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Mass. ambulances 5th fastest in US in fatal crash responses, study says

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 09, 2015

Massachusetts ranks fifth in the nation in terms of how fast emergency medical personnel respond to fatal car accidents, with ambulances arriving in 8 minutes and 33 seconds on average, according to a new study of federal data.

Only four states fared better: Connecticut (7:54); Rhode Island (7:36); California (6:52); and Illinois (6:00).

The national average response time was a startling 15 minutes and 19 seconds, the study by the [Auto Insurance Center](#) found.

The center combed through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System reports for 44,574 fatal accidents nationwide in 2013.

It found that Wyoming had the highest response time at 35:44, followed by Vermont (22:56); Montana (22:35); North Dakota (21:30); and Kansas (21:22).

The authors of the report said their findings suggest that low population density may be linked to slow average emergency response times.

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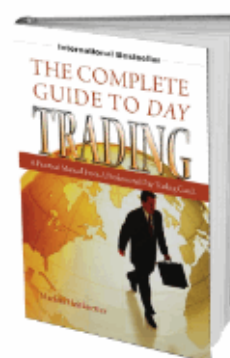
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“Wyoming is the least populous of the 50 states, and it has the second-lowest population density of all the states,” the report said. “Vermont, Montana, North Dakota, and Kansas all join Wyoming on the list ... and all are states that fall in the bottom half of population density rankings nationwide.”

“On the other side of the equation, the five states with the nation’s shortest response times all rank at 12th place or above as America’s most population-dense states,” the report added. “Three of those shortest response time records are held in Northeastern states, and more specifically, in New England. Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts are all small states with very high population density, which may contribute to their top-notch response times at less than nine minutes each.”



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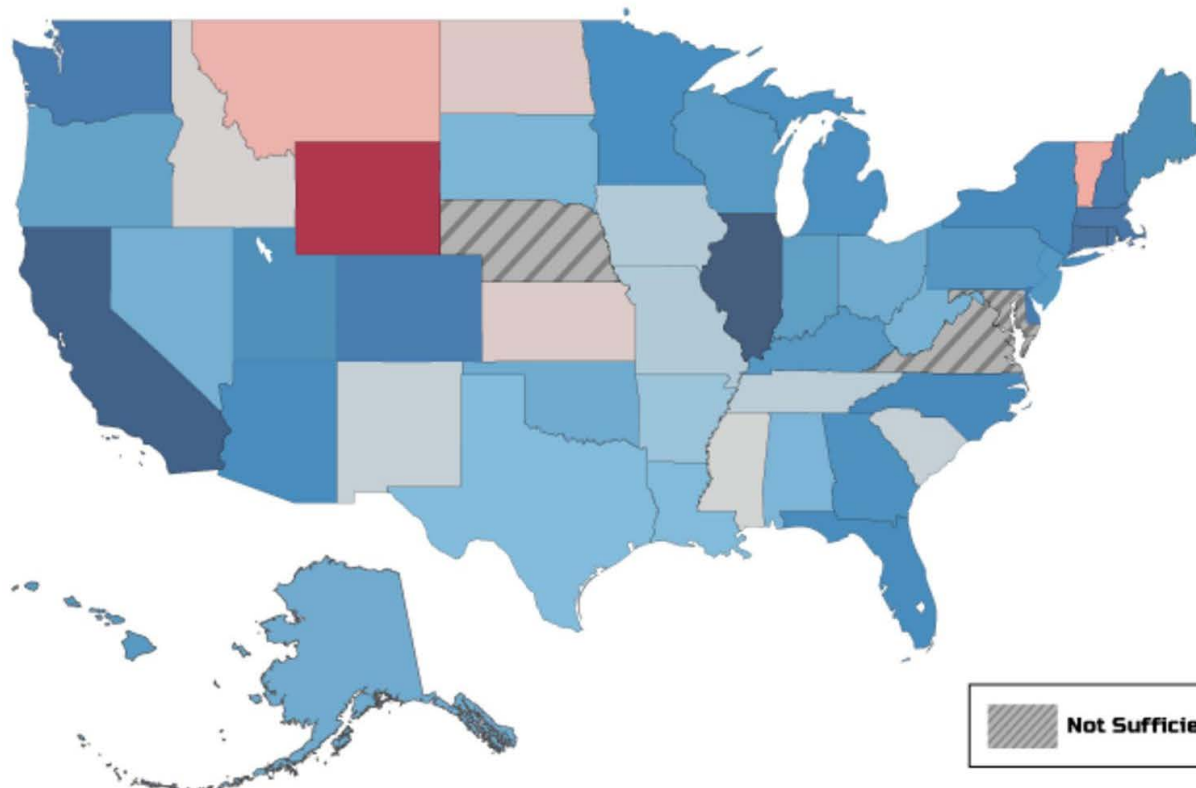
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Average Response Time per State



