



Fifth
REPORT

ANALYSIS OF DATA
REPORTED FOR:

January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021

EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE



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Our data analysis is verified by
Matthew Konopka (Data Analyst, Virginia Beach, VA)

This report has been peer reviewed by
Dr. Robin Foster, PhD, CAAB, CHBC

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UNITED HORSE
COALITION
EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. COLLABORATE.

A LETTER FROM THE UNITED HORSE COALITION

The United Horse Coalition (UHC) is looking forward to sharing the Fifth Equine Welfare Data Collective Report with you. In its pages you will see the data begin to tell a story of all the hard work being done nationwide to help at-risk equines and those in transition.

UHC is proud of the continued efforts and role the Equine Welfare Data Collective plays in furthering our mission. The EWDC serves as a neutral entity where all rescues and sanctuaries can submit their vital data to this effort on an equal playing field.

Every organization that participates helps us to better understand the true landscape of what is really happening out there, and not just anecdotally, but with real, meaningful data. This is no small achievement, and it's the very reason why the equine industry has come to know and trust the data supplied in these reports.

The information in these pages will help us to shape and change the future of equines at-risk and in transition by allowing us to recognize where our shortcomings are as well reward and replicate where we are making true and meaningful progress.

It is important that all organizations contribute to this data whenever applicable so that we can better shape programs for the equines and owners.

On behalf of UHC, the equines, and the owners who rely on us most, thank you.

Ashley Harkins

UHC Program Director

UHC@HorseCouncil.org



A LETTER FROM THE EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE

The insights explored by the EWDC since our humble beginnings in 2018 have been invaluable. This information is now being seen and heard by all aspects of the equine industry, not just the equine welfare community. Understanding the scope of at-risk equines, owners in need, and the organizations supporting them has allowed us to further understand what programming has the most potential to help.

The capacity of nearly 1,000 organizations to house over 40,000 equines a year is incredible. It's heartening to see the community come together to form partnerships and coalitions, to support and elevate each other's work, and help as many owners and equines as possible.

The goal of this initiative is not just to know the numbers, but to explore them deeply and inspire growth and change. How does this data speak to you? What will you do with this information going forward?

We hope when you finish reading our reports that you walk away not just wanting to know more, but to do more. We want to inspire a continued thirst for knowledge, as well as action.

I'm incredibly proud of the work our small team accomplishes annually. Without the support of all the participants, grant funders, and reviewers we wouldn't be able to do this. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and shining an even brighter light on the future of equine welfare.

Emily Stearns

EWDC Program Manager

EWDC@HorseCouncil.org

**If you or someone you know needs assistance,
visit our resource database to find help:**

UnitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/

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INTRODUCTION

The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) is a collaboration to accumulate, analyze, and report data to enhance programming for transitioning and at-risk equines. The EWDC was created by the United Horse Coalition (UHC), a program of the American Horse Council (AHC), with funding partners being The American Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Right Horse Initiative, The Foundation for the Horse, and USA Equestrian Trust.

Our data analysis is verified by Matthew Konopka (Data Analyst, Virginia Beach, VA) and this report has been peer reviewed by Dr. Robin Foster, PhD, CAAB, CHBC.

We understand the power of data and how it can vastly shift the dialogue around an issue and drive positive change. We see data collection and analysis as a strictly objective endeavor and do not attempt to make suggestions on how you should use the results.



INTRODUCTION

The EWDC launched its first survey in November 2018. The data analyzed in each report is a snapshot of a specific time period as told by the numerous 501c3 and municipal organizations that assist at-risk equines and those in transition across the United States. The reported analysis is described on a national and regional level.

This report follows a similar layout to our previous reports to facilitate data comparison between the response time periods.

This report and all previous reports can be viewed at:
<https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc/#ewdc-reports>





DATA COLLECTION

The EWDC maintains a database of all 501c3, nonprofit, and municipal organizations within the United States and Puerto Rico that assist at-risk equines and those in transition.

This list was created using publicly available information within the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search ⁽¹⁾, individual state tax exempt databases⁽²⁾, nonprofit auditing companies such as Charity Navigator, web searches for publicly available lists of “equine/horse/pony rescues”, “equine/horse/pony sanctuaries”, “equine/horse/pony shelters”, social media groups, and direct leads from partner organizations. The list is maintained and updated constantly and audited annually to add new organizations and remove those that are defunct.

Organizations’ 501c3, nonprofit, or municipal status are verified using Forms 990, EIN numbers, and Letters of Determination. The EWDC targets this population for data collection for research as they are eligible to receive grant and public funding, as well as donations, and are often the “first line of defense” to assist local law enforcement with animal confiscations. We feel this population is one path to identifying and understanding the needs and trends of at-risk equines and those in transition within the community.

Surveys were developed to collect equine specific intake/outcome, direct placement, and assistance service data for monthly time periods: January 2021, February 2021, March 2021, etc., as well as an aggregate January 2021-December 2021 summary. Additionally, all organizations were asked to submit a separate “Organization Profile” that recorded demographic information specific to each participating organization. All organizations receive the same surveys and calls to participate at the same time points.



DATA COLLECTION

This reported focuses on organizations that submitted data for the entire year of 2021, as well as all organizations that submitted demographic data since EWDC inception in 2018.

All non-responsive organizations were contacted via phone and email on a rolling basis until the end of the collection period. A link to the survey was also posted on the United Horse Coalition website.

Organizations with duplicate submissions for the same survey and response outliers were contacted via phone and email to confirm the data submitted. Only one set of data was analyzed per organization per time period. Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) were used to identify duplicate submissions.

