



Seventh REPORT

ANALYSIS OF DATA
REPORTED FOR:

January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023

EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE

Mission Statement

The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) is a nonprofit organization that works to collect, analyze, and report data on at-risk and transitioning equines in the United States. EWDC reports are impartial and provide anonymous aggregate data to inform the industry on the issue of at-risk horses.



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

This report has been peer reviewed by

Dr. Robin Foster

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About Matthew Konopka

Matthew Konopka is a data scientist who specializes in tailoring statistics, econometrics, and geographic information systems approaches to analytical questions in the public and private sectors. He has extensive experience in using statistical survey techniques in support of economic valuation, litigation, and public policy. In the gaming industry, he has provided consulting on the field protocol and analysis for surveys of casino customer behavior in support of renegotiation of tribal-state gaming compacts. He designed the survey instrument and accompanying statistical analysis in support of the largest economic survey of the value and size of equine-related industries in the United States.

In the public sector, Mr. Konopka led the statistical analysis team for the economic survey in support of damages litigation against British Petroleum in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill case. He has also designed statistical surveys and analyses for federal agencies such as the EPA and NOAA for use in regulatory rulemakings, procedural compliance reviews, and natural resource leasing policy. Most recently, he has been heading resident, employee, and project surveys in support of budget-making and strategy with the division of data science in the City of Norfolk, Virginia.

About Dr. Robin Foster

Robin Foster, PhD, CAAB, CEBC is a professor of animal learning and behavior and an equine behavior consultant. She teaches university courses in equine and zoo animal behavior and welfare at Virginia Tech, the University of Washington, and the University of Guelph. Robin also conducts research on equine behavior and human-animal interactions, and she has published research articles, textbook chapters, and commentaries in *The Horse* magazine.





A Letter from the United Horse Coalition

The United Horse Coalition is pleased to share with you the 7th Equine Welfare Data Collective Report. This report marks five years since the Equine Welfare Data Collectives inaugural report was released in September of 2019 – and what a productive five years it has been!

We appreciate each and every single one of the organizations that contributes data to our report. This data is critical as we continue to have conversations to figure out how to best help the horses that are at risk and in transition. This data allows us to look at the big picture, while analyzing our shortcomings and better focusing our resources

where they are most needed. This has allowed us to make meaningful progress over the last five years, and we look forward to future results.

Thanks to the data supplied by the EWDC, we continue to find new and innovative ways to support and grow the thousands of resources in the UHC Equine Resource Database. Here owners and equine welfare organizations alike can find the help they need to keep their equines happy and healthy.

We continue to be proud of the ongoing efforts and role the Equine Welfare Data Collective plays in furthering our collective mission of helping at-risk horses and those in transition. Since its inception, 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 nature of what is really happening out there, not just anecdotally, but with real, meaningful, and factual information. 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.

It is important that all organizations contribute to this data whenever applicable so that we can better recognize and shape programs for the horses and owners who need us the most.

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

If you, or someone you know needs assistance please visit our resource database to find help: <https://unitedhorsecoalition.weblinkconnect.com/search>

Andrea Manley
UHC Program Director
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A Letter from The Equine Welfare Data Collective

We are thrilled to publish our 7th Equine Welfare Data Collective Report, detailing the services organizations provided to at-risk horses and their owners in 2023. The Equine Welfare Data Collective has been collecting data since November of 2018, and six years of data collection and reporting have allowed us to provide the industry with a national snapshot each year. These data showcase the hard work and dedication shown every day by the people working tirelessly with horses in the transition and rescue

pipeline. Our goal is always to provide unbiased information to the industry, so that those in a position to help can allocate resources in ways that will best benefit the horses.

We worked diligently last year to increase participation in our survey, and we were excited to see a large increase in the number of organizations that submitted information to us for 2023. We are already looking ahead and collecting data for 2024 and hope to see that continue. We've made updates to our survey process to make data collection as simple as possible for the organizations that are so helpful in providing their data to us. In order to assist with record keeping and simplify the submission process, we've also developed tools to help keep track of the equines in their care. The feedback provided in each survey cycle is invaluable, and we thank you all for working with us to make this process the best it can be!

While we saw an increase in organizations reporting data in 2023, we also saw an increased demand on them to provide services. It seems as though they are still feeling an impact from COVID. In this post-pandemic world with continued economic challenges, we're seeing an increased number of horses in transition and in the rescue pipeline, and we know that organizations are feeling the strain of limited resources and increased demand. We applaud your hard work, and hope that this report helps you understand the industry trends and how to focus your efforts next year.

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who submitted their data for this report amidst all the other things you do to serve horses in need. It has been wonderful getting to interact with you all personally, and hearing some of the stories behind the numbers in this report. It's an honor to use this report to showcase how each of these organizations are changing the lives of animals across the country.

We hope that these data can leverage positive change for at-risk and transitioning horses and the organizations that serve them. We hope that you will share any insights or improvements for future data collections and reports, as we are always looking to improve our methods. We look forward to continuing to serve your organizations in the future!

Emily Sanders
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**If you or someone you know needs assistance,
visit our resource database to find help:
[UnitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/](https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/equine-resource-database/)**

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INTRODUCTION

The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) was created in 2018 by the United Horse Coalition (UHC), a program of the American Horse Council Foundation (AHCF). The EWDC is funded by grants and in-kind donations from industry organizations including the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Right Horse Program and the Foundation for the Horse.

The EWDC works to collect data on at-risk and transitioning equines in the United States and the organizations that assist them. The EWDC analyzes aggregate data and provides objective reports to the public. These reports include data about equine welfare organization capacity, intakes and outcomes equines in the system, safety net requests, and rehoming and euthanasia requests around the nation. Information collected by the EWDC offers the equine industry nationwide data on the issues of at-risk and transitioning equines and provides the evidence needed to drive positive change. This is EWDC Report 7, reporting the analysis on data for the year of 2023.

Definitions of terms used in this report can be found in Appendix A. More information on the organizations contributing to this report and the services they offer can be found at :

www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/equine-resource-database/.

All previous reports can be viewed at:

<https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc/#ewdc-reports>



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Report 7 analyzes the findings from data collected from registered 501c3, nonprofit and municipal organizations within the United States and Puerto Rico that offer custodial and non-custodial services to horses considered at-risk or in transition.

Reports generated by the EWDC serve to fill a need for information on this growing industry issue. Findings from the data collected can be used to ensure the industry is allocating resources in a way that can best assist horses in the rescue pipeline. Since 2018, the EWDC has received data from 463 organizations, representing 37% of national equine welfare organizations. Issues covered in this report include Direct Placement Programs, Assistance Services, Rehome and Euthanasia Requests, Custodial Services, Facility Capacity, Length of Stay, Foster Programs, and Intakes and Outcomes.

In 2018, industry leaders recognized a need for credible data regarding horses in the United States that are considered at-risk or in transition. In response, the EWDC launched its first survey in November of 2018. To date, the EWDC has received data from 463 organizations, representing 37% of national rescue organizations.

Reports published by the EWDC..

- Inform the industry on the issue of horses in transition
- Provide the United Horse Coalition with necessary data to continue development of the UHC Equine Resource Database
- Give insight how at-risk and transitioning horses impact the equine community and industry



METHODOLOGY

How do we collect, analyze and report data?

Organization Identification

In 2018, initial identification of 501c3, nonprofit, and municipal organizations within the United States and Puerto Rico consisted of using publicly available information within the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search, individual state tax exempt database, nonprofit auditing companies such as Charity Navigator, web searches for publicly available lists of "equine/horse/pony sanctuaries," and "equine/horse/pony shelters", social media groups, and direct leads from partner organizations. The EWDC's database of organizations is updated and audited with each iteration of the EWDC Report to add newly formed organizations and remove organizations that are no longer operational. Organizations are verified as 501c3, nonprofit, or maintaining municipal status using Forms 990, Employer Identification Number (EIN) numbers, and Letters of Determination.

Data Collection and Analysis

The EWDC staff created and distributed the 2023 EWDC Surveys to collect data about equine organization demographics and operations for January 1st, 2023, through December 31st, 2023. The surveys were updated this year in response to feedback from prior years to improve data collection. Organizations had the option to provide information in either a one full-year aggregate survey or two biannual surveys. Surveys were sent to organizations via email, posted on the United Horse Coalition (UHC) website, and posted to the UHC and EWDC social media pages. Biannual data was accumulated and organized according to each organization's EIN.

The EWDC used the same method to create and distribute a second survey called the Organization Profile. Data from these profiles is used to identify firmographic information specific to each organization including organization type, record keeping methods, organization size, foster system usage, and the average length of stay for an equine. Organization and population data on non-custodial services was also gathered from organizations reporting such services to the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database at <https://unitedhorsecoalition.weblinkconnect.com/search>



METHODOLOGY

Organizations that submitted partial or incomplete data to the 2023 EWDC Survey and/or the Organization Profile were contacted via email to verify their submissions. If organizations had duplicate submissions, their most recently submitted entry was used, unless the most recent entry was an incomplete one, in which case the most recently submitted complete entry was used. In cases where duplicate entries were received but none were complete, the organizations were contacted via email to verify their submissions. If organizations did not respond to inquiries or could not verify their datasets, their data was not included in the analysis. In cases where an almost complete dataset was submitted (surveys were missing fewer than four data points), the data was retained and only the blank data were omitted from analyses.

