

2026-2031 MEDIC ONE/EMS LEVY BRIEFING

Board of Health, February 20, 2025

Presented by:

Michele Plorde, EMS Division Director

Overview

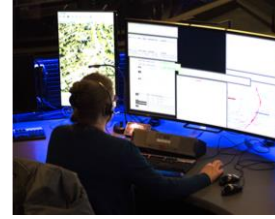
- Current 6-year Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2025
- Hosted a regional 8-month process rooted in partnerships and consensus-building
- Developed recommendations for Strategic Plan and finance plan (levy) for King County voters to renew in 2025
- Next step: Legislative approval process

What is Medic One/EMS?

Any time you call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency, you are using the Medic One/EMS system. Known worldwide for excellence and innovation.

- Serves over **2.3 million people** throughout King County and provides lifesaving services on average **every 2 minutes**.
- In 2024, the Medic One/EMS system responded to over **255,000 calls** in King County.
- In 2023, the survival rate for cardiac arrest was **51%** throughout the region.
- Because of our strong program, cardiac arrest patients are **2 to 3 times more likely to survive** here compared to other cities.

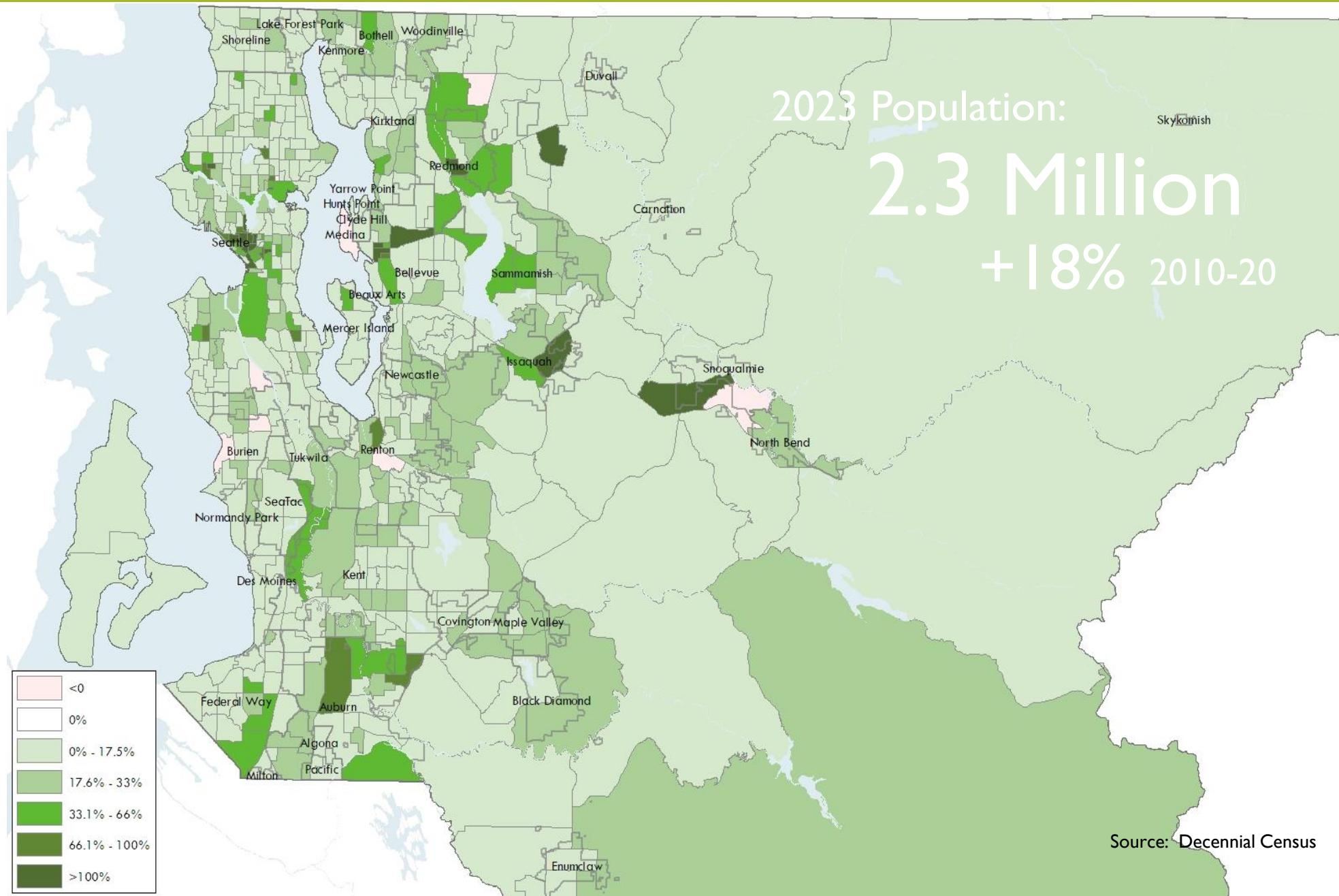
What happens when you dial 9-1-1?