All identifying information such as name, phone number, and email address were removed from the dataset before analysis.

Organization population data on non-custodial services was also obtained from services reported to the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database⁽³⁾ at www.unitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/

Region designations were assigned based on Federal Census Regions⁽⁴⁾ (Appendix A).

A glossary of terms used in this report can be found in Appendix B.

The survey in its entirety can be seen at
www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/submit-data



POPULATION

961

Organizations within the United States (including Puerto Rico) that take custody of at-risk equines and those in transition.

239

Organizations reporting non-custodial safety net services (i.e. hay banks, veterinary assistance, euthanasia services, training services, etc.)

The EWDC completed an audit of the population database and confirmed 996 individual 501c3 organizations within the United States (including Puerto Rico) that focus on supporting at-risk equines and owners in need. 961 take custody of at-risk equines and those in transition operating during the collection period. Further data collected by the United Horse Coalition on available safety net services in the United States resulted in 204 organizations self-reporting both custodial and non-custodial services. 35 report only providing non-custodial services. These non-custodial services include programming like feed banks, veterinary assistance, castration assistance, direct placement services, euthanasia services, and more.

As was seen in the EWDC Fourth Report, published in February 2022, sample sizes for custodial data were reduced compared to previous EWDC reports. Anecdotal feedback suggests one reason is continued staffing complications, potentially as an impact from COVID-19. A general overall feeling of fatigue and difficulty organizing records is a continual theme since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

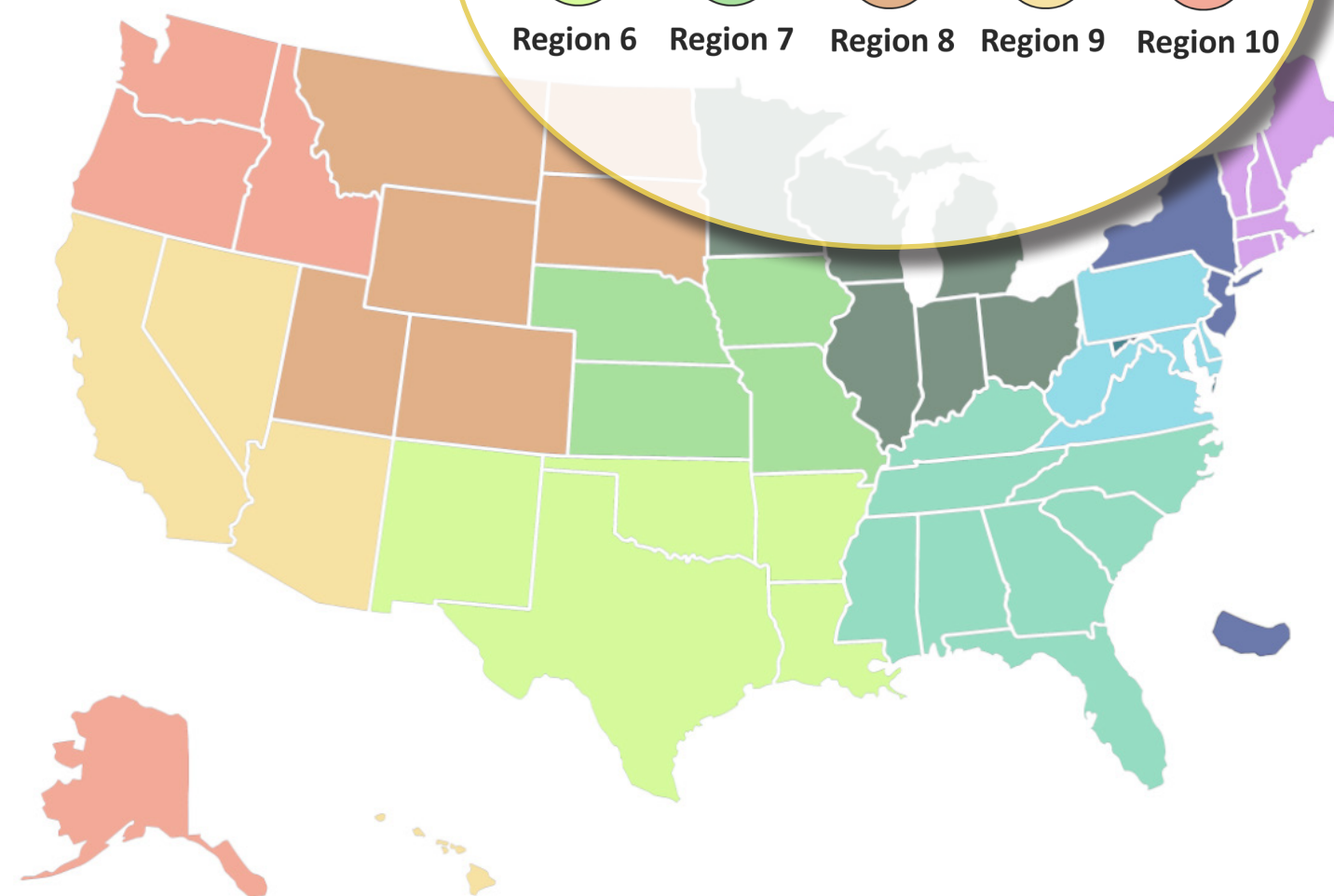
For this report, analysis was only completed on data submitted by organizations that covered the entire year of 2021. Of 961 total custodial organizations contacted, 184 submitted at least partial custodial service data for 2021, and 70 of those 184 submitted complete datasets for all of 2021.



POPULATION

What's your region?

