



# A Study on Status of Ambulance Network in Kozhikode Metro

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## Background

- During the pre-ambulance era, pre-hospital mortality rate was very high. Inadequacy in uniform network, easy access number for ambulances on par with international standards has led to a hindrance in timely patient care.



## Objective

- To analyze the current status of all ambulances with respect to condition, equipments and staff competency.

## Methods and Materials

- Type of the Study: Prospective, Pilot
- Sample size 51 ambulances, analysis was done by collecting data with questionnaire answered by ambulance operators.
- Parameters considered includes type, facilities available in vehicle, life saving equipment available, quality assurance with respect to staff number, qualification and competency, working pattern covering number of patients transported, number of calls attended, and types of shift and response time

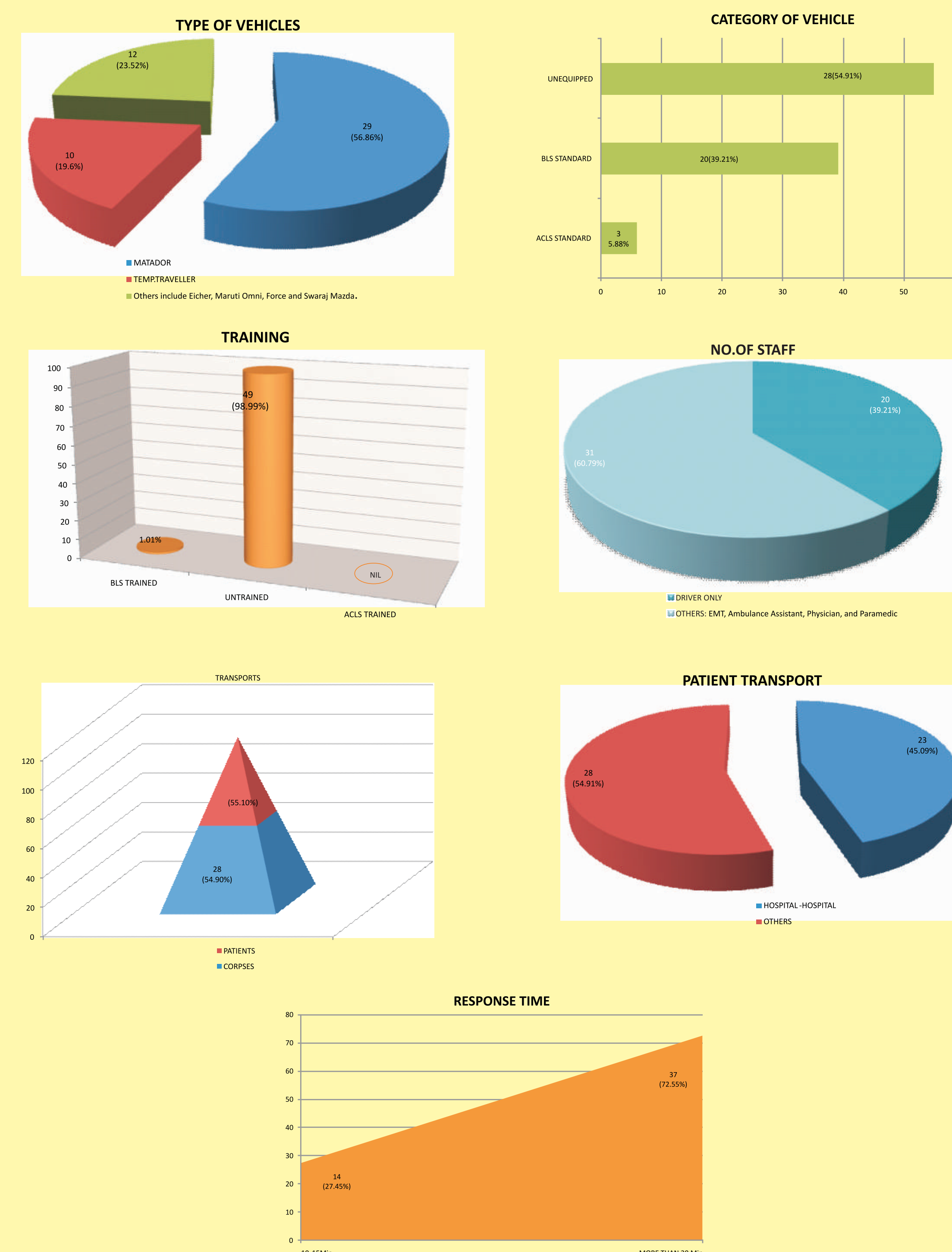
## Inclusion criteria

- All the ambulances operating in Calicut metro

## Exclusion criteria

- Ambulances operating outside Calicut city
- Operators not willing to join ANGELS.

## Results



- 29(56.86%) ambulances are Matador make, 10(19.62%) are Tempo Travelers. Remaining 12 (23.52%) are Eicher, Maruti Omni, Force and Swaraj Mazda.
- 28 (54.90%) are unequipped, 20(39.21%) are of BLS standard 3(5.88%) are of ACLS standard.
- Among the drivers only 2 are BLS trained, none got ACLS training
- 20 (39.21%) ambulances are manned by only drivers.
- 28 (54.90%) of the calls attended were only to transport corpse
- 23 (45.09%) are involving patient transport mainly from hospital to hospital.

## Discussion

- This study data revealed that pre-hospital care system is only minimally developed in Kozhikode.
- Majority of the ambulances are corpse carriers.
- Only 5.88% ambulances are fully equipped to cater population of 9,00,000.

## ANGELS

- Active Network Group of Emergency Life Savers (ANGELS)
- Planned by the
  - District Administration, Kozhikode
  - Indian Medical Association (IMA) Kozhikode chapter
  - Department of Health, Government of Kerala
  - Department of Emergency Medicine, MIMS



- Ambulances are connected through a Network of Global Positioning Tracking System and given a single three digit access number.
- The ambulances will be upgraded to BLS or ACLS standards
- The training will be provided by Department of Emergency Medicine, MIMS Hospital
- ANGELS project is being launched at a cost less than 1,00,000 INR /ambulance through public-private participation.

## Conclusion

- Majority of ambulances were used to transport corpse.
- Due to the inadequacy of equipments and quality of vehicles, immediate upgradation is necessary.
- Competency of the staff can be improved by giving proper and regular training.



Keywords: Ambulance network, Modes of patient transport, Active Network Group for Emergency Life Savers (ANGELS). Global Positioning System. Basic Life Support system, Advanced Life Support system

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