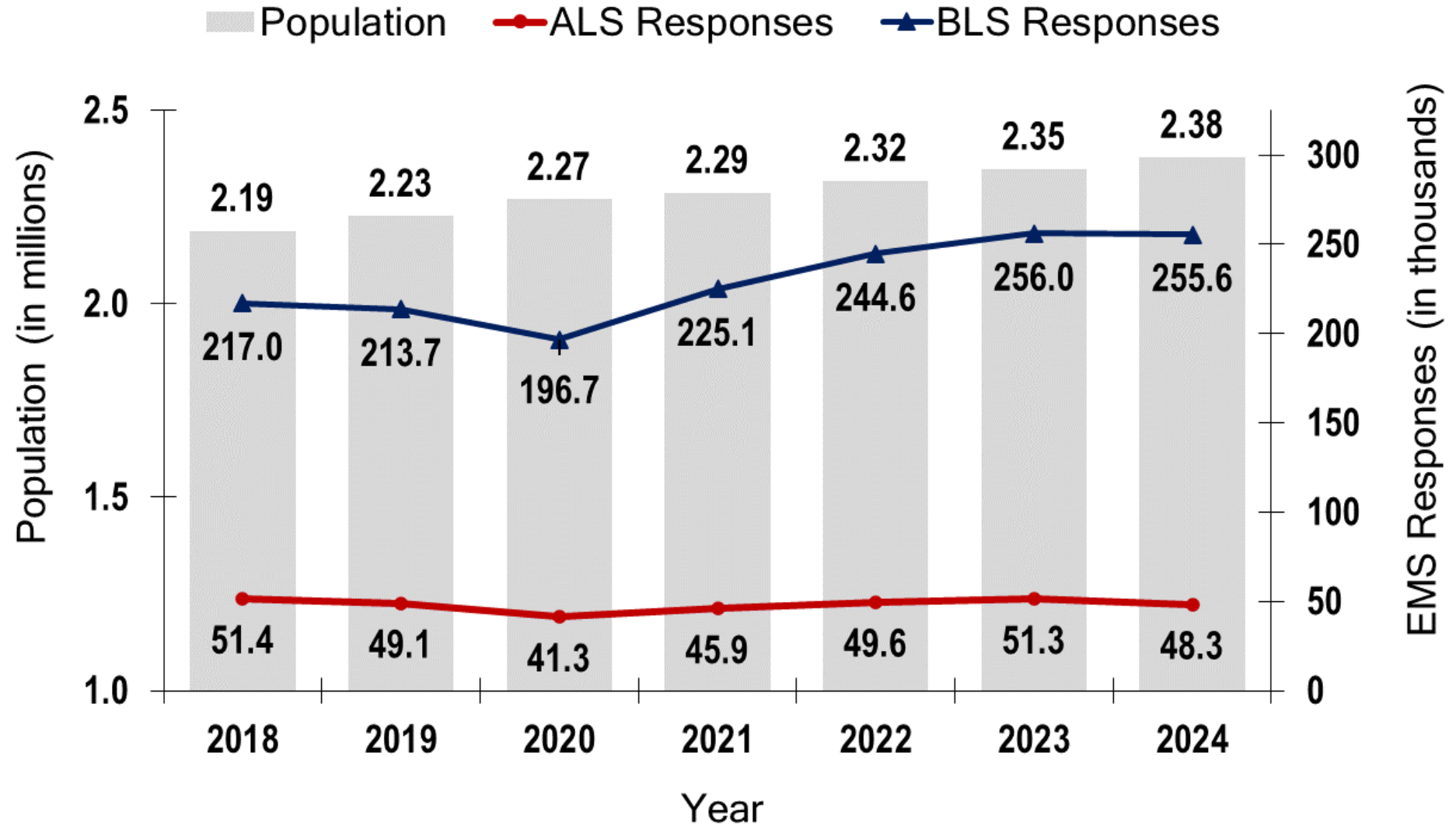
Why does our system work so well?