-  Region 1
-  Region 2
-  Region 3
-  Region 4
-  Region 5
-  Region 6
-  Region 7
-  Region 8
-  Region 9
-  Region 10





POPULATION

To date, the EWDC has had 364 organizations submit at least some data, representing 33% of the entire equine welfare organization population. 17 custodial organizations have submitted full data sets for 2018-2021. Trending data from those 17 organizations will be evaluated in a separate breakout summary report.

Since the creation of the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database (UHCERD), and the inception of the EWDC, 50 organizations have been recorded as ceasing operations for various reasons, including loss of nonprofit status. As of the publication of this report, the UHC and EWDC are conducting an annual audit of all organizations in the database to confirm they are continuing operations to support equines.

Concerningly, 705 organizations (72.8%) are marked in the IRS Tax-Exempt database as not having a current form 990 on file within the past 3 years. Organizations without a form 990 submitted within the past 3 years are marked for auto-revocation of their 501c3 status by the IRS.

In December, 2022, the IRS had a backlog of over 500,000 form 990s being posted to the public tax exempt database ⁽⁵⁾. The most likely scenario is that many of the organizations in the UHCERD and EWDC database have current paperwork that is not yet posted by the IRS. The annual UHC database audit continues as of publication of this report and is working to contact each organization individually to confirm operational status. A more detailed summary report of the total population of organizations will be published once the annual audit has been completed.

Participation for the 2021 time period by region can be seen in Table 1. A full table of state organization populations and participation since EWDC inception can be found in Appendix C.



POPULATION

View and search the database in entirety at UnitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/

The screenshot shows the homepage of the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'EQUINE RESOURCE DATABASE', 'NEWS', 'ABOUT', 'EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES', 'MEMBER ORGANIZATION', 'JOIN THE CAUSE', 'EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE', 'DONATE', and 'UHC MEMBER PORTAL'. The main heading reads 'United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database'. Below this, there are search options: 'Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'All Categories'. A large blue box contains a welcome message: 'WELCOME TO THE UNITED HORSE COALITION EQUINE RESOURCE DATABASE'. The message encourages users to become UHC members or make donations, and provides instructions on how to use the database. Below the message, there is a search section with a 'Search by Keyword' input field and a 'Search' button. Underneath, there is a 'State/Province' section with a grid of checkboxes for various states and provinces, including AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV, and WY. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'UHC Equine Resource Database Affiliations' with a list of checkboxes for various organizations, including 'A Home For Every Horse Member', 'ASPCA Right Horse Partner', 'ASPCA Right Horse Warm Up Ringer', and 'EQUUS Guardian 2022'.



Table 1
Participation for all data submitted in 2021 by Region

Region	Adoption/Rescue/ Transition Center	Combination	Direct Placement	Municipal	Sanctuary	Other	Total
1	4	2	0	0	0	0	6
2	6	4	0	0	3	0	13
3	9	5	2	0	3	1	20
4	19	18	0	1	3	0	41
5	10	4	0	0	2	0	16
6	8	9	1	0	3	0	21
7	4	3	0	0	2	0	9
8	18	10	0	0	3	1	32
9	5	4	0	0	4	0	13
10	6	4	0	0	3	0	13
Total	89	63	3	1	26	2	184



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Non-Custodial Services

Reporting on non-custodial services was introduced in the EWDC Third Report (covering January-December 2019). Direct placement programs and safety net services support owners seeking short term aid and equines in need without organizations having to take legal custody of an equine.

As the EWDC continues to collect data from non-custodial safety net services, trends over time will be analyzed in future reports. Continued small sample sizes make it difficult to interpret long term trends in services. The EWDC is working to increase data reporting for support services.

Any changes noted for programs in this dataset compared to previous reports could be a result of many factors. This may be inclusive of changes in programming provided, funding provided, owner awareness of the availability of these programs, owner changes of circumstance based on national socioeconomic factors, and more. Until more data is collected, significance of changes in program use and overall capacity for support will not be known. Most importantly we hope to eventually understand what services are most needed and the capacity to fulfill requests.

Direct Placement Programs

Direct placement programs facilitate transitioning equines from one home to another without taking legal custody of the equine. Reporting on direct placement programs first began in the EWDC Third Report. The responding sample size for the full year of 2021 was extremely limited at 4 organizations. However, in total 15 organization submitted at least partial data for the year. This sample size is too small to fully analyze. The EWDC plans to release any accumulated direct placement data related to breed in an upcoming data summary report.



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Safety Net Services

Non-custodial services are inclusive of “safety net services”. These services include hay banks, veterinary assistance, husbandry assistance, euthanasia and disposal services, and more (see Table 2). The ultimate goal of safety net services is to assist an owner with care of their equine, but without the organization needing to take custody of the equine. These are intended to be short term assistance solutions to facilitate owners maintaining custody of their equines during times of financial or logistical need. New programs such as husbandry assistance provide logistical care taking and physical labor services instead of direct financial support.

For the full year of 2021, 28 participants, representing 40.0% of all full year 2021 submissions, and over 10% of the total known safety net programs nationally, reported non-custodial services. There continues to be barriers to collecting these data. Most important is a generalized lack of record keeping for these services, particularly requests for aid, among the majority of organizations.

The average requests per organization was 6.7 annually, and the average fulfillments per organization was 5.5.

‘Feed’ and ‘Veterinary Service’ account for over 50% of all assistance requests made by owners (Table 4). Nearly 100% of feed requests were fulfilled (Table 3), and 55.1% of veterinary assistance requests were fulfilled. No organizations reported requests for assistance with disaster response. Reporting organizations were able to fulfill 81.9% of all service requests.



