



Criminal History Impact on EMT Certification 2021

Emergency Medical Services Authority
California Health and Human Services Agency

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In accordance with Health and Safety Code Section (HSC) 1797.229, the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) collected Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) initial certification applicant criminal history, gender, age, race, and ethnicity data from 68 certifying entities (CEs) during the 2021 calendar year to determine the extent to which prior criminal history may be an obstacle to certification. Sixty-five (65) CEs reported data on 9,328 initial certification applications, including criminal histories, denials, and approvals. The EMSA found prior criminal history does not appear to represent an obstacle to certification as an EMT or AEMT in California.

Data analysis shows 399 applicants were found to have criminal history in their background, which represents four percent (4%) of all applicants. Of those applicants with reported criminal history, 385 (96.5%) applicants received approved certifications. Only 50 of the applicants approved with criminal history were approved with restrictions. The remaining 14 applicants (3.5%) with criminal history were denied. Five were denied according to California Code of Regulations (CCR) [Title 22, § 100214.3](#) and nine were denied according to [HSC § 1798.200\(c\)](#).

Using data from 2018 through 2021, an average of 8,881 EMT and AEMT applications are received per year. An annual average of 408 applicants are identified as having criminal history reports. Of those applicants, an average of 392 (96.1%) are approved and 16 (3.9%) applicants are denied per year.

BACKGROUND:

Effective January 1, 2019, the [HSC 1797.229](#), states that each local EMS Agency (LEMSA) and other CEs shall submit to the EMSA data on EMT I (EMT) or EMT-II (AEMT) applicant and certification approvals, denials, and approvals with restrictions from the preceding calendar year annually. Reporting by all agencies for calendar year 2021 was due to EMSA by July 1, 2022.

The EMSA shall then report annually to the EMS Commission and Legislature the extent to which prior criminal history may be an obstacle to EMT and AEMT certification based on the submitted data. Reporting shall continue through July 1, 2024.

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY:

The EMSA, in collaboration with the LEMSAs, developed a standardized Excel table to be used as the reporting tool. The EMSA aggregated and analyzed the data to assess whether reported applicant prior criminal history was an obstacle to applicant certification. Demographic data of denied applicants was also collected and reviewed.

As in 2020, the same three (3) reporting agencies did not submit data for calendar year 2021. The remaining 65 agencies submitted data utilizing the provided reporting tool, meeting data reporting statutory requirements. All data collected was compiled and analyzed by the EMSA and included in this report.

ANALYSIS:

The EMSA received initial EMT certification data on 9,328 applications. Among those received, 399 (4%) applicants had criminal history in their background checks. The CE's approved 385 (96%) of those applicants, to include 50 (12.5%) with restrictions and 335 (84%) without restrictions. The remaining 14 (3.5%) applicants were denied certification due to criminal history record information. Of those denials, five were denied pursuant to CCR [Title 22, § 100214.3](#), requiring a "shall deny" action. The remaining nine were denied pursuant to HSC [§ 1798.200\(c\)](#), which states, "[a]ny of the following actions shall be considered evidence of a threat to the public health and safety and may result in the denial..." . None of the applicants with criminal history submitted incomplete applications or withdrew their applications.

Demographic Data of Applicants Reporting Criminal History & Denials

Of the data submitted in a format allowing stratification, most applicants denied certification due to criminal history identified themselves as male.

For all applicants, the data indicates:

- 64.7% identified as male
- 34.6 identified as female
- .7% chose not to disclose their gender

Of the 399 applicants with criminal history, the data indicates:

- 79% identified as male
- 20% identified as female
- 1% chose not to disclose their gender

Of the applicants denied due to criminal history, the data indicates:

- 12 applicants (86%) identified as male
- two applicants (14%) identified as female
- no applicants chose not to disclose their gender.