Achieve high survival rates because of the unique configuration of our system. It includes the following key components:

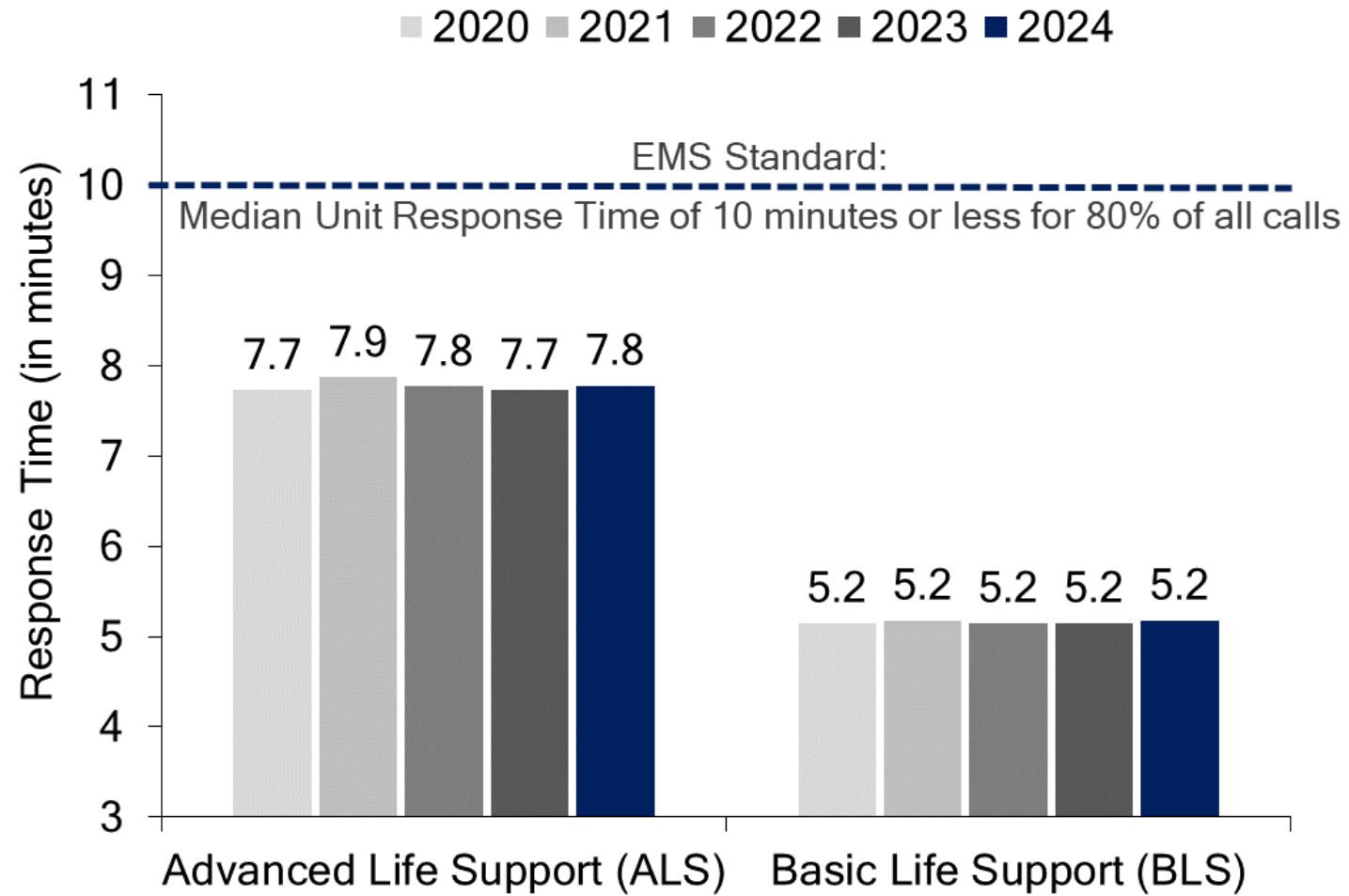
- Regional system based on partnerships.
- Uses a tiered response model founded on medicine and science.
- Equity-driven and committed to providing high-quality care.
- Uses innovative strategies to obtain superior medical outcomes and continually improve.
- Funded by an EMS levy which has proven to be reliable and stable.