Table 2
Safety Net Service Requests and Fulfillments by Region

Region	Sample Size	Requests Behavior	Fulfill Behavior	Requests Disaster	Fulfill Disaster	Requests Husbandry	Fulfill Husbandry	Requests Castrate	Fulfill Castrate	Requests Transport	Fulfill Transport	Requests Boarding	Fulfill Boarding	Requests Euthanasia	Fulfill Euthanasia	Requests Disposal	Fulfill Disposal
1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	3	2	0	0
2	4	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0
5	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0
6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	10
7	2	0	0	0	0	18	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	6	4	1	0	2	1	0	0
9	2	3	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	33	7	4	0	0	25	23	5	5	13	11	3	3	22	20	10	10



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

*Table 3
Safety Net Fulfillments by Service*

Service	Percent of Requests Fulfilled
Disaster	0.00%
Veterinary	55.10%
Behavior	57.14%
Transport	84.62%
Euthanasia	90.91%
Husbandry	92.00%
Feed	94.44%
Boarding	100.00%
Castration	100.00%
Disposal	100.00%
Total % Fulfilled	81.91%

*Table 4
Safety Net Services, Percentage of Total Requests*

Service	Percent of Total Requests
Disaster	0.00%
Boarding	1.60%
Castration	2.66%
Behavior	3.72%
Disposal	5.32%
Transport	6.91%
Euthanasia	11.70%
Husbandry	13.30%
Veterinary	26.06%
Feed	28.72%



Custodial Services

Custodial services encompass any program that necessitates an organization to take legal custody of an equine. This includes but is not limited to law enforcement confiscation, owner relinquishment, and adoption services.

For 2021, 184 custodial organizations submitted demographic data (Table 1), and of those, 70 submitted intake and outcome data for the entire year (Table 5). This section of the report summarizes data on length of stay (LOS) at the rescue or sanctuary and if the organization has a Foster program. It also reviews intake and outcome data, over all participating organizations and broken down by region.

The 70 organizations that submitted a full year of intake and outcome data represent every region, including 28 states and territories. Similar to previous reports, Adoption/Rescue/Transition Centers and Combination Adoption/Sanctuary Centers account for the majority of survey respondents. Municipal run facilities continue to represent a very limited dataset. The distribution of types of facilities within the responding sample size reflects the greater population of known equine welfare organizations. The EWDC is working to further understand the exact percentage of equine welfare organizations that are managed by municipalities, and current estimates are below 10% nationally.



*Table 5
Participants by state that submitted full year 2021 Custodial Services*

State	Participants	State	Participants	State	Participants	State	Participants
CA	5	ME	1	NM	5	TX	4
CO	11	MI	2	NY	4	UT	1
FL	4	MN	1	OH	1	VA	3
GA	2	MO	2	OR	2	WA	2
IA	1	MT	1	PA	2		
IL	3	NC	2	PR	1		
KY	2	NH	1	SD	1		
MD	3	NJ	1	TN	2		





Custodial Services

How do we define size?

Maximum Daily Capacity	Category
0-10	Small
11-50	Medium
51-100	Large
>100	Extra Large

Table 6

Participants by Size and Type that submitted full year 2021 Custodial Services

State	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Total
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	2	8	23	2	35
Combination	1	7	15	5	28
Sanctuary	0	0	6	1	7
Total	3	15	44	8	70



Custodial Services

Table 7

Participants by Size and Region that submitted full year 2021 Custodial Services

Region	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Total
1	0	1	1	0	2
2	0	0	5	1	6
3	0	2	5	1	8
4	2	3	6	1	12
5	1	1	4	1	7
6	0	3	4	2	9
7	0	0	2	1	3
8	0	3	11	0	14
9	0	1	4	0	5
10	0	1	2	1	4
Total	3	15	44	8	70



Length of Stay, Presence of Foster Programs, and Capacity

Annual Length of Stay (LOS) data is critical to understanding the current national capacity for assisting at-risk equines and those in transition in the custody of equine welfare organizations. In addition, knowing the average LOS allows organizations to better understand their resource needs for facilitating care. The EWDC published preliminary data in previous reports, including estimates for national maximum daily capacity.

The EWDC has accumulated LOS data from 226 organizations. Incomplete data from lack of record keeping creates a major limitation to interpreting the average LOS. 45.5% of all reporting organizations do not track or are otherwise unable to calculate their equines' LOS. The EWDC continues to encourage organizations to track LOS and educates participants on record keeping skills needed to track this data.

Among organizations that do keep records, Adoption/Rescue/Transition Centers have an average LOS of 258 days per equine with a minimum of 30 days. Combination Adoption and Sanctuary facilities have an average LOS of 335 days. Combination facilities work to adopt equines into homes but will keep an equine indefinitely if needed. In addition, over 55% of combination facilities do not track LOS. Sanctuary facilities intend to keep all equines for the lifetime of that animal and report an average LOS of 1187 days. 76% of reporting sanctuaries have unknown LOS.

Table 8

Length of Stay, Measured in Days, by Type of Organization

Type	Sample Size	Maximum LOS	Minimum LOS	Average LOS	Unknown LOS	Indefinite LOS
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	75	1825	30	258	37	0
Combination	39	2400	30	335	55	7
Municipal	2	695	120	408	0	0
Sanctuary	7	2920	365	1187	24	10
All Respondents	123	2920	30	337	116	17



Programming across all organizations varies greatly. Use of Foster homes (volunteers who will house an equine on behalf of a custodial organization) can increase an organization's daily maximum capacity without needing to expand facilities. Of 177 organizations that supplied foster programming data, just over half (50.8%) manage an active foster home program (Table 9).