All identifying information such as organization name and contact information was removed from the complete datasets before analysis. Data were entered into Microsoft Excel and analyses were completed to summarize national and regional statistics. If organizations only submitted complete data for one dataset (either the Organization Profile or the 2023 EWDC Survey), their data was only used in analyses of that dataset. For organizations that submitted complete data for both datasets, their information was included in analyses of each dataset and cross-analyses. The EWDC's data analysis was verified by a third party to ensure accuracy.



POPULATION

1296

Total number of equine welfare organizations within the United States (including Puerto Rico) that have been identified by the EWDC.

1249

Organizations that take custody of at-risk equines and those in transition.

462

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

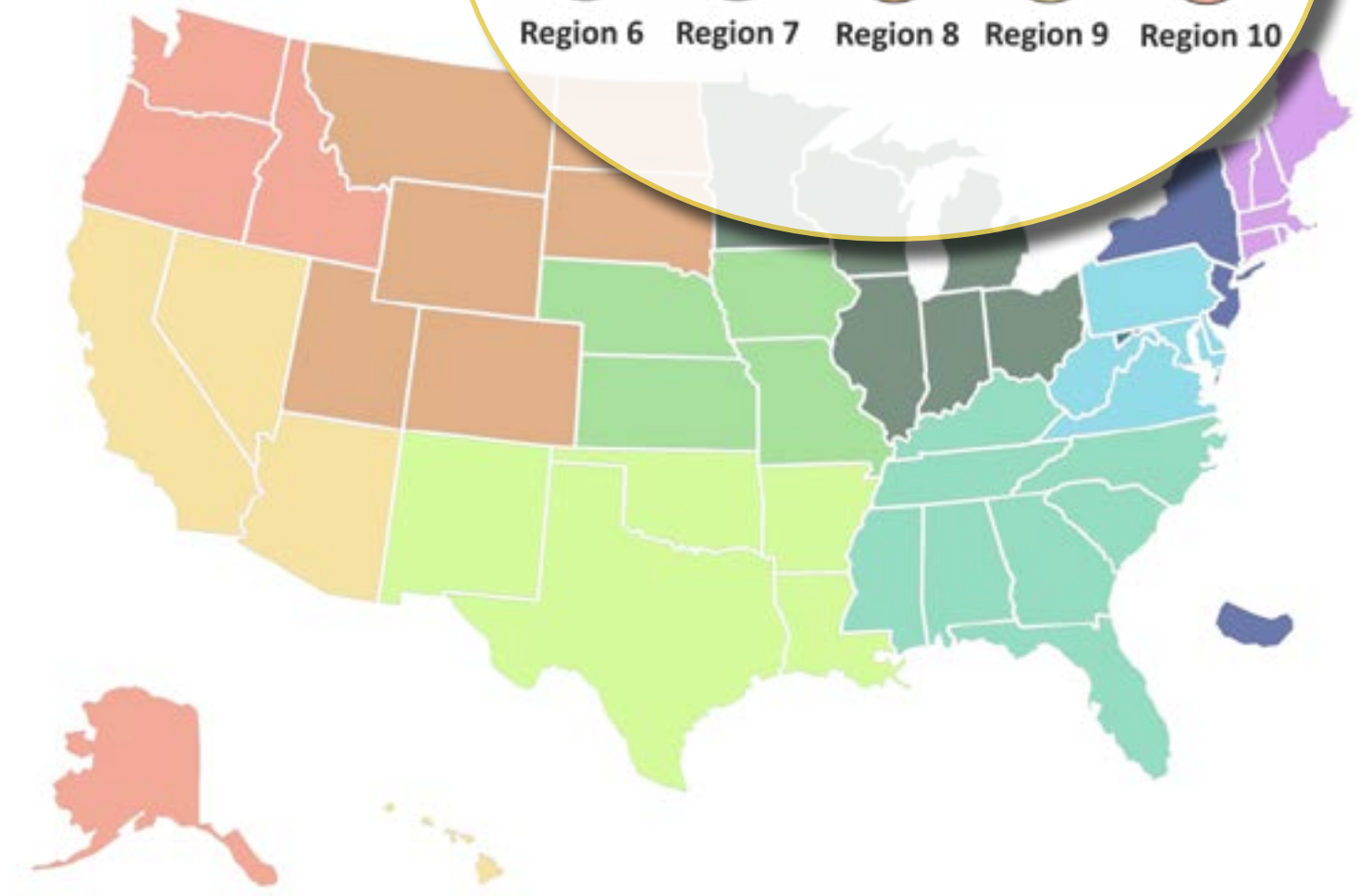
The EWDC and UHC completed an annual audit of 501c3 organizations that focus on supporting at-risk equines and owners in need. The audit completed in 2023 found 1,249 organizations offering custodial services and 462 organizations offering non-custodial services. These numbers are not mutually exclusive; 415 organizations offer both custodial and non-custodial services. Custodial services refers to organizations that take legal custody of equines to care for them while in transition or, in the case of sanctuaries, for the rest of their lives. Non-custodial safety net services include feed banks, veterinary assistance, castration assistance, direct placement services, euthanasia services, and other programming to support the at-risk and transitioning equine population.

Since the EWDC's initial audit in 2018, 188 organizations have been recorded as ceasing operations and removed from the organization database, and 189 new organizations have been added.



POPULATION

What's your region?





POPULATION

Since its inception, the EWDC has received data from 463 organizations total, representing 37% of the entire equine welfare organization population. This year, we received data from 286 organizations total, with 196 that submitted complete datasets for both the EWDC Survey and the Organization Profile. Five organizations have submitted complete data every year since the EWDC's first report. Additional information can be found by searching the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database.

Sample Numbers and Population Demographics

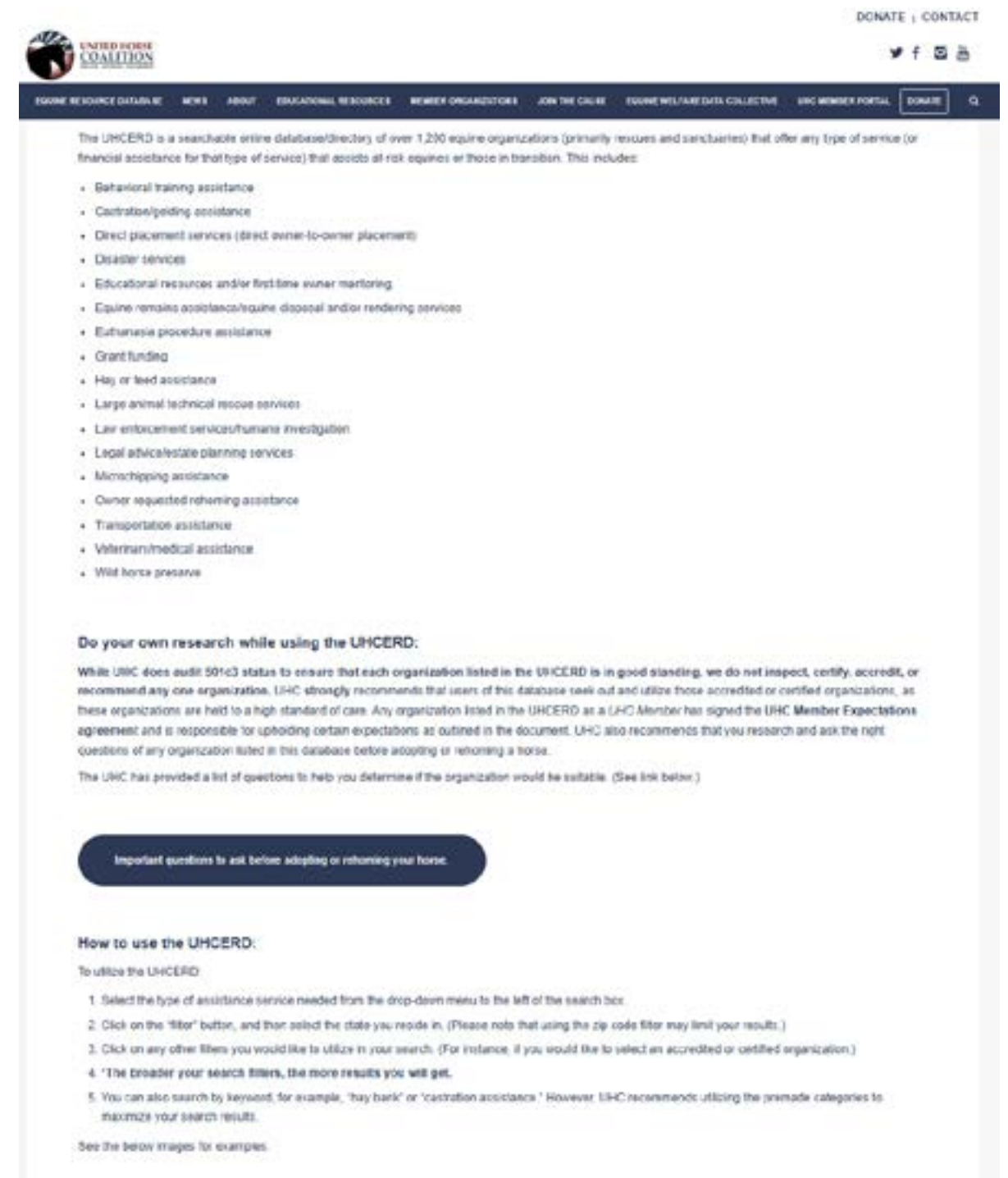
The analysis in this report includes data submitted by organizations that covers the entire year of 2023. 206 organizations submitted complete data to the 2023 EWDC Survey and 274 organizations submitted complete data to the Organization Profile. Of those organizations, 196 completed both the 2023 EWDC Survey and the Organization Profile, allowing for cross-analyses. Region designations were assigned based on the Federal Census Regions (Appendix A). Organizations in 45 states provided full datasets for Report 7. A table of state respondents can be found in Appendix D.