Applicants 31 to 40 years of age had the highest number of criminal history reports, followed closely by applicants 30 years of age or younger. Of the 14 applicants denied certification due to criminal history, the data indicates:

- nine applicants (64%) were age 30 or younger
- four applicants (28.5%) were between 31 and 40
- one applicant (7%) was over 51 years of age

Of the demographic data collected for the race or ethnicity of applicants, White/Caucasian applicants with criminal history were denied certification the most among all applicants with criminal history. The data indicates:

- 45% of applicants with criminal history identified themselves as "White/Caucasian"
- 27% identified as "Hispanic or Latino"
- 10% chose not to identify their race/ethnicity
- 7% identified as "Black/African American"
- 5% identified as "Asian"

- 4% identified as “American Indian or Alaskan Native”
- 2% identified as “Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander”
- 2% identified as “Other”

Of the 14 applicants denied due to criminal history, the data indicates:

- six applicants (43%) identified as “White/Caucasian”
- five applicants (36%) chose not to identify their race/ethnicity
- two applicants (14%) identified as “Black/African American”
- one applicant (7%) identified as “Other”.

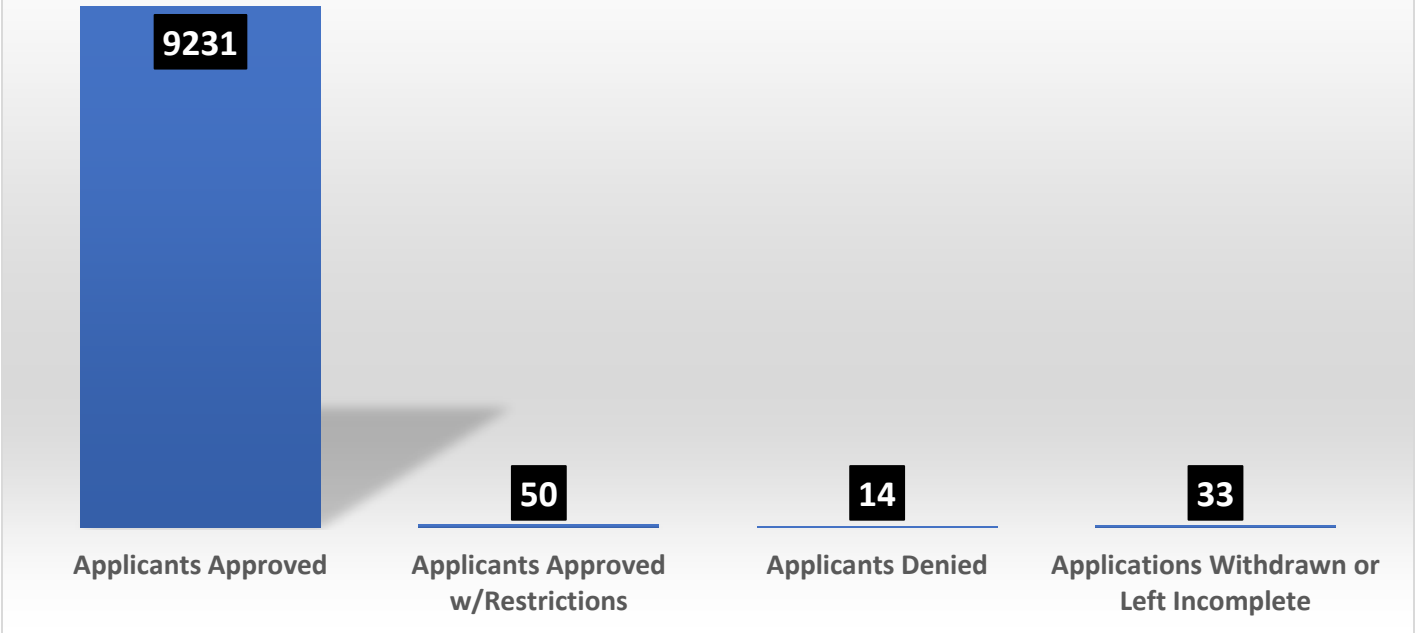
CONCLUSION:

After reviewing and analyzing the EMT and AEMT certification data collected from 65 certifying entities for 2021, the EMSA found prior criminal history is not an obstacle to certification. Over the past three (3) years, the EMSA has approved, on average, 96% of all applicants with criminal history. The remaining 4% of applicants with criminal history were denied certification in accordance with the requirements specified in CCR [TITLE 22, §100214.3](#) and HSC [§1798.200\(c\)](#).

