



Stolen ambulances reported in the media



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Introduction

Ambulances are a target for theft and reporting's of ambulance thefts has been increasing in the past several years. There is a paucity of research in this area, as a PubMed search of the terms "ambulance theft" yields only one relevant article: Alves DW, Bissel RA. Ambulance Snatching: How vulnerable are we? *J Emerg Med.* 2003; 25(2):211-214.



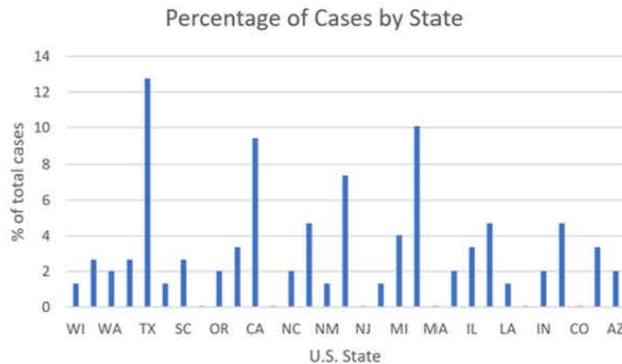
Materials & Methods

This is an IRB-exempt study using publicly available data. This was a structured review utilizing the databases Nexis Uni and EMS1.com. The search terms "ambulance" and "theft" were entered into the search bar and filters were applied for the date range 1980-2020.

Results

EMS1.com data

- Cases by state



- 68.46% of the perpetrators were male.
- Majority of thefts were from large healthcare facilities (49.66%).
 - 5.37% were recently discharged patients of that facility.
- 7.38% of perpetrators had "mental health issues"
- 6.04% of reported cases involved intoxication

Limitations

This study only includes cases reported in the media, for which there are no standardized reporting methods. Little to no academic research is focused in this area and many cases/reports are missing details.

Conclusion/Discussion

Ambulance thefts pose a large public safety threat as well as a large burden upon the healthcare system.

- Property damage
- Theft of ambulance equipment
- Ambulances contain controlled substances (e.g. narcotics and benzodiazepines)

Future Directions

We would like to pursue more databases to further elucidate:

- Risk factors
- Demographics of perpetrators
- Cost to healthcare systems and EMS agencies