The population demographics from previous reports can be obtained at <https://UnitedHorseCoalition.org/ewdc/#ewdc-reports>.



POPULATION

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





POPULATION

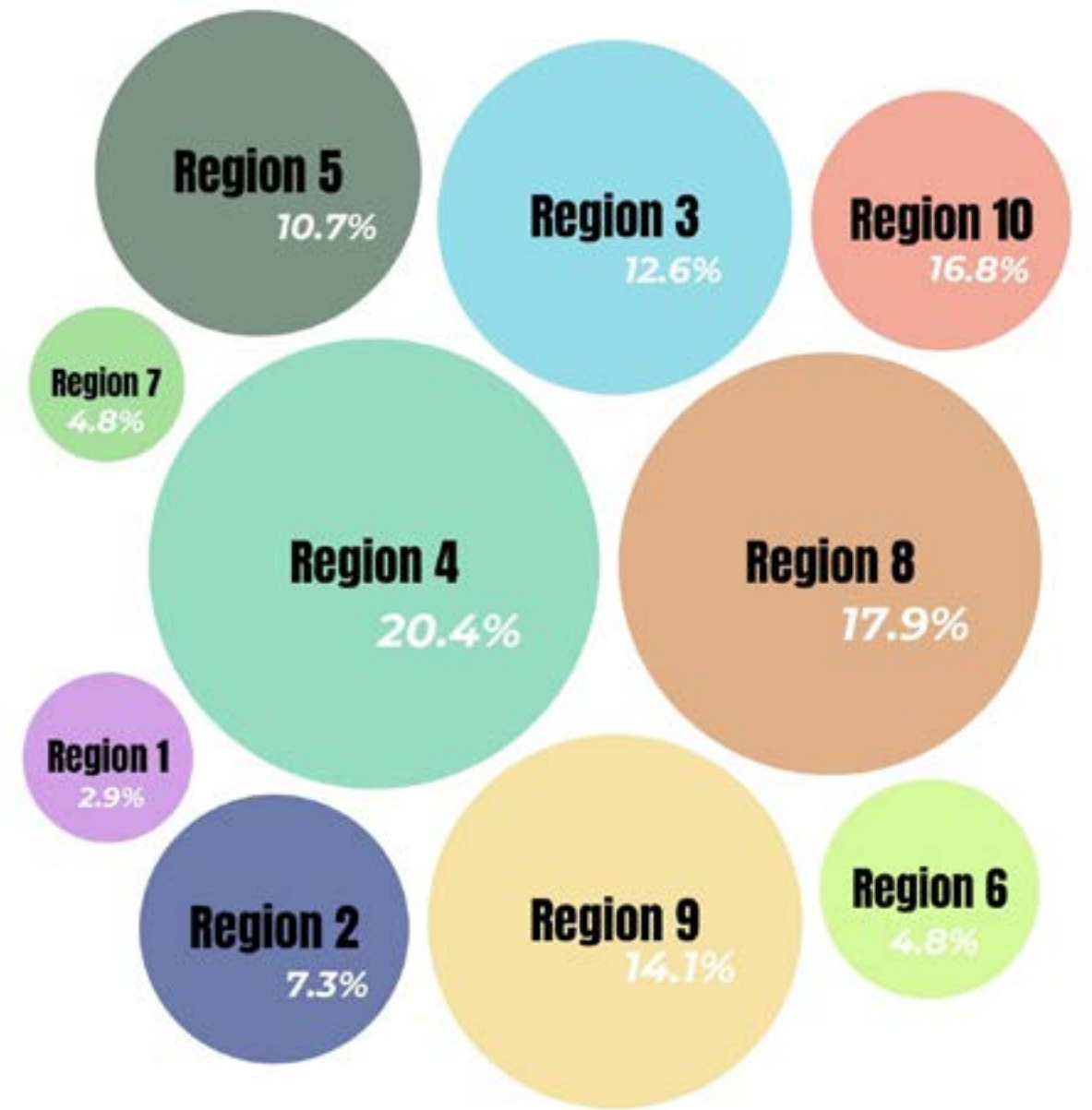


POPULATION

*Table 1
Participation for 2023 by Region*

Region	Submissions	Percentage of Total Submission
1	6	2.91%
2	15	7.28%
3	26	12.62%
4	42	20.39%
5	22	10.68%
6	10	4.85%
7	5	2.43%
8	37	17.96%
9	29	14.08%
10	14	6.80%
Total	206	100%

*Figure 1
Participation for 2023 by Region*





POPULATION

Figure 2

Service Type and Organization Category Definitions



POPULATION

Custodial Services

Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center

An organization that takes legal custody of at-risk equines or those in transition and facilitates placements in adoptive homes through traditional and non-traditional approaches to finding the right matches and opportunities for equines in their care.

Sanctuary

An organization that takes custody of and provides lifetime care for at-risk equines and those in transition. Unlike adoption organizations, sanctuaries typically do not focus on rehoming the equines in their care

Municipal/Government Facility

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

Non-Custodial Services

Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center

An organization that finds homes for at-risk equines without taking legal custody of them by networking current owners with potential new homes for equines in transition. This includes, but is not limited to, providing listing space on a website for current owners to advertise an equine in transition, networking owners directly with a curated list of potential homes, and linking equines at auctions or owned by “kill pen/kill buyers” directly with new homes.

Service Type and Organization Category

For the EWDC data, organizations self-select their “Organization Type,” which is based on the services they offer. Definitions for each type of organization can be found in Figure 2. If organizations did not feel that they fell into one of these categories, they had the option to report “Other” and write-in a description of their organization’s services. Organizations offering multiple service types and/or falling into multiple categories were considered a “Combination” organization.



Of the 206 organizations that provided data on service type, overwhelmingly organizations reported offering custodial services (96.12%). Many organizations reported offering both custodial and non-custodial services (40.29%), and a small portion reported only offering non-custodial services (3.88%).



POPULATION

Table 2

Organizations that offer types of services by region in 2023

Region	Organizations That Only Offer Custodial Services	Organizations That Only Offer Non-Custodial Services	Organizations That Offer Both Custodial and Non-Custodial Services
1	3	0	3
2	7	0	8
3	11	1	14
4	25	3	14
5	13	0	9
6	4	0	6
7	4	0	13
8	23	1	13
9	19	3	7
10	6	8	8
Grand Total	115	8	83
% of Total Entries	55.83%	3.88%	40.29%



POPULATION

272 organizations provided data on their Organization Category, with almost half (48.16%) reporting themselves as a Combination Organization. Adoption/Rescue/Transition Centers and Sanctuaries were the other most commonly reported organization category, at 26.47% and 23.90% respectively. Only 1 organization reported being a Direct Placement Service Organization and 3 reported themselves as “Other”. Information on Organization Category by region can be found in Table 3.





POPULATION



POPULATION

Table 3

Participation for all data submitted by Organization Category in 2023 by Region

Region	Adoption/Rescue/ Transition Center	Sanctuary	Municipal/ Government Facility	Direct Placement Services	Other	Combination	Total
1	2	2	0	0	0	4	8
2	4	4	0	0	0	12	20
3	4	4	0	1	1	23	33
4	14	15	0	0	1	26	56
5	12	7	0	0	0	11	30
6	3	2	0	0	0	8	13
7	3	1	0	0	0	5	9
8	13	14	0	0	1	21	49
9	12	13	0	0	0	12	37
10	5	3	0	0	0	9	17
Total Percentage	72 (26.5%)	65 (23.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	3 (1.1%)	131 (48.2%)	272