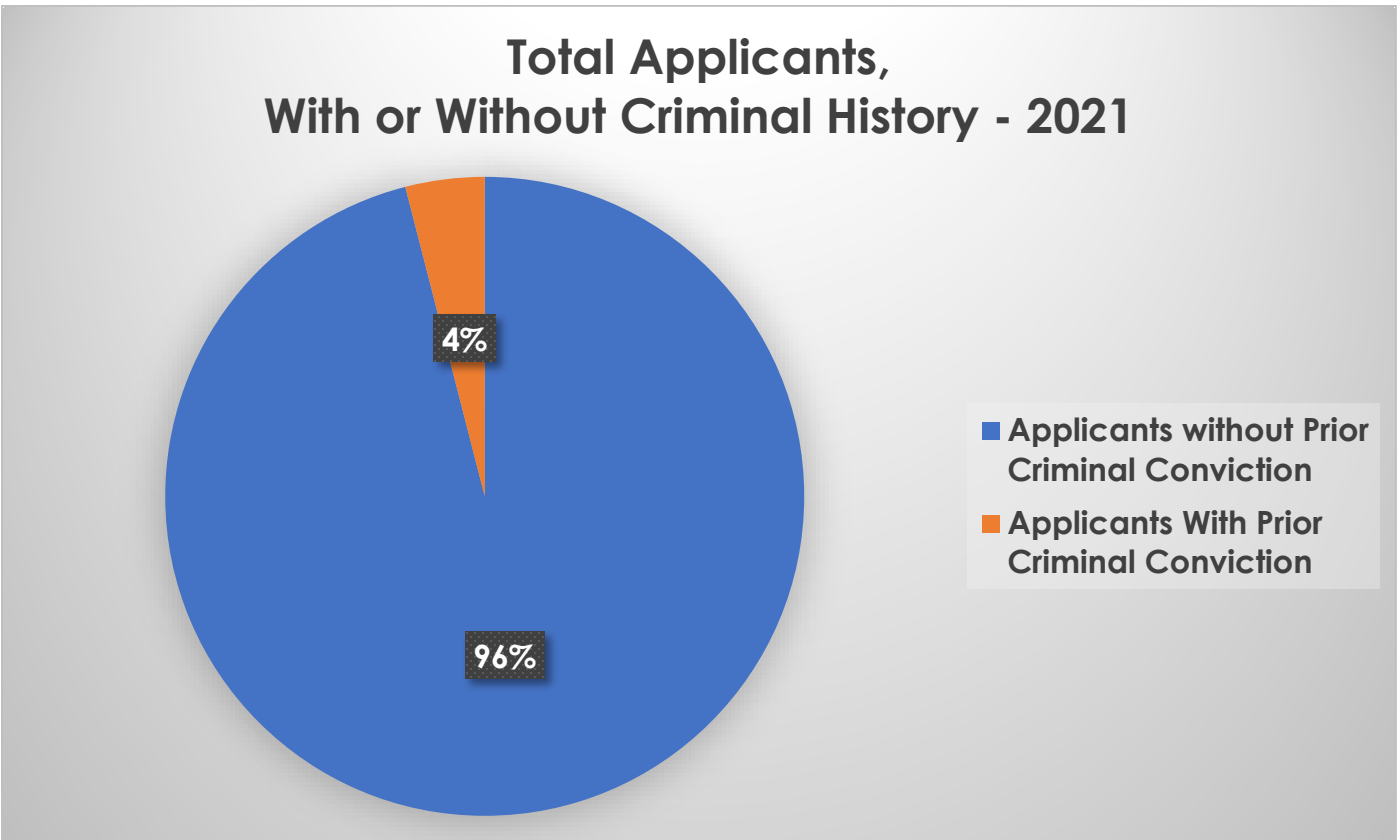
EMSA recognizes the impact of incomplete data collection and the efficacy of this analysis. Complete data collection was hindered by three certifying entities who did not submit data.