National Average Response Time is 15 Minutes, 19.2 Seconds



 Not Sufficient Data

Average Response Time (Minutes)

6.00



35.74

Top 5 Longest Response Times

Wyoming	35 min, 44.4 sec
Vermont	22 min, 56.4 sec
Montana	22 min, 34.8 sec
North Dakota	21 min, 30 sec
Kansas	21 min, 22.2 sec

Top 5 Shortest Response Times

Illinois	6 min, 0 sec
California	6 min, 51.6 sec
Rhode Island	7 min, 3.6 sec
Connecticut	7 min, 54 sec
Massachusetts	8 min, 33 sec

Source: <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/QueryTool/QuerySection/SelectYear.aspx>

The Globe last month reported that EMS response times in Boston and in some other cities around the nation have edged upward, largely due to a little-understood surge in calls for help.

But the center's report did not look at response times at the city and town level or compare times over multiple years.

The report featured findings on other trends though, which are detailed in the following charts:

Average Emergency Response Time and Fatalities, by Month



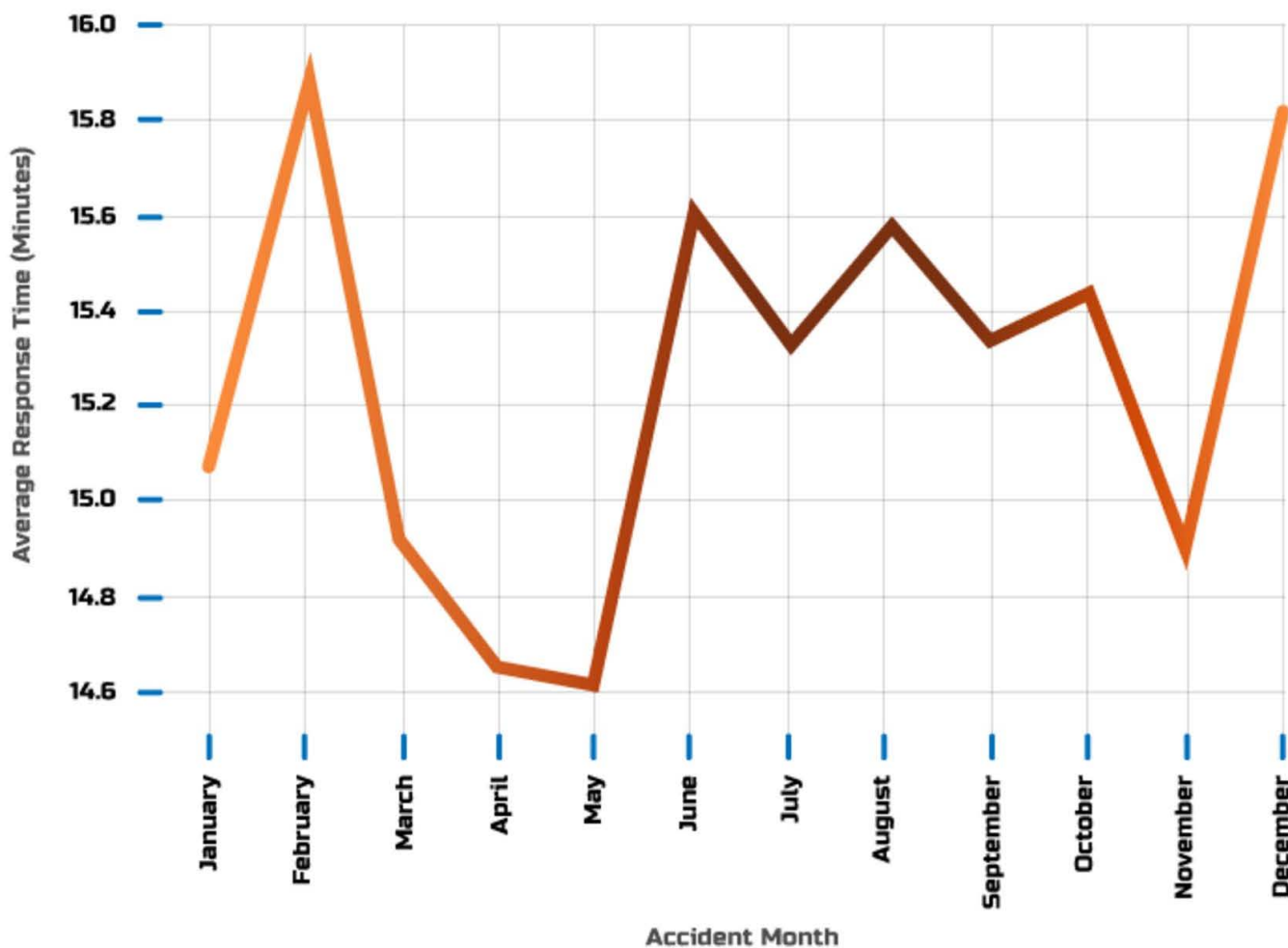
Number of Fatal Crashes Increases During Summer Months