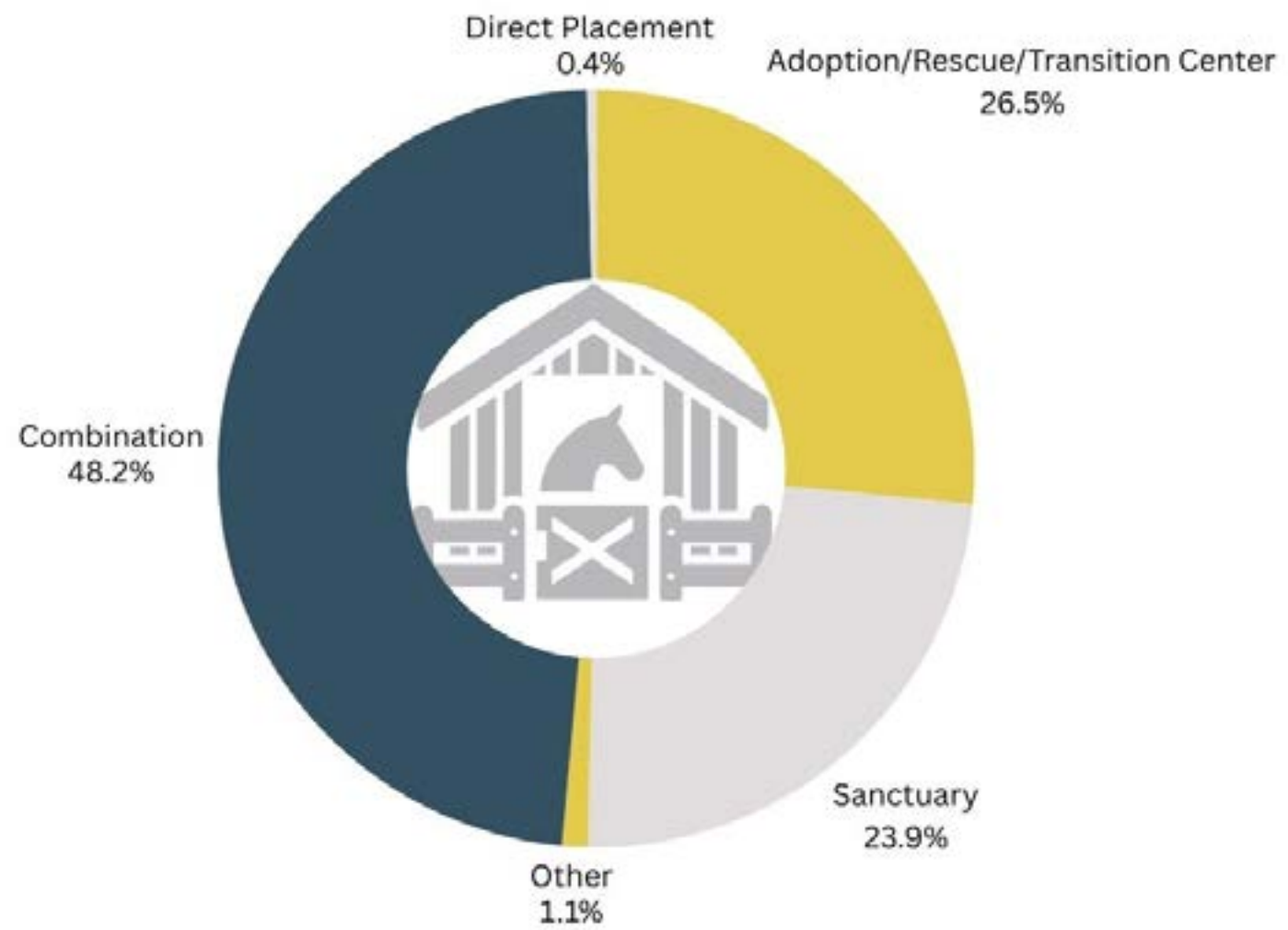


POPULATION



POPULATION

Figure 2
Organization by Type 2023





Non-Custodial Services

Direct Placement Programs

Programs that offer direct placement assistance (DPA) facilitate transitioning equines from one home to another without taking legal custody of the equine. There was a 180% rise in the number of organizations that reported direct placement assistance requests this year: 45 organizations reported requests in 2023, up from 25 organizations in 2022. Direct placement assistance requests increased by 349% this year: 1,133 reported in 2023, compared to 325 reported in 2022. It is unclear exactly how much the increase in direct placement assistance requests stems from increased reporting by organizations or increased demand, but it is clear that the increase in requests far outpaced the increase in number of organizations reporting those requests. Notably however, the percentage of direct placement assistance requests that were fulfilled went down considerably, from 65% in 2022 to 40% in 2023. As the total number of reported requests that were fulfilled was up to 457, compared to 212 from last year, it is again unclear how much this decrease comes from increased reporting versus increased demand this year. Either way, organizations should be mindful of the increased demand for direct placement assistance requests, and the difficulty it seems that organizations had in fulfilling those requests in 2023.

On a positive note, organizations that provide direct placement services reported that 659 equines found a home through their program in 2023. This is a 293% increase from 2022, in which 225 equines were reported to have found homes through direct placement programs. Again, it is unclear how much this increase is due to additional organizations reporting to the EWDC Survey versus an overall average increase in equines placed per organization.



Table 4

Direct Placement Requests and Fulfillments

Region	Direct Placement Requests from Owners/Trainers	Direct Placement Fulfillments	Equines That Found a Home Through Dir. Placement Program
1	40	36 (90.00%)	16
2	60	49 (81.67%)	40
3	665	85 (12.78%)	87
4	86	39 (45.35%)	286
5	164	92 (56.10%)	68
6	8	6 (75.00%)	6
7	3	3 (100.00%)	3
8	68	36 (52.94%)	46
9	18	13 (72.22%)	82
10	21	15 (71.43%)	25
Grand Total	1133	374 (33.01%)	659



Assistance Services

Assistance Services, sometimes called Safety Net Services, include non-custodial services that are offered by an organization. These services include hay banks, veterinary assistance, husbandry assistance, euthanasia and disposal services, and more. The goal of Assistance Services is to support an owner in the care of their equine without an organization taking 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.

In 2023, 75 organizations reported providing assistance services, making up 36% of the total respondents. This is in line with the 31% that reported providing assistance services in 2022.

Assistance Requests

Organizations were asked to report how many total requests were received and fulfilled in 10 assistance request categories. The top four types of assistance requests in 2023 were feed (30.71%), veterinary care (15.92%), euthanasia assistance (10.80%), and transportation (9.67%). The biggest differences in this year's data compared to 2022 was the rise in euthanasia assistance requests from the sixth most requested service (50 requests in 2022) to the third (233 requests in 2023), and the rise in castration assistance requests from eighth (37 requests in 2022) to fifth (94 requests in 2023). Husbandry requests fell from third (137 requests in 2022) to seventh (82 requests in 2023).

*Table 5
Assistance Requests*

Rank	Assistance Request Category	Number Assistance Requests	Percentage of Total Assistance Requests
1	Feed	378	30.71%
2	Veterinary Care	196	15.92%
3	Euthanasia Assistance	133	10.80%
4	Transportation	119	9.67%
5	Castration	94	7.64%
6	Behavioral Training	86	6.99%
7	General Husbandry	82	6.66%
8	Shelter/Boarding	79	6.42%
9	Disposal Assistance	48	3.90%
10	Disaster Relief	16	1.30%
	Total Safety Net Requests	1231	100%



Table 6: Assistance Fulfillments Compared to 2022

Assistance Services Continued

Overall, Assistance Request Fulfillment was up compared to last year. Organizations reported 79.37% fulfillment in 2023, compared to 59.61% fulfillment in 2022. Interestingly, when broken into categories of request, the fulfillment percentage changed considerably for almost every category. The biggest changes were seen in Behavioral Training Request Fulfillment, which rose from 38% in 2022 to 80.23% in 2023 and Feed Request Fulfillment which rose from 44% in 2022 to 78.31% in 2023. The percentage increase might be from increased reporting, rather than an actual increase in demand.

Rank	Assistance Request Category	Percentage Requests Fulfilled 2023	Percentage Requests Fulfilled 2022	Number Requests Fulfilled 2023	Number Requests Fulfilled 2022	Percentage Fulfilled Increase/Decrease
1	Disposal Assistance	91.67%	78%	44	24	83.3%
2	Husbandry	87.80%	100%	72	137	-47.4%
3	Castration	82.98%	100%	78	37	110.8%
4	Behavioral Training	80.23%	38%	69	55	25.4%
5	Feed	78.31%	44%	296	332	-10.8%
6	Euthanasia Assistance	75.94%	100%	101	50	102.0%
7	Shelter/Boarding	73.42%	50%	58	42	38.1%
8	Disaster Relief	68.75%	40%	11	13	-15.4%
9	Veterinary Care	57.65%	57%	113	303	-62.7%
10	Transportation	52.10%	44%	62	89	-30.3%
	Total Safety Net Requests	73.44%	59.61%	904	1087	-16.8%



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Reasons for Rehoming

The 2023 EWDC Survey asked organizations to rank the reasons that owners asked to rehome their equines. There were nine categories of Rehome Reason, four of which were owner-based reasons including owner’s age, health, financial situation, or a relocation, and three of which were equine-based reasons including equine’s age, health, behavior, and then “Unknown” and “Other” categories. Organizations reported Owner Financial Situation to be the most common cause of a rehome request, with 41% of organizations reporting it as the number one reason. Owner-based reasons top the chart, with Owner Financial Situation, Owner Health, and Owner Age being the top 3 Rehome Request Reasons.