Population and EMS Call Volume

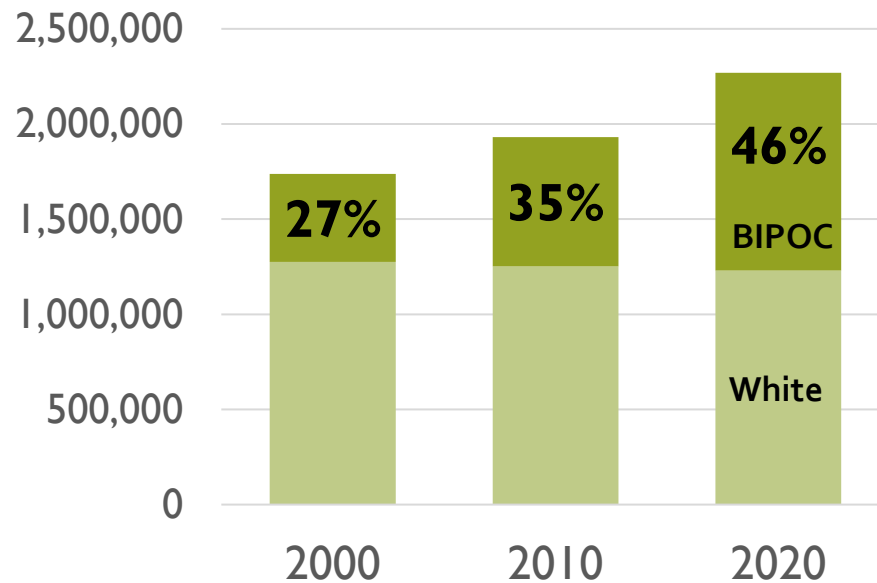


2020-2024 Median Unit Response Time (in minutes) (Time of unit dispatch to arrival at scene)

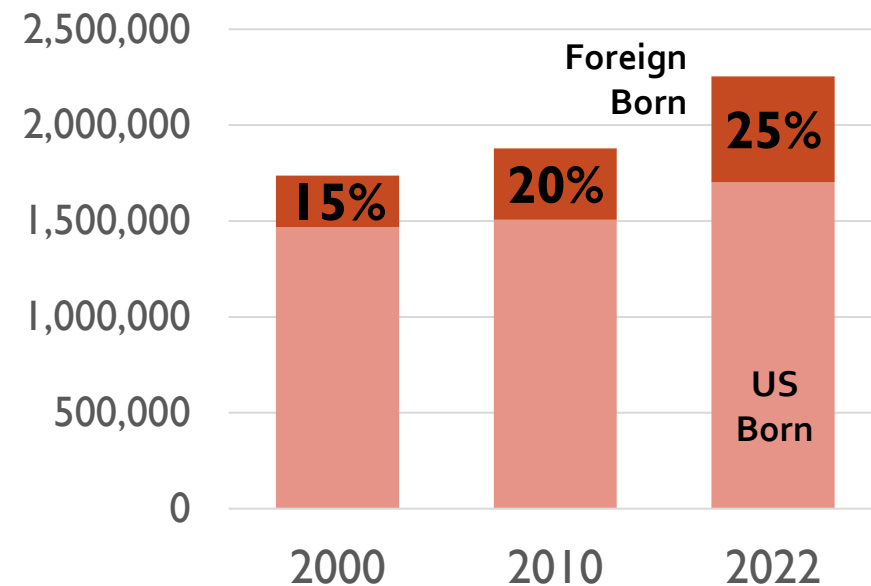


Increasing Diversity

100% of net population growth 2010-20
was in Communities of Color,
particularly Asian, Hispanic, and
Multiracial communities