Participants reporting presence of foster programming represent every region (Table 10).

*Table 9
Presence of Foster Program and Capacity by Type*

Type	Average of Foster Capacity	Sum of Foster Capacity	Yes Foster	No Foster
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	14	711	50	35
Combination	37	1180	34	26
Direct Placement	0	0	1	2
Municipal	0	0	0	1
Sanctuary	5	25	5	21
Other	0	0	0	2
All Respondents	22	1916	90	87

*Table 10
Presence of Foster Program and Capacity by Region*

Region	Average Foster Capacity	Sum of Foster Capacity	Yes Foster	No Foster
1	24	145	6	0
2	4	24	6	7
3	19	150	9	10
4	15	277	19	22
5	22	196	9	5
6	9.5	95	10	11
7	15	77	5	4
8	55	886	16	14
9	8	32	5	8
10	7	34	5	6
All Respondents	22	1916	90	87



Custodial Services

79 organizations supplied data for both LOS and foster programming. Those with a foster program (n=44) have an average LOS of 282 days, while organizations without a foster program (n=35) have an average LOS of 325 days (Table 11). While it is too soon to conclude that a foster program directly results in decreased LOS (and consequently increased capacity), this preliminary correlation is cause for further exploration.

*Table 11
Presence of Foster Program and Capacity by Region*

	Sample Size	Avg LOS
With Foster	44	282
Without Foster	35	325





Intakes and Outcomes from January 2021-December 2021

70 custodial organizations reported complete intake and outcome data for 2021. A separate summary report will be published later in the year to further explore trends across all intake and outcome data collected by the EWDC since 2018. Response rates for 2021 data are similar to 2020. Nationally, reporting organizations ended the year at 85.7% of capacity filled on December 31, 2021. 75.9% of reported outcomes were adoptions. 24.7% of intakes for 2021 had no reported outcome and remained in the custody of reporting organizations.

This is the first year the EWDC collected 'reason' for euthanasia in the outcome data. 15.0% of all outcomes were euthanasia for equine health related reasons, about 1% for behavior related reasons, and less than 0.5% for "other" reasons.

Notably, organizations from Region 1 reported a -28.8% "intakes without outcomes rate" and ended the year at 47% of capacity filled. This represents more equines leaving the custody of an organization than entering and follows other trends in animal sheltering across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Anecdotal evidence suggests a massive increase in animal adoptions during the pandemic, with a decrease in intakes due to local restrictions limiting shelter operations.

This report presents total annual number of intakes. The EWDC collected monthly intake data from several organizations for 2021 and will publish that data in a separate breakout report detailing trends across multiple time periods.

Reporting organizations from Region 3 ended the year at 102% of maximum capacity. Shelters exceed maximum capacity when they temporarily house more equines than their resources allow. Shelters in similar situations may benefit from existing transfer programs that help facilitate the movement of equines from shelters operating near maximum capacity to those with open room for care.



Need a refresher on intake and outcome definitions?
Check out the glossary in Appendix B!

The intake and outcomes percentages in this report follow similar trends in our previous reports. These trends will be explored on a regional and national level in a separate summary report later this year.

Visit us at www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc to make sure you're on our mailing list to be notified about our upcoming summary reports!



2021 Intakes and Outcomes - National

National (n=70)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	28.6	2002	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.7	49	1.7%
Relinquished by Owner	25.2	1764	62.7%
Adoption Return	2.9	206	7.3%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	3.6	251	8.9%
Transferred in from another agency	4.7	328	11.7%
Purchased at public auction	1.4	95	3.4%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.1	76	2.7%
Born in shelter	0.4	30	1.1%
Other Intakes	0.2	16	0.6%

Total Intakes:	2815
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	22.99	1609	75.9%
Return to Owner	0.6	42	2.0%
Transferred to Another Agency	1.07	75	3.5%
Euthanized Health	4.53	317	15.0%
Euthanized Behavior	0.29	20	0.9%
Euthanized Other	0.11	8	0.4%
Died in care	0.2	14	0.7%
Other Outcomes	0.5	35	1.7%

Total Outcomes:	2120
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	2697
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	3112
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	86.7%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	24.7%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 1

Region 1 (n=2)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	39	78	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.5	1	1.9%
Relinquished by Owner	3.0	6	11.5%
Adoption Return	4.0	8	15.4%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	12.5	25	48.1%
Transferred in from another agency	0.0	0	0.0%
Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	5.5	11	21.2%
Born in shelter	0.5	1	1.9%
Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	52
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	25	50	74.6%
Return to Owner	0	0	0.0%
Transferred to Another Agency	1	2	3.0%
Euthanized Health	5.5	11	16.4%
Euthanized Behavior	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Other	2	4	6.0%
Died in care	0	0	0.0%
Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	67
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	63
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	134
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	47.0%
--	--------------

% of Equines without an Outcome	-28.8%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 2

Region 2 (n=6)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	17	102	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	1.0	6	6.4%
Relinquished by Owner	11.5	69	73.4%
Adoption Return	1.3	8	8.5%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0.0%
Transferred in from another agency	1.3	8	8.5%
Purchased at public auction	0.3	2	2.1%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.2	1	1.1%
Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	94
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	8.33	50	57.5%
Return to Owner	0.33	2	2.3%
Transferred to Another Agency	3.5	21	24.1%
Euthanized Health	1.83	11	12.6%
Euthanized Behavior	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Other	0.17	1	1.1%
Died in care	0.17	1	1.1%
Other Outcomes	0.17	1	1.1%

Total Outcomes:	87
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	109
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	158
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	69.0%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	7.4%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 3

