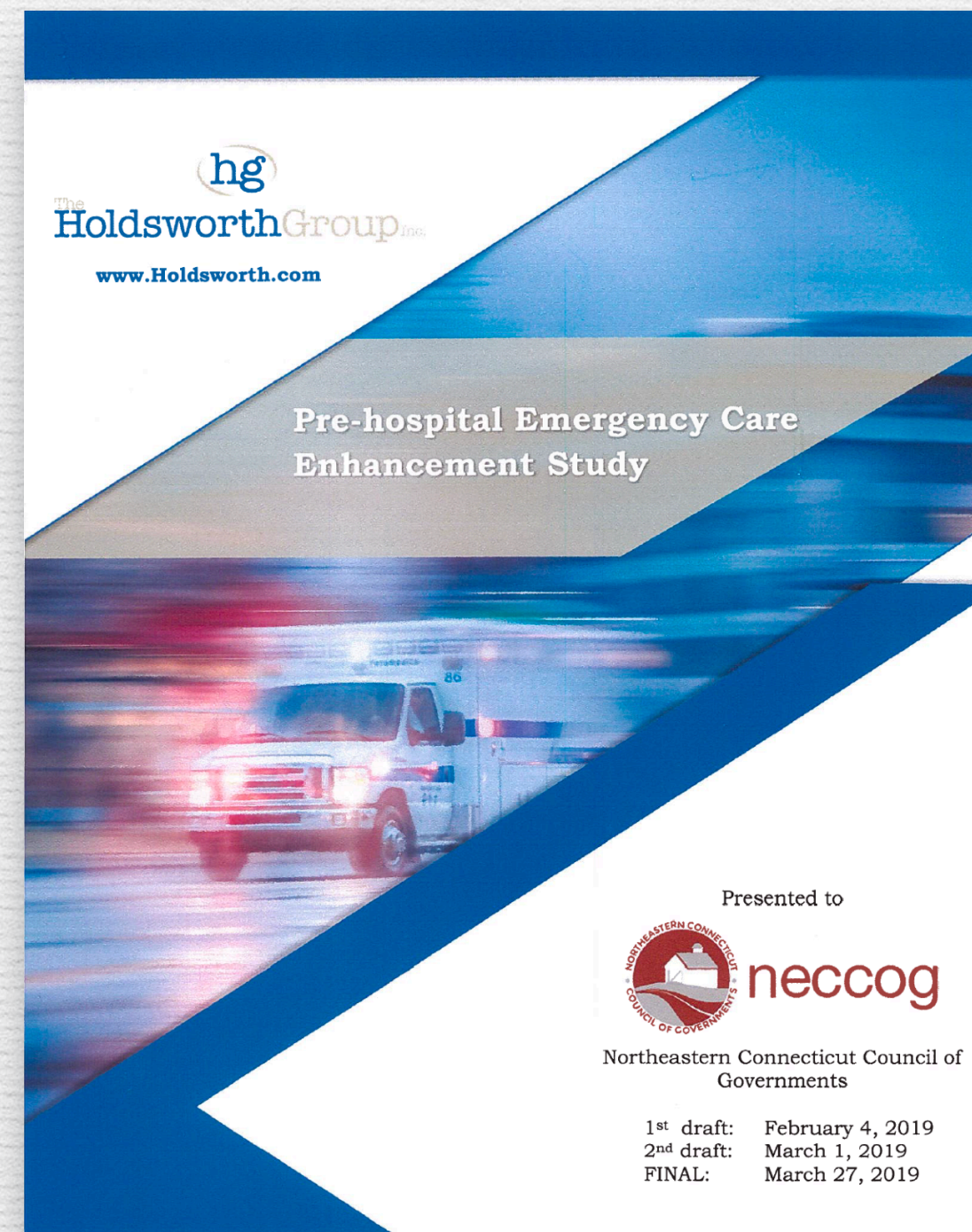
Emphasis added



...**a regional EMS provider group should be formed** that has a representative from each EMS provider, the paramedic providers, medical control and the dispatch centers. **Municipal leaders** should have an open invitation as well to help foster improved communication.

Review of reports from the dispatch centers, any **service issues**, any new equipment placed into service, discussion of **best practices** as well as ideas and a combined master schedule of upcoming **training classes** that all can attend should be included. A discussion of any **pending hearings and/or legislation** and the crafting of any joint responses should all be part of the monthly agenda.