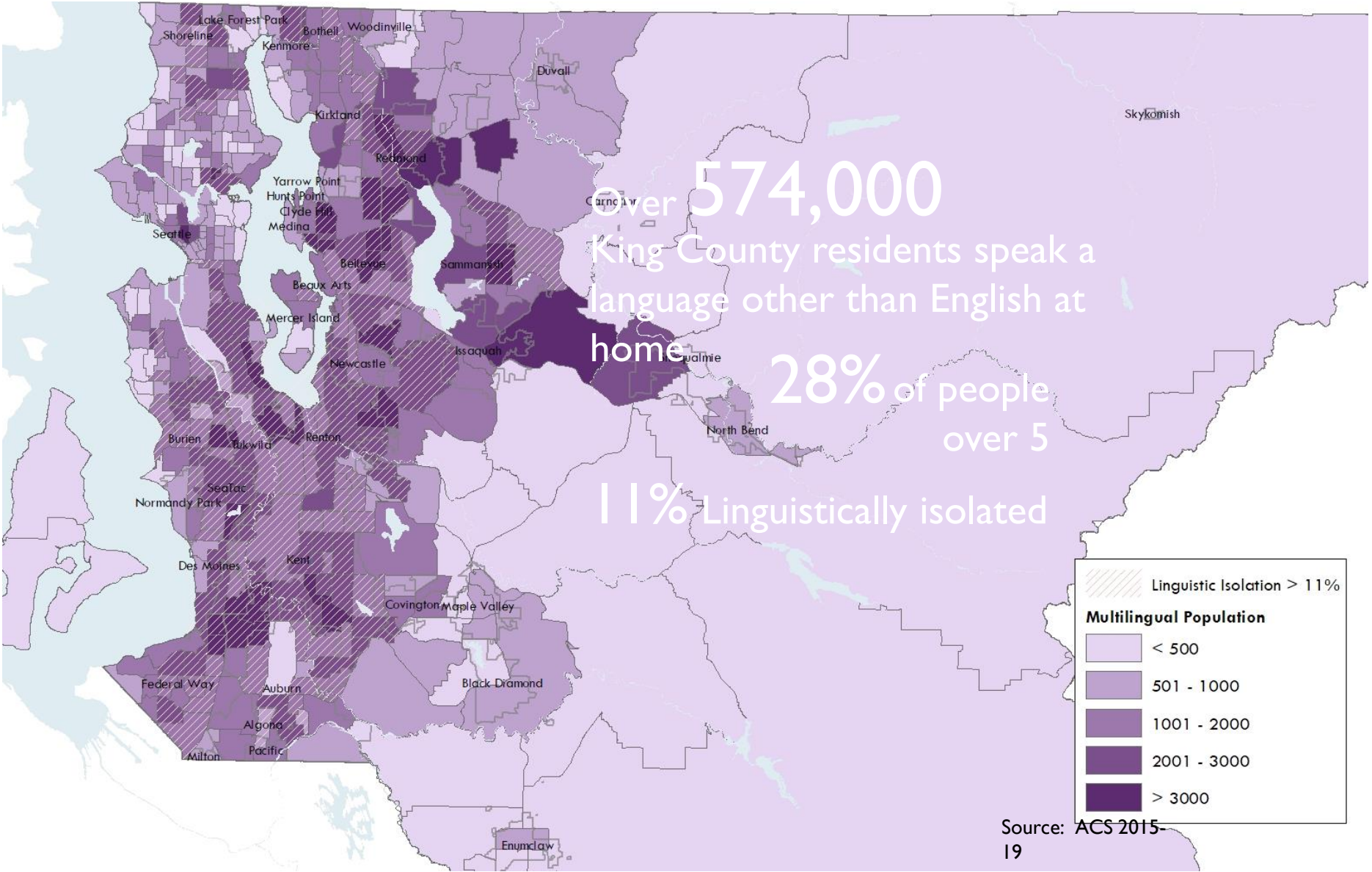


King County Residents born outside
the US increased 48% 2010-22



Source: Decennial Census, ACS 2018-22

Multilingual Population



Creating the next Strategic Plan

- Identify our programmatic needs.
- Develop our financial plan.
- Provide sufficient reserves.
- Recommend levy length, rate and ballot timing.

