

Maine EMS Workforce Study Consent Form – Students

You are invited to participate in a research project being conducted by the University of Maine Orono and Dr. Marcella Sorg, a Research Professor within the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. The purpose of the research is to investigate the issues affecting recruitment and retention of the EMS workforce in Maine, by gathering and synthesizing relevant data through structured focus groups of EMS licenses. You must be at least 18 years of age to participate and be in your initial EMS-licensure course – persons already holding a license as an EMT, AEMT, or paramedic are not eligible to participate.

What Will You Be Asked to Do?

- If you decide to participate, you will be asked to:
 - Complete a pre-screening questionnaire
 - Attend a focus group of 6-8 participants
 - Participate via the online Zoom platform
 - Groups will last two hours
 - Focus group will be audio and video recorded
- Answer questions as part of the focus group, such as:
 - “What could be done to motivate people to work in EMS?”
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Risks:

- Except for your time and inconvenience, there are minimal risks to you from participating in this study.
- Due to the group format, it cannot be guaranteed that others will keep your responses confidential.

Benefits

There are no direct benefits to you as the participant. This research may help us learn more about recruitment and retention issues facing the Maine EMS System. Getting feedback and input from you as a member of the EMS community is paramount to better understanding the issues that affect the future of this profession. Involving clinicians and/or students, like yourself, who are actively working in this field will give us and Maine EMS a better understanding of the challenges, benefits, and decisions that you face when it comes to remaining within the EMS system.

Your participation is paramount to the success of this study and in collecting the information necessary to make conclusions on the issues around recruitment and retention in the Maine EMS system.

Confidentiality

All efforts to protect an individual's identity will be made, however this cannot be guaranteed. Data will be kept on a password-protected computer at the University of Maine until December 2031. Zoom sessions will be recorded and transcribed and then the recordings themselves will be permanently deleted leaving only the transcript no later than June 2022. Notes from these recordings will be used to inform the transcription process as well as coding. These notes will be saved on the University of Maine server and deleted in December 2031. Pre-screening data will be saved on the University of Maine server and will be deleted in June 2022 as well. Your name or other identifying information will not be reported in any publications. Due to the group format, it cannot be guaranteed that others will keep responses confidential; however, facilitators will remind the group at the beginning and end of each session that information from the focus group is intended to be kept confidential and not to be shared outside the group.

Voluntary

Participation is voluntary. If you choose to take part in this study, you may stop at any time. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, please contact me at mhsorg@maine.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Research Compliance, University of Maine, 207-581-2657 (or e-mail umric@maine.edu).