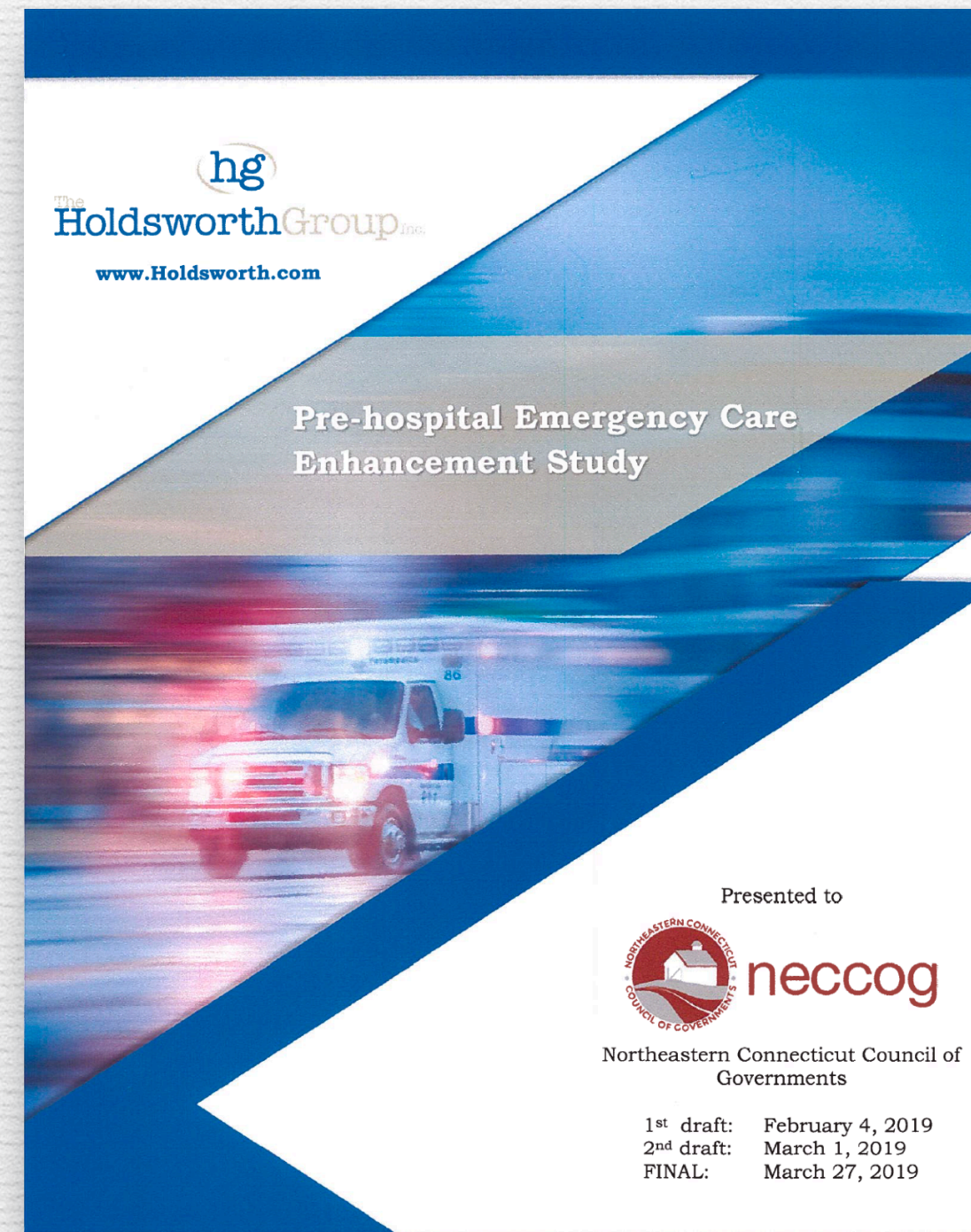
Emphasis added



There are no EMS agencies specifically trained in **SWAT /Tactical medicine, rope rescue, high-angle, confined space or dive team operations**...There are also **no capabilities for bariatric transportation amongst the regional services.**

...if an entity were to step up and become a specialist in any discipline, **it would make sense for the other agencies to embrace that and utilize that agency for that specialty rather than try and duplicate it ...**