Appendix A: Applicants, Aggregate Data Sets

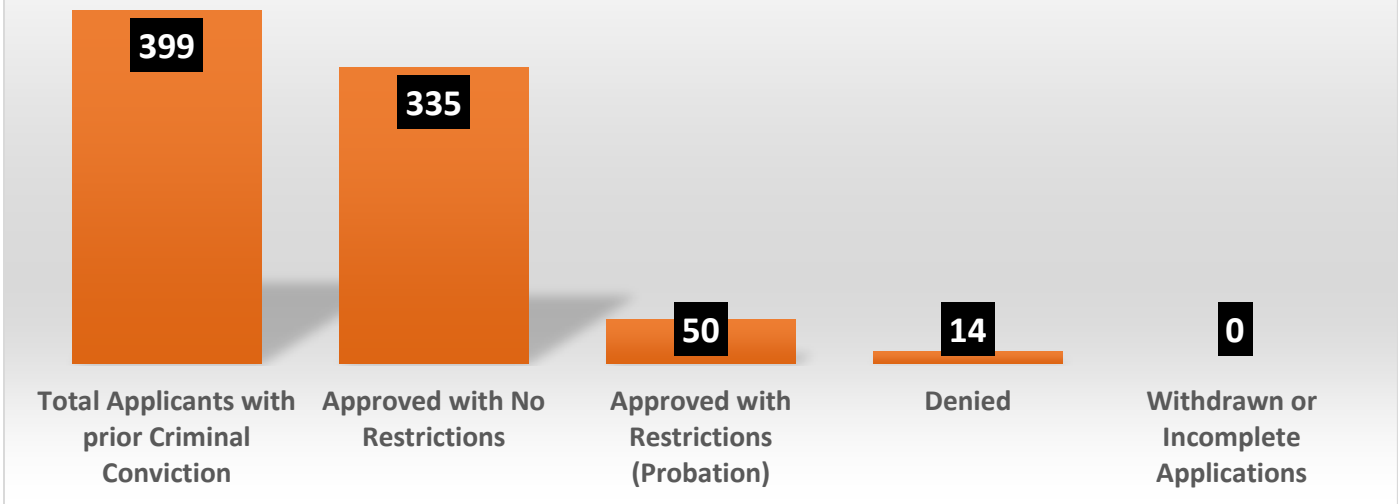
Total Applicant Certification Actions - 2021



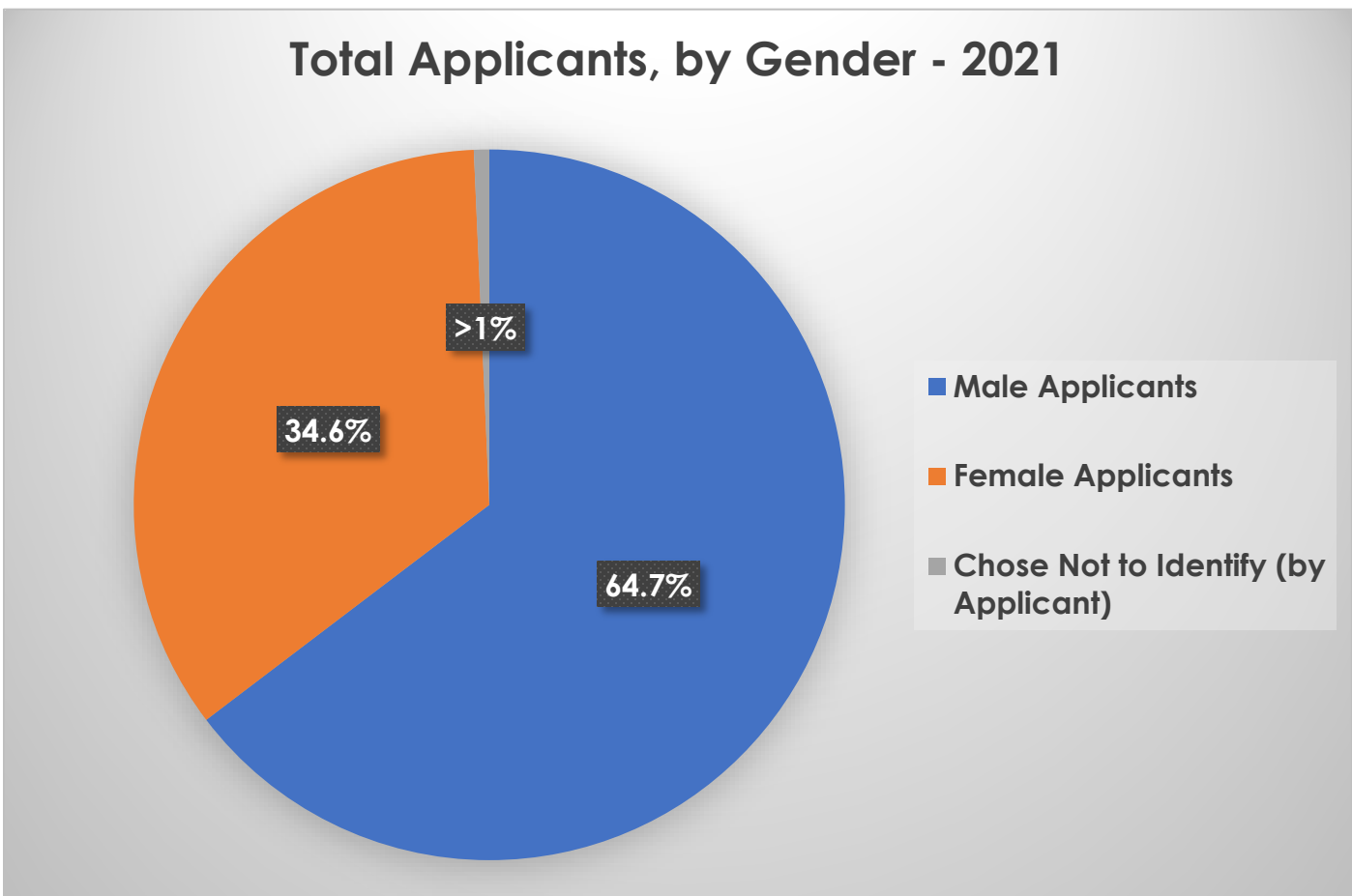
Total Applicants, With or Without Criminal History - 2021