Region 3 (n=8)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	30.3	242	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.3	2	0.7%
Relinquished by Owner	16.9	135	47.9%
Adoption Return	0.9	7	2.5%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	5.6	45	16.0%
Transferred in from another agency	7.5	60	21.3%
Purchased at public auction	0.3	2	0.7%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	3.6	29	10.3%
Born in shelter	0.1	1	0.4%
Other Intakes	0.1	1	0.4%

Total Intakes:	282
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	21	168	81.6%
Return to Owner	0.25	2	1.0%
Transferred to Another Agency	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Health	3.75	30	14.6%
Euthanized Behavior	0.25	2	1.0%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0.0%
Died in care	0.38	3	1.5%
Other Outcomes	0.13	1	0.5%

Total Outcomes:	206
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	318
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	310
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	102.5%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	27.0%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 4

Region 4 (n=12)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	34	408	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	1.9	23	2.6%
Relinquished by Owner	46.7	560	63.6%
Adoption Return	9.3	112	12.7%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	6.1	73	8.3%
Transferred in from another agency	7.8	93	10.6%
Purchased at public auction	0.2	2	0.2%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.4	17	1.9%
Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	880
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	45.25	543	84.1%
Return to Owner	2.17	26	4.0%
Transferred to Another Agency	1.33	16	2.5%
Euthanized Health	4.25	51	7.9%
Euthanized Behavior	0.58	7	1.1%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0.0%
Died in care	0.25	3	0.5%
Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	646
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	642
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	736
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	87.2%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	26.6%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 5

Region 5 (n=7)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	57.1	400	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
Relinquished by Owner	49.0	343	78.0%
Adoption Return	2.7	19	4.3%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	4.9	34	7.7%
Transferred in from another agency	4.6	32	7.3%
Purchased at public auction	0.3	2	0.5%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
Born in shelter	0.4	3	0.7%
Other Intakes	1.0	7	1.6%

Total Intakes:	440
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	35.14	246	76.2%
Return to Owner	0.29	2	0.6%
Transferred to Another Agency	2.71	19	5.9%
Euthanized Health	6.86	48	14.9%
Euthanized Behavior	0.29	2	0.6%
Euthanized Other	0.14	1	0.3%
Died in care	0	0	0.0%
Other Outcomes	0.71	5	1.5%

Total Outcomes:	323
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	517
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	584
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	88.5%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	26.6%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 6

Region 6 (n=9)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	14.1	127	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	1.7	15	8.2%
Relinquished by Owner	10.4	94	51.1%
Adoption Return	0.7	6	3.3%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	5.1	46	25.0%
Transferred in from another agency	1.4	13	7.1%
Purchased at public auction	0.3	3	1.6%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.2	2	1.1%
Born in shelter	0.6	5	2.7%
Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	184
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	13	117	76.5%
Return to Owner	0.67	6	3.9%
Transferred to Another Agency	0.33	3	2.0%
Euthanized Health	2.89	26	17.0%
Euthanized Behavior	0.11	1	0.7%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0.0%
Died in care	0	0	0.0%
Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	153
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	158
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	283
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	55.8%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	16.8%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 7

Region 7 (n=3)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	7.3	22	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
Relinquished by Owner	15.3	46	76.7%
Adoption Return	1.0	3	5.0%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	1.7	5	8.3%
Transferred in from another agency	1.3	4	6.7%
Purchased at public auction	0.3	1	1.7%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.3	1	1.7%
Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	60
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	13.67	41	85.4%
Return to Owner	1	3	6.3%
Transferred to Another Agency	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Health	1.33	4	8.3%
Euthanized Behavior	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0.0%
Died in care	0	0	0.0%
Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	48
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	34
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	75
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	45.3%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	20.0%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 8

Region 8 (n=14)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	27.9	391	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.1	2	0.4%
Relinquished by Owner	20.1	282	55.0%
Adoption Return	2.5	35	6.8%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.1	1	0.2%
Transferred in from another agency	5.7	80	15.6%
Purchased at public auction	5.9	83	16.2%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.9	12	2.3%
Born in shelter	0.9	12	2.3%
Other Intakes	0.4	6	1.2%

Total Intakes:	513
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	19.43	272	63.1%
Return to Owner	0.07	1	0.2%
Transferred to Another Agency	1	14	3.2%
Euthanized Health	8.14	114	26.5%
Euthanized Behavior	0.5	7	1.6%
Euthanized Other	0.14	2	0.5%
Died in care	0.43	6	1.4%
Other Outcomes	1.07	15	3.5%

Total Outcomes:	431
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	473
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	524
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	90.3%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	16.0%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 9

Region 9 (n=5)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	32.5	176	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
Relinquished by Owner	40.8	204	74.7%
Adoption Return	1.4	7	2.6%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	2.8	14	5.1%
Transferred in from another agency	7.0	35	12.8%
Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.6	3	1.1%
Born in shelter	1.6	8	2.9%
Other Intakes	0.4	2	0.7%

Total Intakes:	273
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	17.8	89	75.4%
Return to Owner	0	0	0.0%
Transferred to Another Agency	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Health	3	15	12.7%
Euthanized Behavior	0.2	1	0.8%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0.0%
Died in care	0	0	0.0%
Other Outcomes	2.6	13	11.0%

Total Outcomes:	118
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	331
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	195
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	169.7%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	56.8%
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2021 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 10

Region 10 (n=4)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2021	14	56	
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
Relinquished by Owner	6.3	25	67.6%
Adoption Return	0.3	1	2.7%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	2.0	8	21.6%
Transferred in from another agency	0.8	3	8.1%
Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes: 37

OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	8.25	33	80.5%
Return to Owner	0	0	0.0%
Transferred to Another Agency	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Health	1.75	7	17.1%
Euthanized Behavior	0	0	0.0%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0.0%
Died in care	0.25	1	2.4%
Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes: 41

Total In Custody December 31, 2021 52

Maximum Capacity of Sample 113

% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample 46.0%

% of Equines without an Outcome -10.8%





Conclusions and Future Survey Considerations

The EWDC is extremely proud of the data collected over the years and insights revealed from the information. This data has been used to develop and expand programming across the country by many different organizations, and to assess the impact of that programming. The information has also opened the eyes of the equine industry about the scope of the at-risk equine issue and the organizations working so hard to care for them.