2020-2025 Medic One/EMS levy facts

- 6-year levy
- Starting rate of 26.5 cents/\$1,000 AV
- Generate \$1.115 billion over 6 years (Seattle/King County split)
- KC programs funded by levy (\$664.2m):
 - Advanced Life Support (ALS) - paramedic services
 - Basic Life Support (BLS) - FF/EMT services
 - Regional Services - core programs that support direct services
 - Strategic Initiatives - pilot projects
 - Reserves - unanticipated expenses
- Cost to the homeowner (2020): **\$159***

* \$600,000 King County median residence value in 2020 per King County Assessor

EMS Advisory Task Force

- Governing body: **20 elected officials** and decision-makers
- Representatives:
 - Cities with 50,000+ in population (11)
 - Sound Cities Assn (3)
 - Fire Commissioners (3)
 - King County Council (2)
- Chaired by KC Executive Office (1)
- Four Subcommittees (chaired by a TF member): ALS, BLS, Regional Services, and Finance

KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

ALS Subcommittee Recommendations

1. CONTINUE using the ALS allocation to determine ALS costs. Inflate annually using CPI-W +1% and appropriate vehicle inflator.

2. INCLUDE a “place holder” in the Financial Plan to potentially fund a 12-hour unit in the 3rd (2028) and 5th (2030) years of the levy.

3. CONTINUE using reserves and contingencies to cover costs that fall outside the allocation.

BLS Subcommittee Recommendations

1. INCREASE total BLS funding by \$5 million in the first year of the levy:

- a. \$3 million to BLS Basic Allocation.
- b. \$2 million to Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH).

2. INFLATE funding annually at CPI-W + 1%.

3. DISTRIBUTE NEW BLS funding and annual increases using a more equitable distribution methodology of 60% call volume/40% AV.

4. SUPPORT mental wellness and equity and inclusion efforts proposed by the King County Fire Chiefs Association.

Regional Services/ Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Recommendations