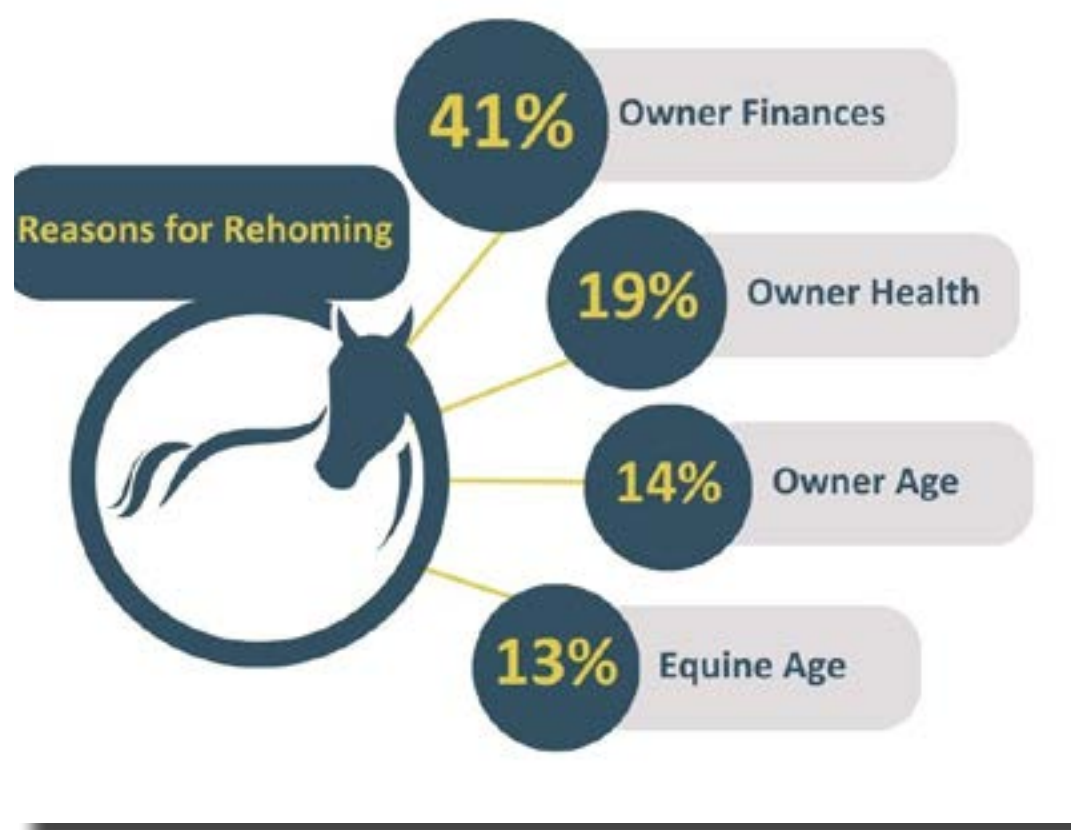


Figure 3

Reasons for Given for Rehoming 2023



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Reasons for Euthanasia

The 2023 EWDC Survey also asked organizations to rank the reasons for which owners request euthanasia assistance with the same categories seen in the Rehome Request section. Unlike the Rehome Request section, Equine-based reasons topped the charts for euthanasia. Equine Health was the number one reason that organizations report receiving a euthanasia request, with 39% of organizations reporting it as the top reason. Equine Age was the second most common reason at 14%, and the other reasons were fairly low in reports.

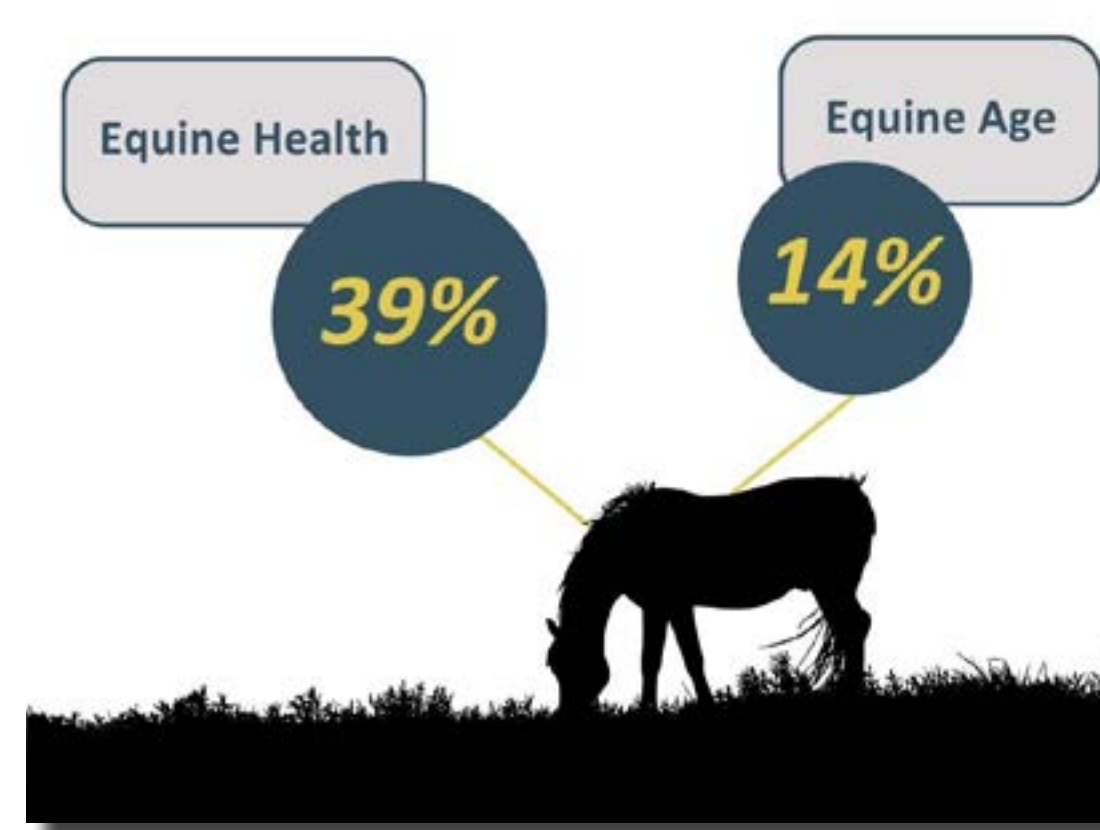


Figure 4

Reasons for Given for Euthanasia 2023



*Table 7
Organizations Offering Custodial Services*

Region	Organizations Offering Custodial Services
1	6
2	15
3	25
4	39
5	22
6	10
7	5
8	36
9	26
10	14
Grand Total	198

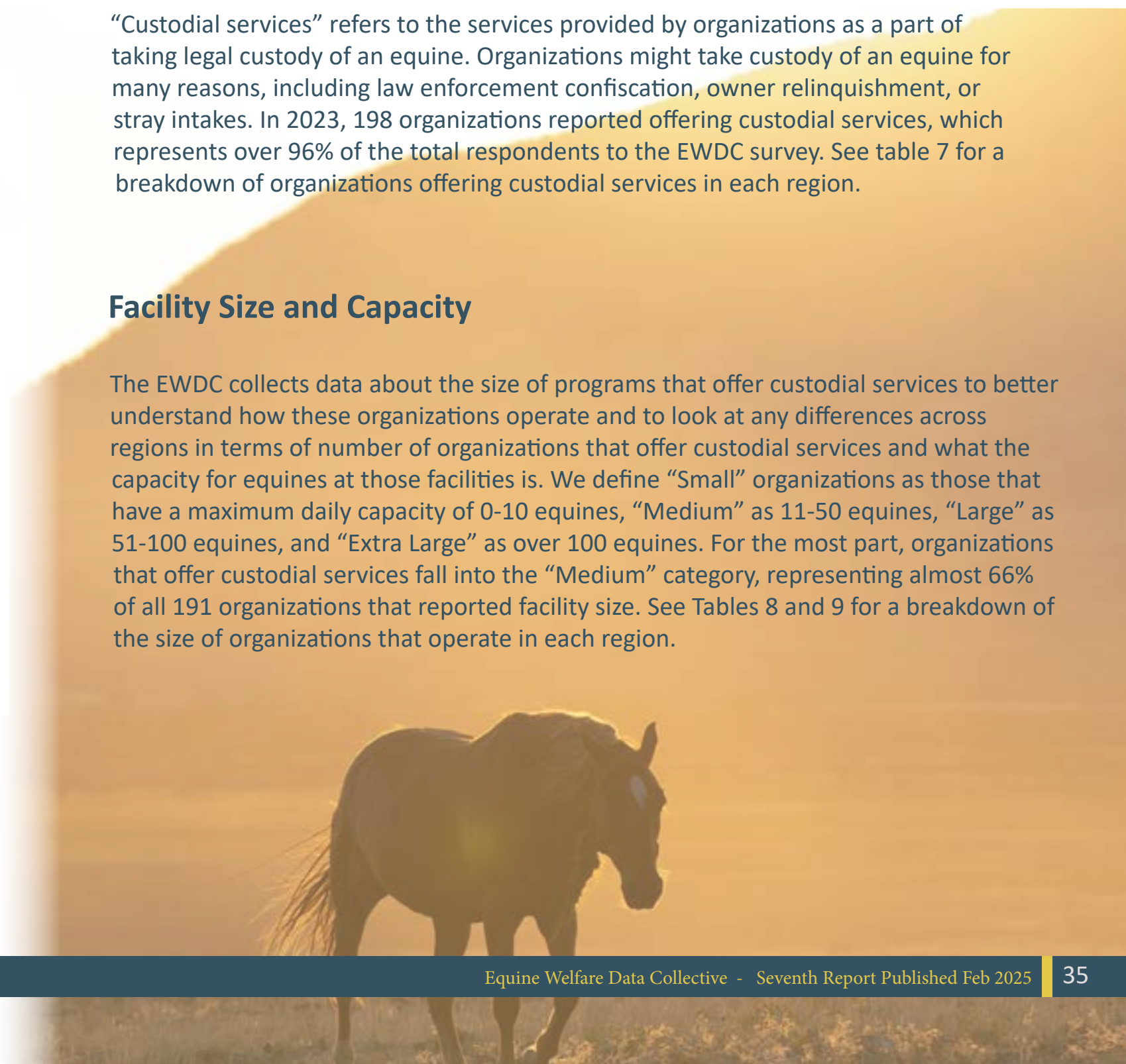


Custodial Services

“Custodial services” refers to the services provided by organizations as a part of taking legal custody of an equine. Organizations might take custody of an equine for many reasons, including law enforcement confiscation, owner relinquishment, or stray intakes. In 2023, 198 organizations reported offering custodial services, which represents over 96% of the total respondents to the EWDC survey. See table 7 for a breakdown of organizations offering custodial services in each region.