It's important to take a moment to pause and reflect on the data presented in this report as it frames the narrative of equine welfare programming in the United States.

As we look to the future, we will be working hard to uncover additional information from the data we have collected, explore how to increase the reach of our reporting, and most importantly, find ways to help equines enthusiasts, industry participants, and welfare champions understand how to continue supporting owners and equines in need.

Notably, we can continue to work with organizations to improve their record keeping and promote standardization across the community. Standardized record keeping and promoting the use of software would likely improve the quality of submitted data and allow for more in depth analysis.

While many organizations are at or near their maximum capacity, there is room to work together and further facilitate the movement of equines to organizations with room for care. Foster programming seems to be an underutilized aspect of expanding capacity that has yet unknown potential to positively impact equines and owners in need of assistance.

While there is regional variation in intakes and outcomes, owner relinquishment continues to be the most common intake reason. Expansion of non-custodial services, temporary fostering, and other owner support programming has potential to decrease the number of equines needing to enter the custody of welfare organizations and improve both owner and equine welfare across the country.



Our initiative is going to continue to evolve with more summary reports, expanded education and outreach efforts, and increased participant recruitment. We look forward to having you continue this journey with us.

We're always open to feedback and encourage everyone to share with us the questions they feel are important for us to explore. Please send any comments or feedback to EWDC@HorseCouncil.org.

Key Takeaways

1. **There is a large need for standardized record keeping and promoting the use of software based record keeping.**
2. **Increasing transfers of equines from organizations operating near maximum capacity to those with open stalls could increase outcomes and allow for more intakes in areas of high need.**
3. **Expanding foster programs could expand national capacity.**
4. **Owner relinquishment is the most common intake reason, and expanding non-custodial services could decrease the number of equines needing to enter the custody of welfare organizations long term.**

If you would like to learn more about the Equine Welfare Data Collective, view the survey in its entirety, or submit data, check us out at:

www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/EWDC



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4. United States Census Bureau. (2010, October 5). American FactFinder - Search. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>
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US Federal Census Region Designation

State	Region	State	Region
AK	10	NC	4
AL	4	ND	8
AR	6	NE	7
AZ	9	NH	1
CA	9	NJ	2
CO	8	NM	6
CT	1	NV	9
DE	3	NY	2
FL	4	OH	5
GA	4	OK	6
HI	9	OR	10
IA	7	PA	3
ID	10	PR	2
IL	5	RI	1
IN	5	SC	4
KS	7	SD	8
KY	4	TN	4
LA	6	TX	6
MA	1	UT	8
MD	3	VA	3
ME	1	VT	1
MI	5	WA	10
MN	5	WI	5
MO	7	WV	3
MS	4	WY	8
MT	8		





Glossary of Terms:

Adoption:

Transferring a horse into a new home or vocation, most often involving the transfer of legal custody from the current caretaker to the new caretaker.

Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center:

An organization that facilitates placements of equines in adoptive homes and new vocations through traditional and non-traditional approaches to finding the right matches and opportunities for the equines in their care.

Adoption Return:

An equine that was placed into a new home but was later returned to the Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center.

At-Risk:

An equine that has an increased possibility of experiencing a situation of neglect, abuse, or general poor welfare.

Born in Shelter:

An equine that was born while the mare was in the legal custody of an organization.

Custodial Services: Services provided while in the legal custody and care of an organization.

Died in Care:

An equine that perished while in the care and legal custody of an organization that was not the result of humane euthanasia.

Equine:

Any animal within the horse family including but not limited to donkeys, mules, horses, ponies, zebras, and miniature horses.

Humane Euthanasia:

Termination of life in an animal for medical, behavioral, or otherwise humane reasons.

In-Transition:

An equine that is currently in need of a new home or vocation.

Kill Pen/Kill Buyer:

A third party or “middle man” that holds equines on feedlots or otherwise enables the sale of equines to slaughter facilities.



Glossary of Terms Continued:

Law Enforcement Confiscation:

Equines that have been forcibly removed from the custody of their current owner by law enforcement.

Municipal Facility:

An organization owned, operated, or otherwise contracted by a government (taxpayer funded) entity that provides a combination of animal related services to the community.

Non-Custodial Services: Services provided to an owner by an organization, while the owner maintains legal custody and care of the equine in need. Including but not limited to feed banks, veterinary assistance, euthanasia and disposal assistance, direct placement programs, and behavioral assistance.

Public Auction:

A sale that is able to be attended by users of the general public.

Relinquished by Owner:

Equines that have been voluntarily transferred to the custody of an organization by their current owner (this does not include animals that were previously adopted from the organization, see Adoption Return above).

Return to Owner:

Equines that have been returned to the legal custody of the caretaker that originally transferred them to the custody of the organization (this does not include transfer of ownership from another agency, see Transfer to/From Agency below).

Sanctuary:

Equine facilities that provide lifetime care for equines. Unlike adoption organizations, sanctuaries typically do not focus on rehoming the equines in their care.