Fatal Accidents

1,522

2,409



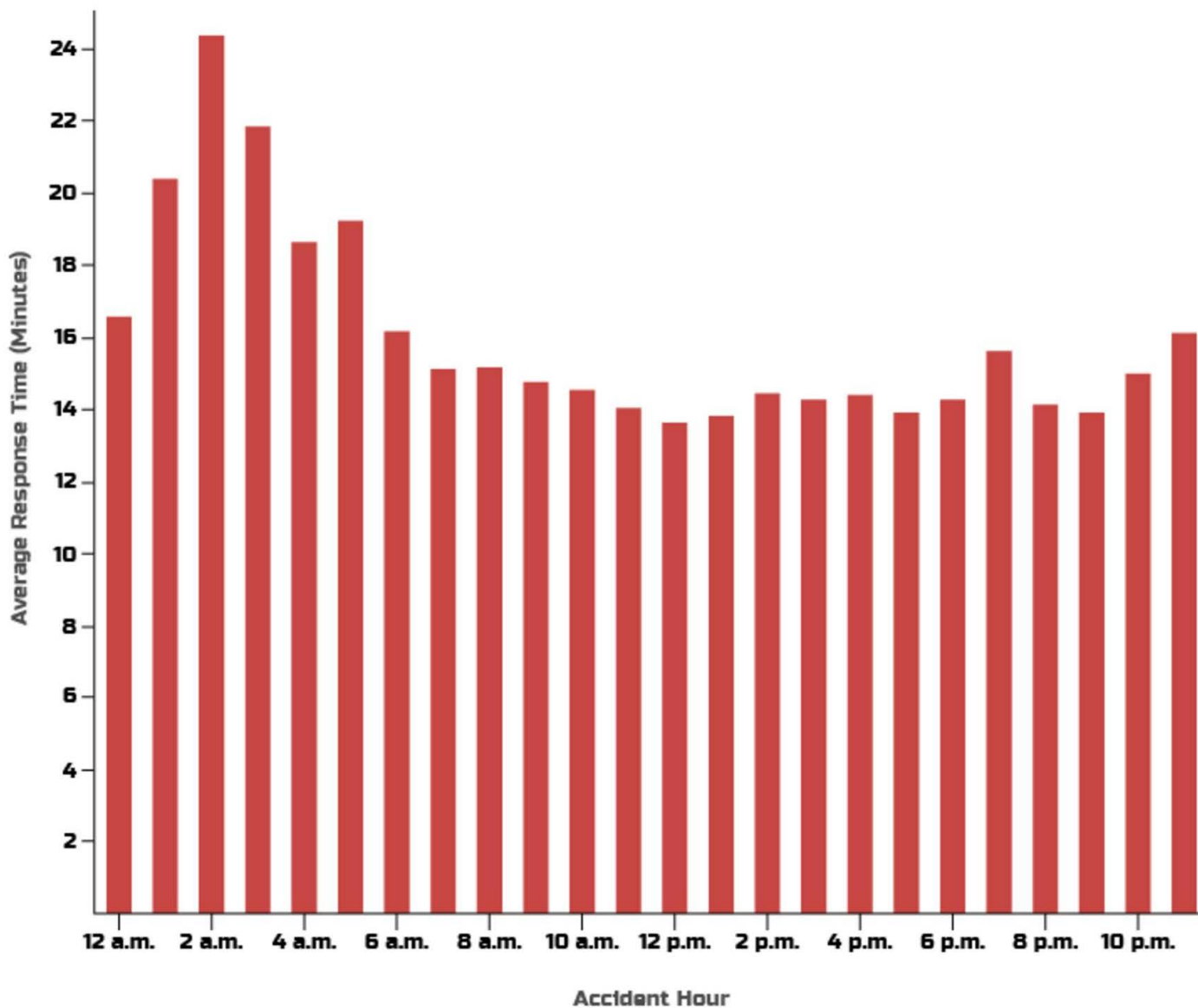
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Average Emergency Response Time, by Hour