Facility Size and Capacity

The EWDC collects data about the size of programs that offer custodial services to better understand how these organizations operate and to look at any differences across regions in terms of number of organizations that offer custodial services and what the capacity for equines at those facilities is. We define “Small” organizations as those that have a maximum daily capacity of 0-10 equines, “Medium” as 11-50 equines, “Large” as 51-100 equines, and “Extra Large” as over 100 equines. For the most part, organizations that offer custodial services fall into the “Medium” category, representing almost 66% of all 191 organizations that reported facility size. See Tables 8 and 9 for a breakdown of the size of organizations that operate in each region.





How do we define size?

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

*Table 8
Participants by Size and Type that submitted for 2023 Custodial Services*

Size	Reporting	Percent of Population
Small	36	18.85%
Medium	126	65.97%
Large	22	11.52%
Extra Large	7	3.66%

*Table 9
Participants by Size and Region Offering 2023 Custodial Services*

Region	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Total
1	0	1	4	1	6
2	0	0	11	3	14
3	2	1	14	6	23
4	1	5	27	6	39
5	1	3	13	4	21
6	0	4	5	1	10
7	0	3	1	1	5
8	2	2	24	7	35
9	1	2	17	6	26
10	0	1	10	1	12
Total	7	22	126	36	191



CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Data on the average capacity of an organization can help the industry understand how many equines can be housed nationwide, as well as what percentage of that total capacity is currently filled. In 2023, 184 organizations provided data on their maximum capacity and the number of equines in their custody for the year. On average, at the beginning of 2023 (January 1, 2023) organizations were at 76.27% capacity, but by the end of 2023 (December 31, 2023) organizations were at 94.76% capacity. This almost 20% increase is a clear indication that organizations saw an upward trend in the number of equines in their care across the 2023 year. In many cases, organizations reported being over their maximum capacity by a significant amount. Region 9 showed an almost 42% increase over the year, and ended at 124.81% of the reported capacity. Regions 6, 1, and 2 also showed large increases throughout the year at 33.75%, 26.69%, and 24.04% respectively. This signals a need for organizations to increase their capacity, reduce length of stay, or for more organizations to start offering custodial services. Interestingly, Region 10 is the only region that saw a decrease in the percentage of their capacity that was filled throughout the year, down from 75.52% in January to 67.15% in December.

*Figure 5
Avg. National
Capacity
Start and End
2023*



CUSTODIAL SERVICES

*Table 10
Custody and Capacity by Region at Beginning and End of 2023*

Region	Sum of Jan. 1 Custody Count	Avg. % of Capacity Filled on Jan. 1	Sum of Dec. 31 Custody Count	Avg. % of Capacity Filled on Dec. 31
1	142	47.35%	170	74.04%
2	267	77.94%	331	101.98%
3	649	71.99%	622	78.50%
4	921	75.17%	1162	97.28%
5	698	78.42%	667	82.05%
6	342	94.39%	411	128.14%
7	206	83.17%	222	91.47%
8	853	72.07%	965	89.52%
9	725	83.32%	901	124.81%
10	311	75.52%	300	67.15%
Total	5114	76.27%	5751	94.76%



Length of Stay (LOS)

Data showing the average LOS for equines in the custody of an organization is vital to understanding how much of the industry’s resources are used to maintain horses at risk or in transition. From the sample collected, 47.81% of organizations who answered questions about LOS did not know or were unable to track the average LOS for the horses in their care. 37 organizations (13.50%) reported that they kept equines for the rest of their life. For all organizations that reported LOS data that did not keep horses until end of life, the average LOS for an equine in custody was 268 days. When broken into region, Region 1 saw an average LOS (218%) that was more than double the national average. Region 9 had the lowest average, at around 71% of the national average. LOS data broken down by region can be found in Table 11.

Figure 6
Avg. National
Length of Stay
2023



Table 11
Length of Stay (LOS) by Region

Region	Avg. LOS in Custody (days)	Max. LOS in Custody (days)	Min. LOS in Custody (days)
1	583.5	1825	120
2	292.6	1000	70
3	291.6	730	30
4	229.7	700	60
5	265.8	730	53
6	392.3	1095	125
7	380.0	730	30
8	207.4	752	15
9	190.7	365	20
10	284.8	400	60
All Regions	267.6	1825	15



FOSTER PROGRAMS

Presence of Foster Programs

In the 2023 EWDC Survey, 45% of organizations reported using a foster network. In total, organizations reported a capacity of 1,026 equines in the nationwide foster network. On average, organizations could accommodate 11 equines in their foster network, but this varied significantly by region.



FOSTER PROGRAMS

Presence of Foster Programs

Organizations reported placing 801 equines in foster care in 2023, with an average of 3.9 equines placed in foster care per organization. Regions 3 and 8 were the largest contributors to the foster network, placing 245 and 265 horses in foster care in 2023, respectively. For a full breakdown of foster network and placements in 2023 by region, see Table 12.

Table 12: Foster Use 2023

Region	Number of Orgs That Use Fosters	Total Number Equine Foster Network Can Accomodate at Once	Avg. Number of Equines Each Org's Foster Network can Accomodate at Once	Tot. Number Equines Placed in Foster Care	Avg. Number Equines Placed in Foster Care
1	3	15	5.00	11	2.20
2	9	69	7.67	19	1.27
3	10	212	21.20	245	9.42
4	15	140	9.33	55	1.31
5	10	133	13.30	54	2.45
6	6	43	7.17	32	3.20
7	2	9	4.50	12	2.40
8	20	242	12.10	265	7.16
9	10	76	7.60	63	2.17
10	8	87	10.88	45	3.21
All Regions	93	1026	11.03	801	3.91



LIMITATIONS

It is important to note that data on facility capacity, LOS, and foster networks is limited by a common industry issue: organizations often fail to track vital information on equines in their custody. It is unclear whether this is due to a lack of resources, a perceived unimportance about the data, or a shortage of appropriate and easy-to-use methods for tracking this data. The EWDC is tracking the use of different methods and software available to assist organizations in maintaining their vital data. The EWDC is actively working on finding ways to help organizations develop their data resources to ensure more accurate reporting. We have developed an intake form and hope that organizations will find it useful while we work on further developments to streamline the record keeping and data submission process.



INTAKES AND OUTCOMES

The EWDC collects data on custodial services to understand why equines are taken into custody by equine welfare organizations (referred to as intakes) and why they leave the care of these organizations (referred to as outcomes). Information about national intakes and outcomes is used to identify any changes or trends in the industry. In 2023, organizations reported 5,035 intakes and 4,401 outcomes, compared to 3,506 intakes and 3,055 outcomes in 2022.

Nationally, relinquished by owner (RBO) was the leading cause of an organization taking custody of an equine at 53.13% followed by law enforcement confiscation (LEC) at 10.80%. These percentages are similar to those reported in 2022, when 60% of intakes were reported as owner relinquishments and 16% were law enforcement confiscations. Adoption outcomes increased by nearly 10% in 2023 compared to 2022, up to 75.89% from 66%. Additionally, the number of equines that were transferred to another agency showed a large decrease, down to just 3.41%, compared to 12% in 2022. The following pages for Tables 14 to 23 include a breakdown of intakes and outcomes for each region.



INTAKES AND OUTCOMES



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!