1. CONTINUE delivering programs that provide essential support to the system.

2. ENHANCE programs to meet regional needs, including

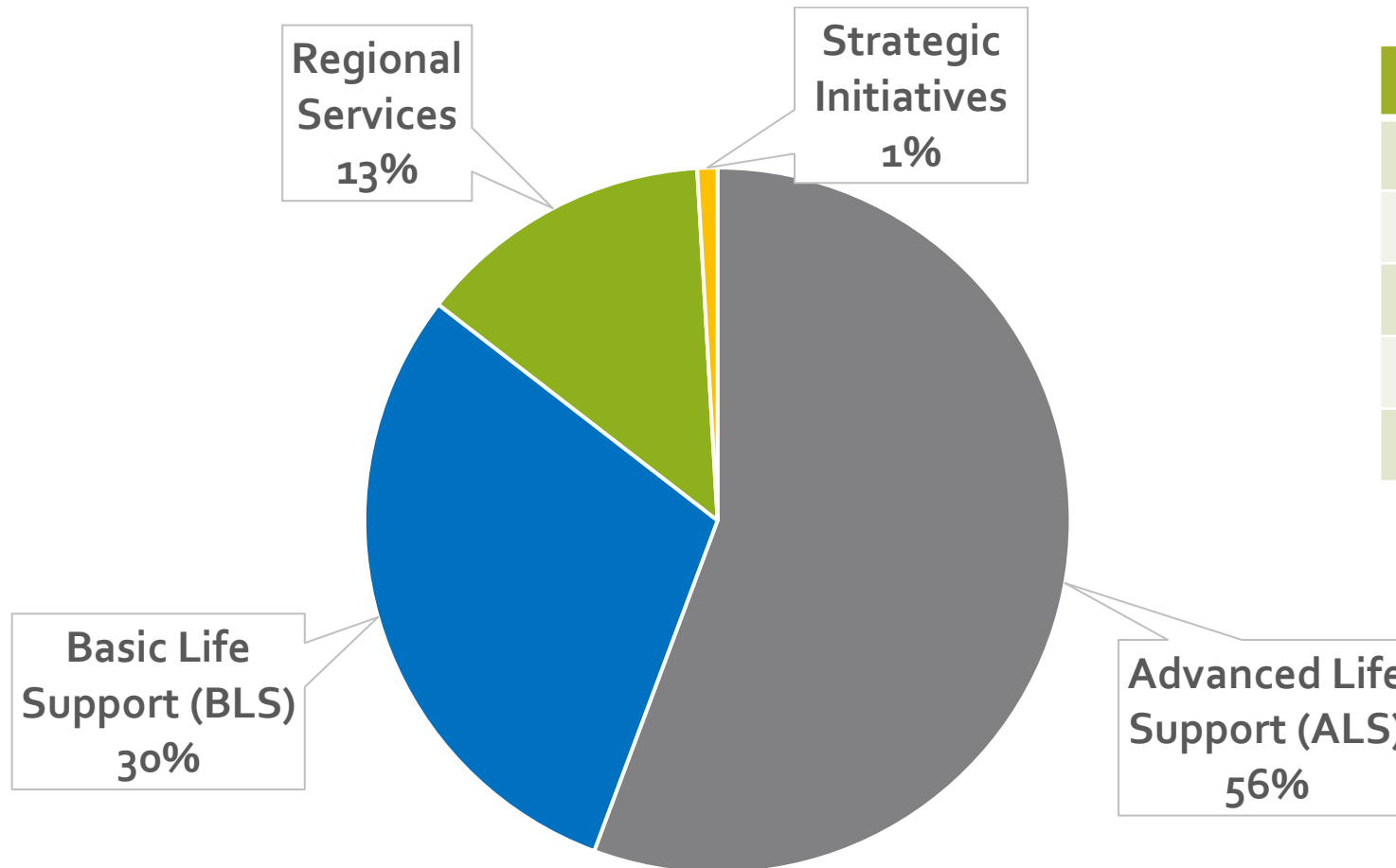
- expanding Initial EMT Training
- renewing the Telephone Referral Program.

3. MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP Strategic Initiatives that leverage previous investments made by the region to improve patient care and outcomes:

- Continue ECHO (Community-based partnerships)
- Continue PRIME (Data systems improvements)
- New: Emergency Medical Dispatch (technical improvements)

KC EMS Programs

DISTRIBUTION BY PROGRAM – KC EMS Fund



Program	\$s in millions
ALS	\$511.8
BLS	\$273.9
Reg'l Svcs	\$124.9
SI	\$8.5
TOTAL	\$919.1

Finance Subcommittee Recommendations

1. CONDUCT a risk analysis to determine appropriate reserve funding to help safeguard the Medic One/EMS system from unforeseen financial risk.

2. INCORPORATE sufficient reserves and contingencies to mitigate financial risk and provide flexibility.

MAIN DRIVERS – REVENUES

- Beginning Assessed Valuation (AV) determine starting level of new levy
- New Construction levels
- Split between Seattle and King County (based on AV)
- Amount of reserves to carry forward from 2020-2025 levy

MAIN DRIVERS – Expenditures & Reserves

- Number of ALS units and cost per unit
- Cost escalators (inflaters)
- Adds of new or enhanced services and funding
- Reserves and Contingencies