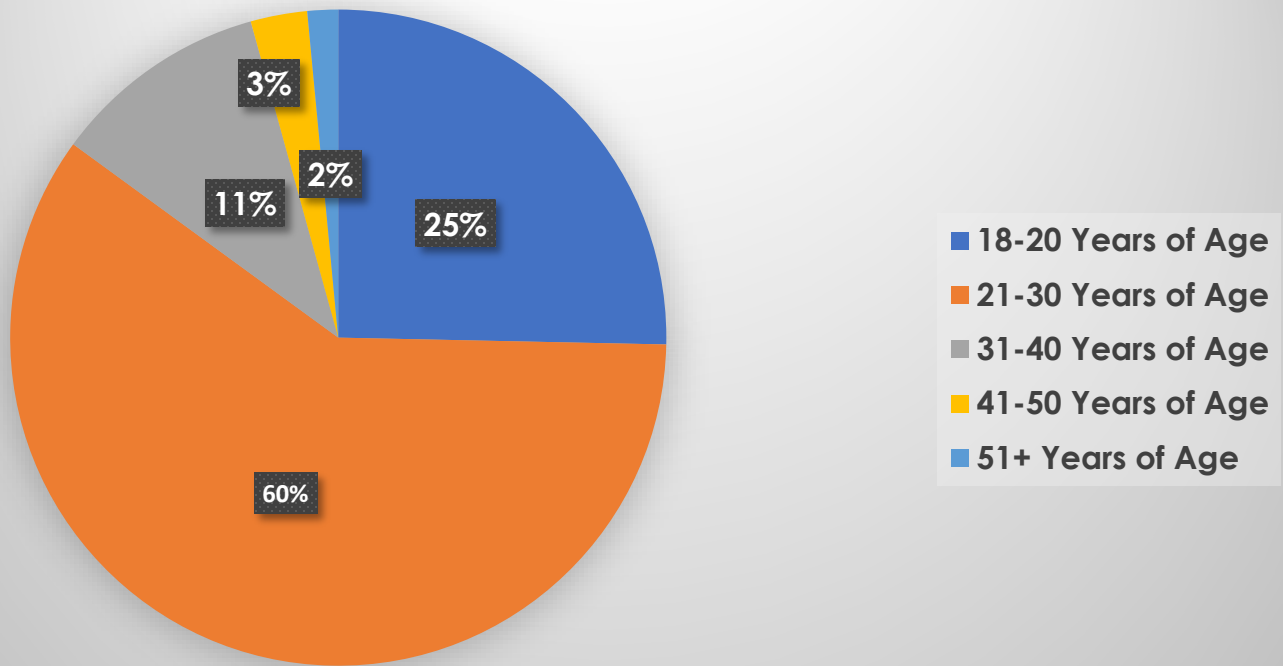
Total Applicants w/Criminal History, Certification Actions - 2021



