 distância of thousands of Iowans through the years owes much to their very lives to those volunteers.

Close to half of EMS providers in Iowa are all-volunteer, and 10% are staffed with both paid and unpaid EMTs and paramedics, according to statistics from the Iowa EMS Association.

But Iowa’s patchwork network of public, private, paid and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-

ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.

Defense seeks judge’s removal in Cruzel trial

Iowa’s EMS system is broken, the Legislature has taken steps to improve funding options. But Iowa’s patchwork system of public, private, paid, and volunteer EMS providers is increasingly stressful, Des Moines Register reporter Daniel Lathrop and Philip found in a two-part investigation that starts today.

The genesis of this reporting dates to January, when our staff was planning coverage to mark the third-year anniversary of the pandemic’s firstfection in Iowa. Daniel looked at a little-known federal database, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System, to get a sense of the pandemic’s impact on EMS and paramedics, who staff the front lines of the fight.

What he discovered: Calls for ambulances went up astronomically, even though they weren’t related to COVID-19 cases, and the time it took to ar-rive was trending. A govern-ment analysis confirmed the same trend.

That began an eight-month journey to under-stand why. Daniel requested annoyed-ated details for our stables, calling EMS officials, interviewing patients, talking to dispatchers about county or ambulance leaders. What they did provide were redacted time totals showing calls and respon-siveness times are up in Iowa.