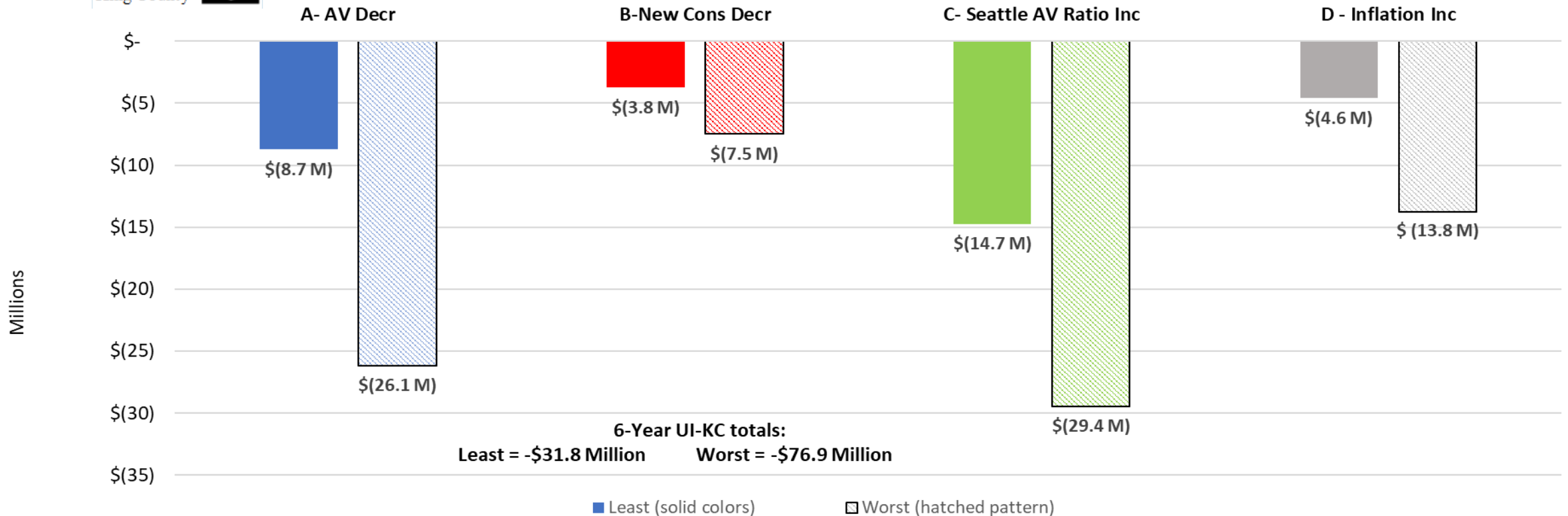
Risk Analysis / What-If Scenarios

King County Impact for 25.0 cent levy

All 4 Scenarios:
6-Year Total Impacts For Least and Worst Cases



Assumes new levy rate = 25 cents



Recommended 2026-2031 EMS Levy Financial Summary

Financial Summary	Total (in millions)
Total Expenditures	\$1,438.0
Reserves (Programmatic & Rainy Day)	\$67.7
TOTAL Expenditures & Reserves	\$1,505.7
2026-2031 Property Tax Forecast (25 cent levy rate)	\$1,470.8
Other Revenues (KC EMS Fund)	\$17.5
Carryforward from 2020-2025	\$64.4
TOTAL Available Revenues	\$1,552.7
Funds available for KC Supplemental/Economic Reserves	\$47.0

Risk Analysis Range: Least = -\$31.8 Million Worst = -\$76.9 Million

Recommended 2026-2031 EMS Levy

(in millions)

FINANCIAL PLAN	Seattle	KC EMS	Total
Property Taxes	\$518.9	\$951.9	\$1,470.8
Other Revenues (KC EMS Fund)		\$17.5	\$17.5
Carryforward from 2020-2025		\$64.4	\$64.4
TOTAL Revenue	\$518.9	\$1,033.8	\$1,552.7
Total Expenditures	\$518.9	\$919.1	\$1,438.0
Reserves		\$67.7	\$67.7
TOTAL Expenditures with Reserves	\$518.9	\$986.8	\$1,505.7
KC Supplemental/Economic Reserves		\$47.0	\$47.0

Risk Analysis Range: Least = -\$31.8 Million Worst = -\$76.9 Million

Finance Subcommittee Recommendations

- 1. CONDUCT a risk analysis** to determine appropriate reserve funding to help safeguard the Medic One/EMS system from unforeseen financial risk.
- 2. INCORPORATE sufficient reserves and contingencies** to mitigate financial risk and provide flexibility.
- 3. SUPPORT forwarding a Financial Plan**, with expenditures and reserves projected at \$1.5 billion over the six-year span, and a 25-cent levy rate.

Summary:

- ✓ **Supported subcommittee programmatic recommendations**
- ✓ **Levy Rate:** 25.0 cents
 - ✓ Annual cost to the homeowner: \$212 (average \$850,000 home)
- ✓ **Length:** 6 years (2026-2031)
- ✓ **Ballot Timing:** General Election in Nov 2025

QUESTIONS?

Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Board Administrator

kcbohadmin@kingcounty.gov