2023 Intakes and Outcomes - National



National (n=191)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	2675	14.01	53.13%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	544	2.85	10.80%
Adoption Return	515	2.70	10.23%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	322	1.69	6.40%
Transferred from Another Agency	318	1.66	6.32%
Other	209	1.09	4.15%
Purchased at Public Auction	201	1.05	3.99%
Stray/At-Large	196	1.03	3.89%
Born in Facility	55	0.29	1.09%

Total Intakes:	5035
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	3340	17.49	76.20%
Euthanized - Health	635	3.32	14.49%
Transferred to Another Agency	150	0.79	3.42%
Other	105	0.55	2.40%
Died in Care	60	0.31	1.37%
Returned to Owner	49	0.26	1.12%
Euthanized - Behavior	44	0.23	1.00%
Euthanized - Other	14	0.07	0.32%

Total Outcomes:	4383
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Total In Custody December 31, 2023	5765
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.15:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 1

Region 1 (n=6)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	99	16.50	61.11%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	13	2.17	8.02%
Adoption Return	23	3.83	14.20%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	14	2.33	8.64%
Transferred from Another Agency	9	1.50	5.56%
Other	2	0.33	1.23%
Purchased at Public Auction	0	0.00	0.00%
Stray/At-Large	0	0.00	0.00%
Born in Facility	2	0.33	1.23%

Total Intakes:	162
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	108	18.00	80.60%
Euthanized - Health	20	3.33	14.93%
Transferred to Another Agency	4	0.67	2.99%
Other	0	0.00	0.00%
Died in Care	1	0.17	0.75%
Returned to Owner	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Behavior	1	0.17	0.75%
Euthanized - Other	0	0	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	134
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	170
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.20:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 2

Region 2 (n=15)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	125	8.33	61.27%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	19	1.27	9.31%
Adoption Return	22	1.47	10.78%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	11	0.73	5.39%
Transferred from Another Agency	11	0.73	5.39%
Other	4	0.27	1.96%
Purchased at Public Auction	9	0.60	4.41%
Stray/At-Large	1	0.07	0.49%
Born in Facility	2	0.13	0.98%

Total Intakes:	204
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	117	7.80	83.57%
Euthanized - Health	20	1.33	14.29%
Transferred to Another Agency	1	0.07	0.71%
Other	0	0.00	0.00%
Died in Care	1	0.07	0.71%
Returned to Owner	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Behavior	1	0.07	0.71%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.00	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	140
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	331
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.46:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 3

Region 3 (n=26)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	345	13.27	46.56%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	127	4.88	17.14%
Adoption Return	70	2.69	9.45%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	70	2.69	9.45%
Transferred from Another Agency	59	2.27	7.96%
Other	37	1.42	4.99%
Purchased at Public Auction	18	0.69	2.43%
Stray/At-Large	6	0.23	0.81%
Born in Facility	9	0.35	1.21%

Total Intakes:	741
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	529	20.35	68.88%
Euthanized - Health	124	4.77	16.15%
Transferred to Another Agency	60	2.31	7.81%
Other	31	1.19	4.04%
Died in Care	10	0.38	1.30%
Returned to Owner	4	0.15	0.52%
Euthanized - Behavior	10	0.38	1.30%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.00	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	768
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Total In Custody December 31, 2022	622
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	0.96:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 4

Region 4 (n=42)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	870	20.71	68.40%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	91	2.17	7.15%
Adoption Return	123	2.93	9.67%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	37	0.88	2.91%
Transferred from Another Agency	17	0.40	1.34%
Other	46	1.10	3.62%
Purchased at Public Auction	20	0.48	1.57%
Stray/At-Large	61	1.45	4.80%
Born in Facility	7	0.17	0.55%

Total Intakes:	1272
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	870	20.71	84.47%
Euthanized - Health	96	2.29	9.32%
Transferred to Another Agency	21	0.50	2.04%
Other	13	0.31	1.26%
Died in Care	12	0.29	1.17%
Returned to Owner	16	0.38	1.55%
Euthanized - Behavior	2	0.05	0.00%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.00	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	1030
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Total In Custody December 31, 2022	1163
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.23:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 5

Region 5 (n=22)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	479	21.77	66.34%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	39	1.77	5.40%
Adoption Return	95	4.32	13.16%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	11	0.50	1.52%
Transferred from Another Agency	29	1.32	4.02%
Other	6	0.27	0.83%
Purchased at Public Auction	11	0.50	1.52%
Stray/At-Large	48	2.18	6.65%
Born in Facility	4	0.18	0.55%

Total Intakes:	722
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	572	26.00	77.19%
Euthanized - Health	131	5.95	17.68%
Transferred to Another Agency	15	0.68	2.02%
Other	8	0.36	1.08%
Died in Care	4	0.18	0.54%
Returned to Owner	3	0.14	0.40%
Euthanized - Behavior	8	0.36	1.08%
Euthanized - Other	12	0.55	1.62%

Total Outcomes:	741
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	679
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	0.97:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 6

Region 6 (n=10)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	136	13.60	53.13%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	12	1.20	4.69%
Adoption Return	13	1.30	5.08%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	0	0.00	0.00%
Transferred from Another Agency	29	2.90	11.33%
Other	6	0.60	2.34%
Purchased at Public Auction	2	0.20	0.78%
Stray/At-Large	57	5.70	22.27%
Born in Facility	1	0.10	0.39%

Total Intakes:	256
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	154	15.40	82.35%
Euthanized - Health	16	1.60	8.56%
Transferred to Another Agency	7	0.70	3.74%
Other	6	0.60	3.21%
Died in Care	4	0.40	2.14%
Returned to Owner	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Behavior	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.00	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	187
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	411
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.37:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 7

Region 7 (n=5)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	75	15.00	43.86%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	7	1.40	4.09%
Adoption Return	25	5.00	14.62%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	6	1.20	3.51%
Transferred from Another Agency	9	1.80	5.26%
Other	0	0.00	0.00%
Purchased at Public Auction	45	9.00	26.32%
Stray/At-Large	0	0.00	0.00%
Born in Facility	4	0.80	2.34%

Total Intakes:	171
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	132	26.40	85.16%
Euthanized - Health	19	3.80	12.26%
Transferred to Another Agency	0	0.00	0.00%
Other	1	0.20	0.65%
Died in Care	3	0.60	1.94%
Returned to Owner	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Behavior	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.00	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	155
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	122
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.10:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 8

Region 8 (n=37)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	297	8.03	32.32%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	166	4.49	18.06%
Adoption Return	104	2.81	11.32%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	70	1.89	7.62%
Transferred from Another Agency	79	2.14	8.60%
Other	103	2.78	11.21%
Purchased at Public Auction	80	2.16	8.71%
Stray/At-Large	9	0.24	0.98%
Born in Facility	11	0.30	1.20%

Total Intakes:	919
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	554	14.97	68.65%
Euthanized - Health	132	3.57	16.36%
Transferred to Another Agency	23	0.62	2.85%
Other	41	1.11	5.08%
Died in Care	14	0.38	1.73%
Returned to Owner	22	0.59	2.73%
Euthanized - Behavior	21	0.57	2.60%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.00	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	807
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	965
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.14:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 9

Region 9 (n=29)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	183	6.31	40.40%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	39	1.34	8.61%
Adoption Return	34	1.17	7.51%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	101	3.48	22.30%
Transferred from Another Agency	65	2.24	14.35%
Other	5	0.17	1.10%
Purchased at Public Auction	6	0.21	1.32%
Stray/At-Large	6	0.21	1.32%
Born in Facility	14	0.48	3.09%

Total Intakes:	453
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	201	6.93	73.09%
Euthanized - Health	47	1.62	17.09%
Transferred to Another Agency	17	0.59	6.18%
Other	5	0.17	1.82%
Died in Care	5	0.17	1.82%
Returned to Owner	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Behavior	0	0.00	0.00%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.07	0.73%

Total Outcomes:	275
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	903
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	1.65:1
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2023 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 10

Region 10 (n=14)	Sum	Average	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Relinquished by Owner	66	4.71	48.89%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	31	2.21	22.96%
Adoption Return	6	0.43	4.44%
Purchased from Kill Pen/Kill Buyer	2	0.14	1.48%
Transferred from Another Agency	11	0.79	8.15%
Other	0	0.00	0.00%
Purchased at Public Auction	10	0.71	7.41%
Stray/At-Large	8	0.57	5.93%
Born in Facility	1	0.07	0.74%

Total Intakes:	135
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OUTCOMES	Sum	Average	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	103	7.36	70.55%
Euthanized - Health	30	2.14	20.55%
Transferred to Another Agency	2	0.14	1.37%
Other	0	0.00	0.00%
Died in Care	6	0.43	4.11%
Returned to Owner	4	0.29	2.74%
Euthanized - Behavior	1	0.07	0.68%
Euthanized - Other	0	0.00	0.00%

Total Outcomes:	146
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	300
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Intake/Outcome Ratio	0.92:1
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Overall, we are thrilled with the increased response from organizations for this year's report and hope that it helps to create a clearer picture of the industry at present. While the different sample sizes make it a little difficult to directly compare the numbers from this year and last year's report, there are some action areas that we can confidently focus on.

Survey Participation

In 2023, we gathered complete datasets from 196 organizations, an increase of 27% over the year 2022. Continued growth in survey participation helps to strengthen data analysis and complete the picture of the industry at large. For 2024, we have improved the survey and provided an intake tool to help organizations better track data about the equines in their care. We urge organizations to be diligent in their record keeping and to spread the word about submitting their data to the EWDC. We are also partnering with several industry organizations to increase our access to data across the nation.

Direct Placement Assistance

In 2023, we found that direct placement assistance requests increased dramatically, up 349% from 2022. Although it is unclear exactly how much of this increase is due to the increase in number of organizations that reported data to us this year, there is a clear trend of an increased need for direct placement requests. As organizations review this report and strategize on ways to help their local community in the future, we might suggest focusing on how to fulfill more direct placement assistance requests.



Assistance Services

75 organizations reported offering assistance services in 2023, making up 36% of the organizations that submitted data this year. This follows the trend from 2022 when 31% of organizations reported offering the same services.

Feed Assistance and Veterinary Care Assistance remained the top requests, accounting for 30.71% and 15.92% respectively. The percentage of Veterinary Care Assistance Requests fell by almost half compared to last year; in 2022 Veterinary Assistance accounted for 28% of all Assistance Requests.