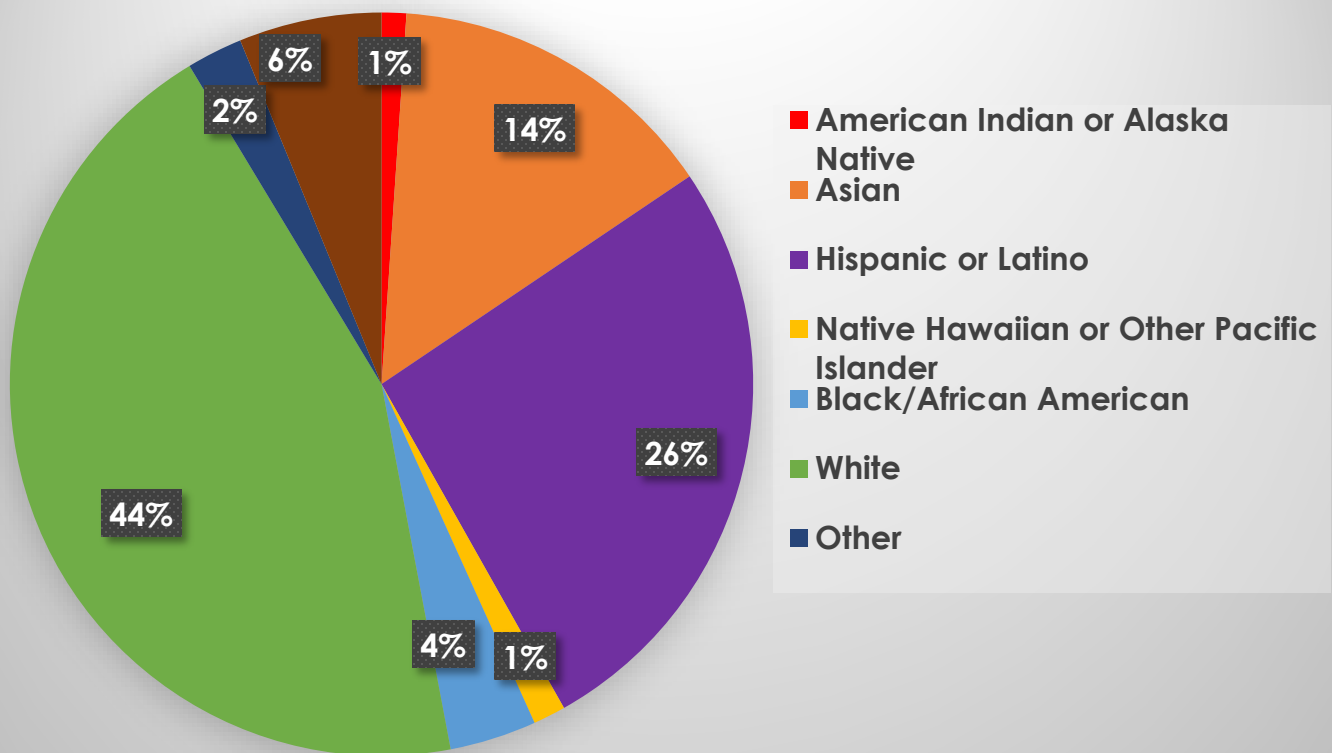
Total Applicants, by Gender - 2021



Total Applicants, by Age - 2021