National Average Response Times Throughout the Day

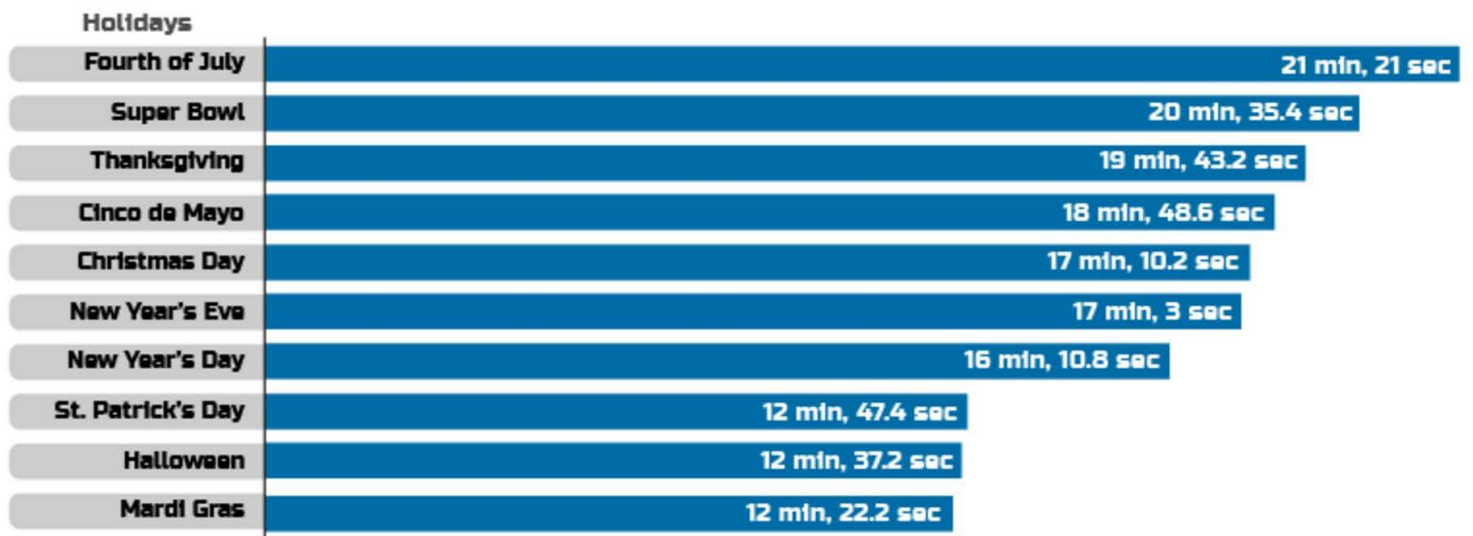


Source: <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/QueryTool/QuerySection/SelectYear.aspx>



Average Emergency Response Time, by Holiday

 **Average Holiday Response Rate is 16 Minutes 52.2 Seconds** 



Source: <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/QueryTool/QuerySection/SelectYear.aspx>



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