Emphasis added

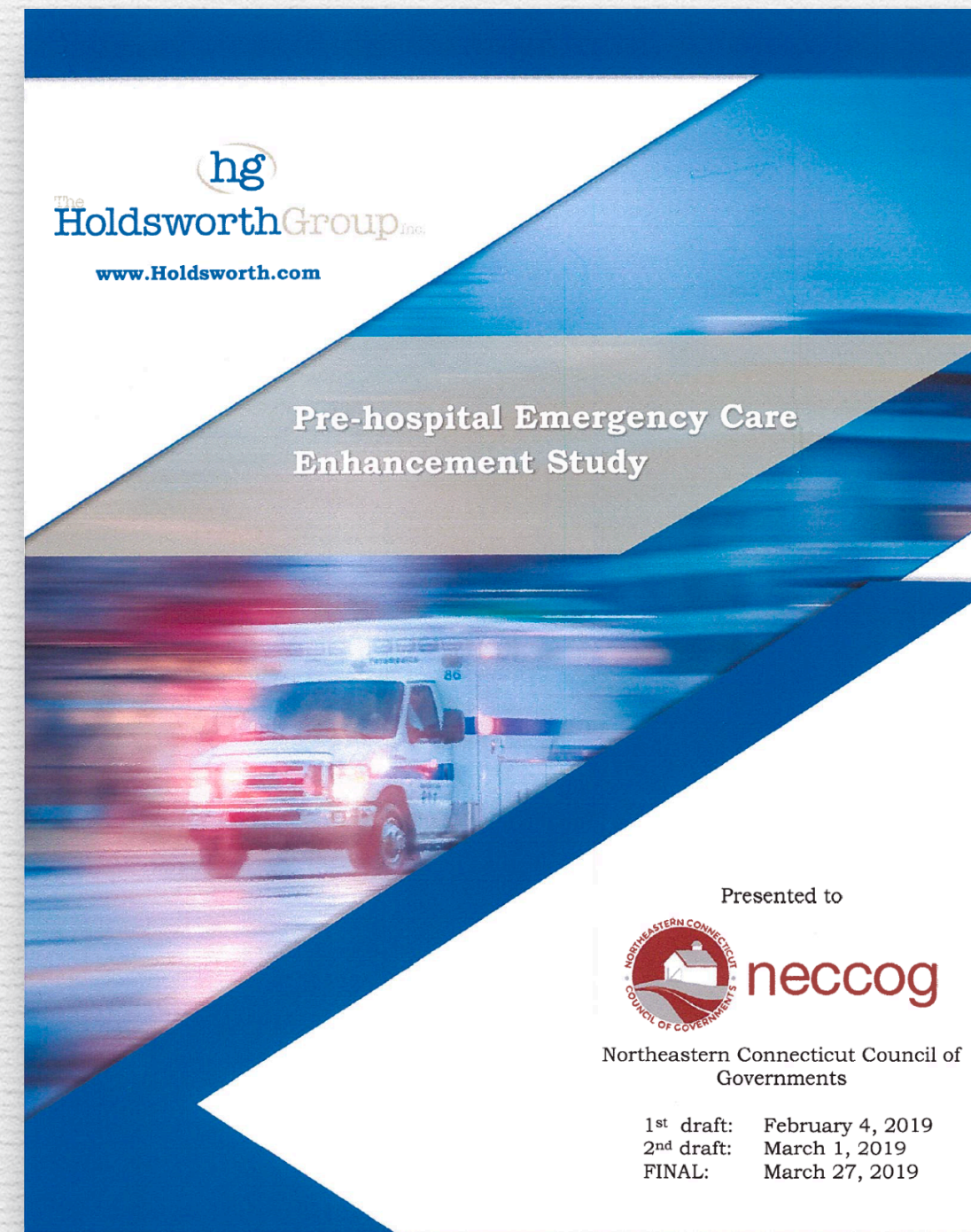


... smaller services with high municipal subsidization and low call volumes should have serious conversations with their neighbors about consolidating the services.

Should money that would go towards a replacement ambulance (even leased) be redirected to enhancing first responder capabilities? If two small services became one, and the rosters were combined, would that make a stronger, more responsive and better funded single transport provider?

Another way for the system to save money would be for **two or even three services to share one paid ambulance during the busiest hours** to cover multiple towns.

Emphasis added



“...**two ... major issues** that need to be addressed, the first is the fact the **none of the providers can be forced into working with one another** and the second is a **sense that NECCOG is seen as meddling** in the EMS system.”

Emphasis added

EMS Pilot

- **Establish/Facilitate a regional EMS provider group** that has a representative from each EMS provider, paramedic providers, medical control, dispatch centers and municipal leadership.
- NECCOG create a new position - **Regional EMS Coordinator/Planner** - conduct research and maintain data on the region, explore and share best practices, coordinate training, and monitor/advocate legislation
- **Pilot (using RPIP) common service needs provision on a regional basis - coordinated by NECCOG** for bookkeeping, scheduling, training, recruiting, public relations, website updating and hosting, tax preparation, access to legal services, billing services, annual physicals and state reporting
- **Explore and implement a regional** SWAT/Tactical medicine, rope rescue, high-angle, confined space or dive team operations and bariatric transportation
- **Consolidate two or more EMS services** to share one paid ambulance during the busiest hours to cover multiple towns

Roundtable



re·gion·al·ism

The action or process of working together to achieve common interests rather than by acting independently

Thank You

Most people are unaccustomed to working across boundaries. We tend to focus on the tasks immediately in front of us, within our small sphere of influence. ..

Regional collaboration becomes compelling when people recognize that they are more likely to achieve their interests by working together than by acting independently.