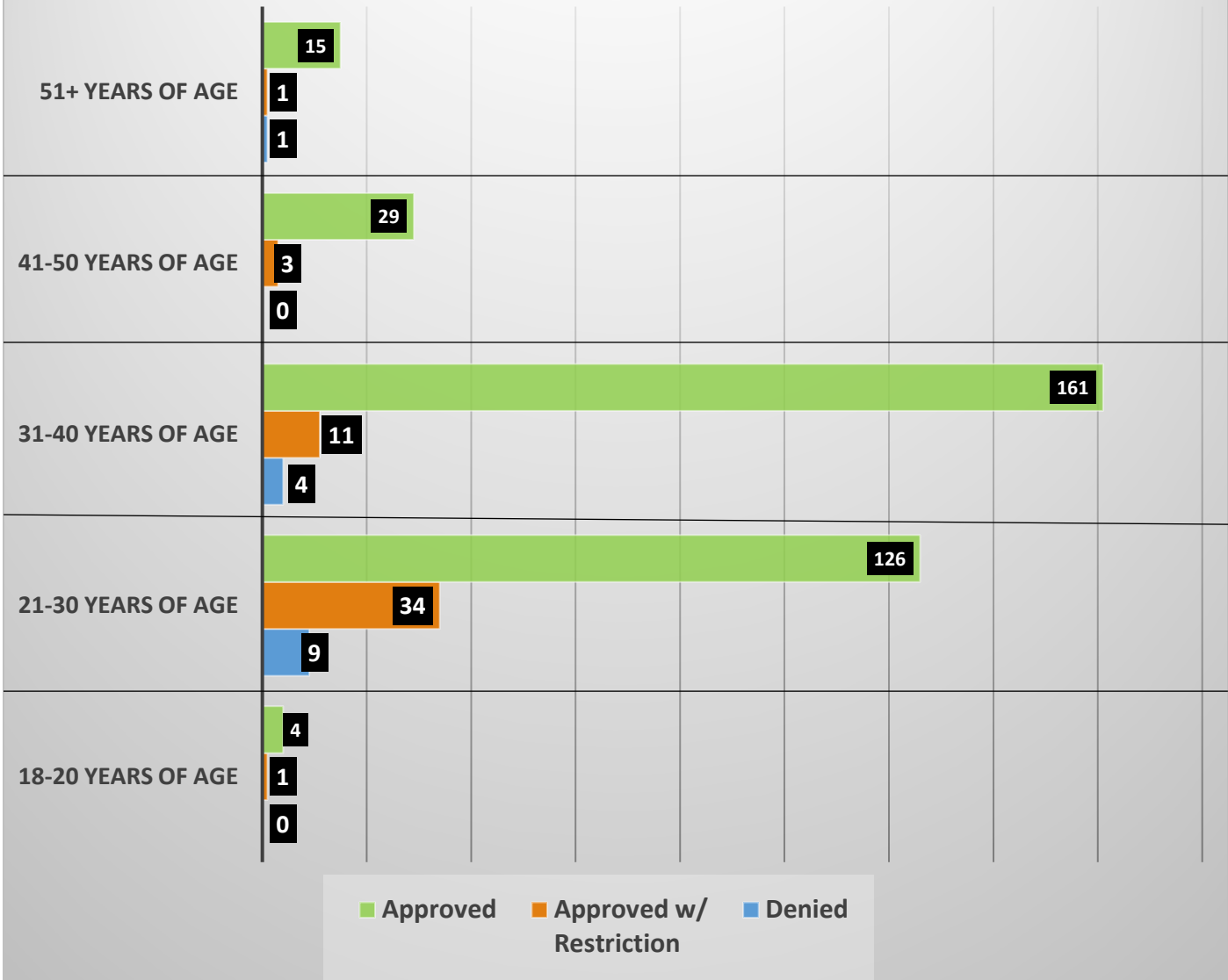
Total Applicants, by Race/Ethnicity- 2021