On average, 73.44% of Assistance Request were fulfilled in 2023, but one of the most requested assistance categories – Veterinary Care – was only fulfilled at 57.65%. Transportation Assistance was the fourth most commonly requested assistance category, and it was the least likely to get fulfilled at just 52.10%. A highlight from 2023 is the increase in feed assistance request fulfillments – up over 30% from 2022. As organizations review their assistance services offerings, they should reflect on why veterinary care and transportation are the most difficult requests to accommodate and brainstorm ideas for how to better support owners in these areas. For future surveys, the EWDC will expand the questions surrounding these issues to better gather data on the issue.

Reasons for Rehoming and Euthanasia

Reasons that owners choose to rehome or euthanize their equines remains consistent with 2022, with rehome reasons being mainly owner-based and euthanasia reasons being mainly equine-based. From this trend, it appears that owners try to keep their horses as long as possible, until it becomes infeasible to do so for the owner themselves due to their financial situation (41%), health (19%), or age (14%) . On the other hand, owners use euthanasia mainly in those cases where the equine's health (39%), age (14%), or behavior (4%) has become an issue.



Capacity

In 2023, capacity was a large issue across the board. By the end of 2023, 94.76% of the responding organization's capacity was full. Many regions found themselves over capacity at the end of 2023; Regions 2, 6, and 9 were all over 100% capacity and over half of the regions were over 90% full. Region 10 was the only region that saw a decrease in filled capacity over the course of the year. This signals a clear need for increased capacity across the nation, with specific focus on Regions 2, 6 and 9. More information is needed to understand exactly why certain areas are so full. Future surveys will dive into capacity issues, and organizations should remain vigilant in tracking their capacity and how fully it is being utilized, while also brainstorming ideas at a regional level to help with overflow.

Intakes and Outcomes

With the increase in the number of organizations that reported data to the EWDC in 2023, the number of intakes and outcomes also rose from 2022. Organizations had 5,035 equine intakes in 2023 and 4,384 equine outcomes. When looking at the percentage of reasons for intakes and outcomes, the trends are very similar to 2022. The most common cause of an equine being taken in to an equine welfare organization was owner relinquishment (53.13%) and the most common cause of an equine finding an outcome from an equine welfare organization was an adoption (76.20%). Interestingly, outcomes due to transfers to other organizations fell by two thirds from 2022 data (11.75% in 2022 down to 3.42% in 2023), but intakes due to transfers increased only marginally (4.76% in 2022 up to 6.32% in 2023). The issue of equines being transferred between equine welfare organizations is an interesting topic that the EWDC has not focused on up to this point, but for future surveys, we will be reevaluating the way we classify transfers to better understand the process.



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.

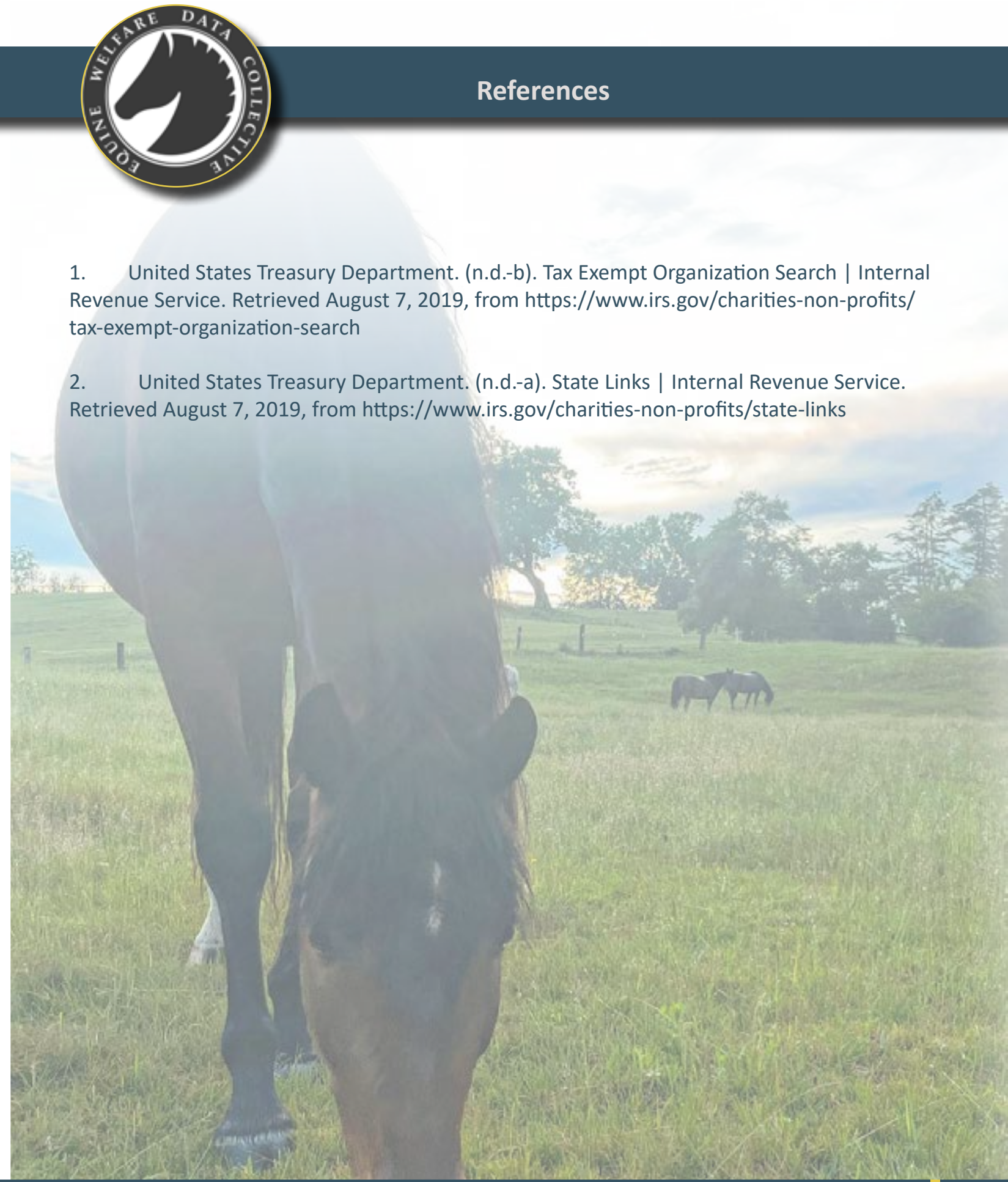
Key Takeaways

1. EWDC participation increased by 27% this year.
2. Organizations reported an increase in Direct Placement Assistance requests in 2023
3. Feed Assistance and Veterinary Care were the top Assistance Requests / Safety Net Requests in 2023
4. Transportation and Veterinary Care Assistance Requests / Safety Net Requests were difficult to fulfill in 2023
5. Organizations report Rehome Requests being primarily due to owner-based reasons (financial situation, health, or age) and Euthanasia Requests were primarily due to equine-based reasons (health, age, or behavior)
6. Over the course of 2023, organizations reported there was a 20% increase in filled capacity
7. By the end of 2023, organizations were almost completely filled, with Regions 2, 6, and 9 reporting over 100% capacity filled
8. Intake and Outcome trends from 2023 remain consistent with years past, with Owner Relinquishment the most common intake reason and Adoption the most common Outcome

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

1. United States Treasury Department. (n.d.-b). Tax Exempt Organization Search | Internal Revenue Service. Retrieved August 7, 2019, from <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search>
2. United States Treasury Department. (n.d.-a). State Links | Internal Revenue Service. Retrieved August 7, 2019, from <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/state-links>





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 In/Out 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.



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

State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)	State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)
AK	2	0%	NC	40	42%
AL	14	43%	ND	4	24%
AR	11	0%	NE	6	75%
AZ	45	35%	NH	6	60%
CA	137	32%	NJ	24	29%
CO	78	62%	NM	14	78%
CT	14	35%	NV	13	38%
DE	4	75%	NY	58	50%
FL	90	38%	OH	32	28%
GA	30	33%	OK	21	33%
HI	3	33%	OR	31	48%
IA	9	33%	PA	51	43%
ID	7	85%	PR	3	33%
IL	26	38%	RI	3	33%
IN	18	33%	SC	26	30%
KS	6	66%	SD	6	83%
KY	29	31%	TN	28	32%
LA	11	36%	TX	86	34%
MA	14	50%	UT	11	45%
MD	35	48%	VA	39	58%
ME	11	63%	VT	6	50%
MI	28	35%	WA	37	32%
MN	17	23%	WI	24	33%
MO	22	45%	WV	3	66%
MS	8	25%	WY	5	80%
MT	12	25%			



State Respondents 2023

State	Respondents	State	Region
AK	0	NC	6
AL	2	ND	1
AR	0	NE	1
AZ	8	NH	1
CA	20	NJ	2
CO	16	NM	4
CT	1	NV	1
DE	1	NY	13
FL	14	OH	5
GA	5	OK	4
HI	0	OR	5
IA	0	PA	9
ID	2	PR	0
IL	5	RI	1
IN	4	SC	4
KS	1	SD	3
KY	5	TN	5
LA	2	TX	13
MA	0	UT	1
MD	6	VA	7
ME	2	VT	1
MI	4	WA	7
MN	1	WI	3
MO	3	WV	2
MS	1	WY	2
MT	1	GRAND TOTAL	206