Stray/At-Large:

Equines that have been found loose or otherwise outside of containment.

Transfer in/out from Another Agency:

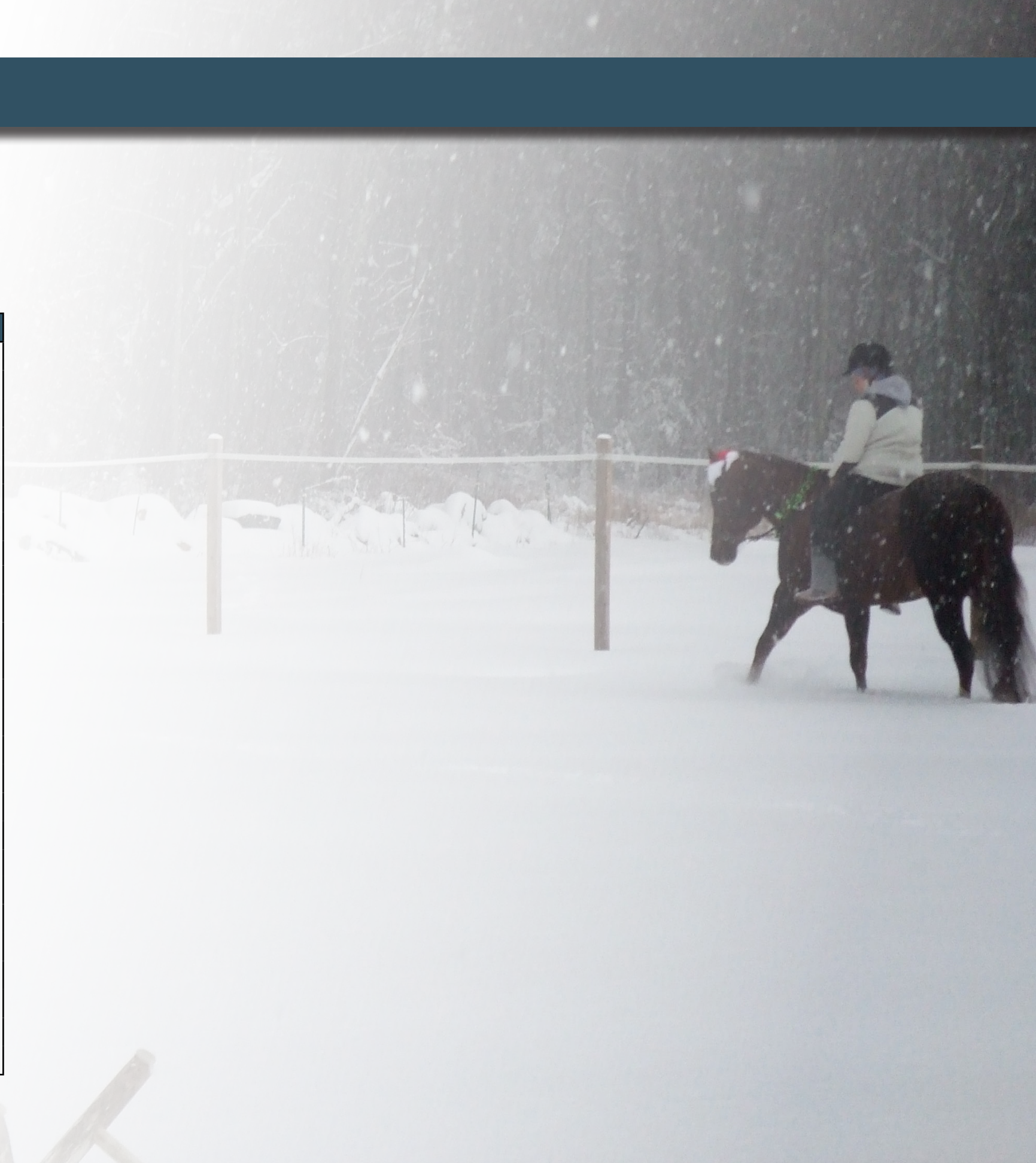
An equine that has been transferred from the legal custody of one 501(c)(3), nonprofit, or municipal organization to the custody of another 501(c)(3) or municipal organization.



APPENDIX C

State Population of All Known Organizations and Response Rates since EWDC Inception 2018

State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)	State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)
AK	0	0.0%	NC	33	36.4%
AL	7	28.6%	ND	2	0.0%
AR	8	0.0%	NE	5	80.0%
AZ	41	26.8%	NH	8	75.0%
CA	109	26.6%	NJ	15	26.7%
CO	56	57.1%	NM	11	63.6%
CT	11	45.5%	NV	7	42.9%
DE	4	50.0%	NY	46	45.7%
FL	73	31.5%	OH	30	20.0%
GA	25	24.0%	OK	15	33.3%
HI	3	33.3%	OR	25	52.0%
IA	8	50.0%	PA	43	34.9%
ID	6	50.0%	PR	3	33.3%
IL	24	41.7%	RI	3	33.3%
IN	15	13.3%	SC	20	20.0%
KS	6	33.3%	SD	5	40.0%
KY	22	36.4%	TN	24	25.0%
LA	9	11.1%	TX	61	36.1%
MA	12	33.3%	UT	9	44.4%
MD	29	48.3%	VA	30	46.7%
ME	9	55.6%	VT	4	50.0%
MI	21	42.9%	WA	26	26.9%
MN	14	35.7%	WI	17	23.5%
MO	17	58.8%	WV	3	66.7%
MS	7	14.3%	WY	3	100.0%
MT	8	37.5%			



EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE © 2023