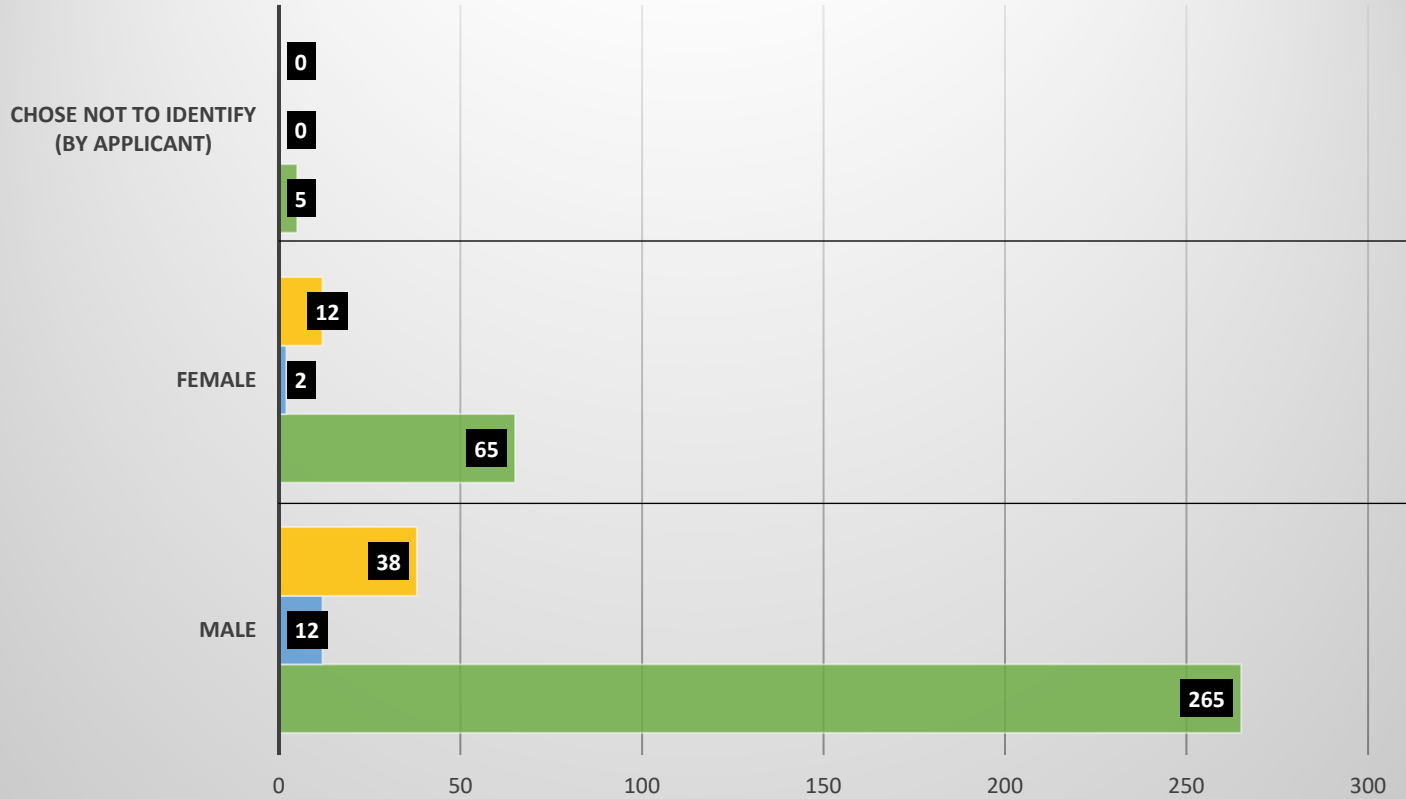
Appendix B: Applicants with Criminal History, Data Sets

SECTION	REASONS FOR DENIAL DUE TO CRIMINAL HISTORY	TOTAL
CCR §100214.3(c)	The medical director shall deny or revoke an EMT or AEMT certificate if any of the following apply to the applicant:	5
§100214.3(c)(3)	Has been convicted of two (2) or more felonies.	2
§100214.3(c)(6)	Has been convicted and released from incarceration for said offense during the preceding ten (10) years for any offense punishable as a felony.	1
§100214.3(c)(8)	Has been convicted of two (2) or more misdemeanors within the preceding five (5) years for any offense relating to force, threat, violence, or intimidation.	1
§100214.3(c)(9)	Has been convicted within the preceding five (5) years of any theft related misdemeanor.	1
HSC §1798.200(c)	Any of the following actions shall be considered evidence of a threat to the public health and safety and may result in the denial, suspension, or revocation of a certificate or license issued under this division, or in the placement on probation of a certificate holder or license holder under this division:	9
§1798.200(c)(6)	Conviction of any crime which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of prehospital personnel. The record of conviction or a certified copy of the record shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction.	1
§1798.200(c)(8)	Violating or attempting to violate any federal or state statute or regulation that regulates narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances.	5
§1798.200(c)(9)	Addiction to, the excessive use of, or the misuse of, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances.	3

EMT Certification with Criminal Background, by Age - 2021



Applicants with Criminal History, by Gender - 2021



	Male	Female	Chose Not to Identify (by applicant)
Approved w/Restriction	38	12	0
Denied	12	2	0
Approved	265	65	5

■ Approved w/Restriction
 ■ Denied
 ■ Approved

EMT Certification with Criminal Background, by Race/Ethnicity - 2021

