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## 2010-2011 Pennsylvania EMSC Survey Data ~EMS Agencies~


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## Background


- Surveying done by each state (unless exempt) every 2 years
- PA surveyed agencies in 2008 and 2010
- Data is reported to HRSA as part of federal EMSC performance measures 71, 72, and 73 (76 and 77 for hospitals)
- EMS Agency surveys ask about:
  - Perceived on- and off-line pediatric medical direction availability
  - Availability of pediatric-specific equipment on EMS vehicles as per federal recommendations



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## Purpose of surveying


- To demonstrate progress of EMSC program to achieve the established performance measures.
- Data is reported for each continuation application for grant funding – both during competing and non-competing cycles.



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## Survey Method

- 2008 – Surveyed all agencies (n=999) and achieved a 53% response rate
- 2010 – Surveyed a sampling of agencies (429 out of 1,017)
  - Sample size done by ZIP code by NEDARC
  - Did not include air ambulances
- 2008 – no time limit (12 months)
- 2010 – 3 month collection period 10/7/10 – 1/7/11
- Target response rate each year = 80%
  - 500 in 2008
  - 344 in 2010



### Method (cont.)

- New survey tool created by NEDARC
- E-mailed to agency managers using licensure data from PA DOH BEMS
- Reminder sent after 2- and 6- weeks
- Paper survey mailed to non-respondents after 2 months
- Targeted phone calls during last 72 hours

### Response Rates

- 344/429 Agencies (80%)
- Non-emergency services were excluded from respondents, which reduced # to 294.
  - 141/294 = BLS = 434 ambulances
  - 153/294 = ALS = 573 ambulances

Agency Type	# of Agencies	# of Units
BLS Agencies	141	434
ALS Agencies	151	573

### On-line Pediatric Medical Command

- 53/141 BLS agencies attempted to call medical command for a child in the last 12 months
  - BLS less likely than ALS to need to contact CMD for Pediatrics
- 45 (85%) of them report successfully reaching someone to provide consultation.

### On-line (cont.)

- 139/153 ALS agencies attempted to contact command for pediatrics, of which 121 (88%) were successful

Agency Type	2008 Percentage	2010 Percentage
BLS Agencies	71%	85%
ALS Agencies	65%	88.00%

### Off-line Medical Direction

- Achieved by having statewide treatment protocols available.
- \*\*Protocols required to be carried on EMS vehicles of all levels effective 2011 (not necessarily considered during responses). This will allow for PA to report 100% success in this measure during the next reporting cycle.
- 97 of 141 (69%) of BLS agencies report having access to off-line medical direction
- 121 of 153 (79%) of ALS agencies report having access.

### 2008 vs 2010 off-line

In all reality, this is now 100% - great job!

Agency Type	2008 Percentage	2010 Percentage
BLS Agencies	39%	69%
ALS Agencies	66%	79.00%

### Pediatric Equipment

- Large focus area for PA EMSC since 2008.
- Federal PM based on 2009 recommended equipment list for ambulances as released by the American College of Surgeons COT
- Unlike the previous two PMs, this evaluates vehicles, not agencies.

### BLS Responses

- 190/434 BLS ambulances (44% - up from 37%) contain all of the recommended equipment
- 375/573 ALS ambulances (65% - up from 58%) carry all of the recommended equipment.
- Both increased since 2008

Agency Type	2008 Percentage	2010 Percentage
BLS Agencies	37%	44%
ALS Agencies	58%	65%

## BLS Analysis

- These percentages look at ALL of the items as a “snapshot,” and missing just one item equals non-compliance.
- Most commonly missing BLS items:
  - Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) (*on 79% of BLS units*)
  - Pulse-oximetry units (*on 64% of BLS units*)
  - Neonatal BVMs (*on 81% of BLS units*)
- AEDs required as of 1/1/11
- If these three items weren't required
  - 97%-100% of PA BLS units carry all of the remaining equipment

## ALS Agencies

- 3 most commonly missing items:
  - Pulse-ox (carried by 92% of ALS units)
  - Neonatal BVMs (carried by 83%)
  - Lower extremity splints (carried by 93%)

## Limitations of Survey

- Pending changes to licensure manual
  - AED requirement (1/1/11)
  - Protocol books (2011)
  - Neonatal BVM masks (next release)
  - Other airway/oxygen/syringe/split recommendations for next release
    - \*\*\*\*ALL items above were recommendations to DOH by EMSC Program\*\*\*\*
- Some items reported as “not carried,” despite being on current PA list. Surveys were sent to managers, so assumption is that they completed survey but may not be familiar with the equipment on their vehicles.

## Next Steps

- Continued research by EMSC group
- Pulse-ox discussions on-going
- Voluntary recognition process to fill the gap in PA vs Federal equipment lists

