

# Emergency Preparedness of Child Care Facilities — Upper Cumberland Region Tennessee

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# **Disclaimer**

**The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the U.S. Public Health Service.**

# Presentation Overview

- **Childcare settings emergency preparedness project background**
  - Why child care facilities targeted
  - Partners
  - Coordination to develop and implement survey
- **Survey and site visit methodology**
- **Quantitative and qualitative results**
- **Discussion of findings**

# Importance of Emergency Preparedness for Child Care

- In 2009, the National Commission on Children and Disasters released a report that recommended requiring disaster planning capabilities for child care providers.
- Trust for America's Health identified a gap in their annual 2009 preparedness report, which found that TN lacked a requirement that child care facilities have a multi-hazard written evacuation and relocation plan for emergencies.

# **Importance of Emergency Preparedness for Child Care**

- **Emergency preparedness is often only applied to terrorism, and not to floods, fires, tornadoes, hazardous materials, etc.**
- **Disasters are very risky for children**
- **Children in child care spend a lot of time there**
- **Children are dependent on child care providers during disasters/emergencies**



# **Child Care in the Upper Cumberland Region, TN**

- **14 County Region**
  - **Over 20,000 children under 5 years**
  - **Over 60,000 children under 15 years**
- **158 licensed child care facilities, 5,505 capacity**

# **Current Requirements of Child Care Facility Rules**

- **Written emergency plan (quality not assessed)**
- **Emergency contact list**
- **First Aid and blood borne kits**
- **Provider continuing education**
- **Provider CPR and First Aid training**

# Current Child Care Provider Training Available in TN

- **Required: First Aid, CPR**
- **Incentive: Star Quality Program**
- **Optional: TECTA\***

\*TECTA: Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance

# **Emergency Preparedness Child Care Response Partners**

- **Upper Cumberland Regional Health Office**
- **TN Department of Human Services (DHS)**
- **American Red Cross**
- **TN Child Care Resource and Referral**
- **U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS),  
Applied Public Health Team-2 (APHT-2)**

# TN Child Care Emergency Preparedness Survey

- Upper Cumberland Objective: Plan and conduct an assessment survey for child care emergency preparedness
- Carried out by: USPHS, APHT-2
- Dates: July 19-23, 2010

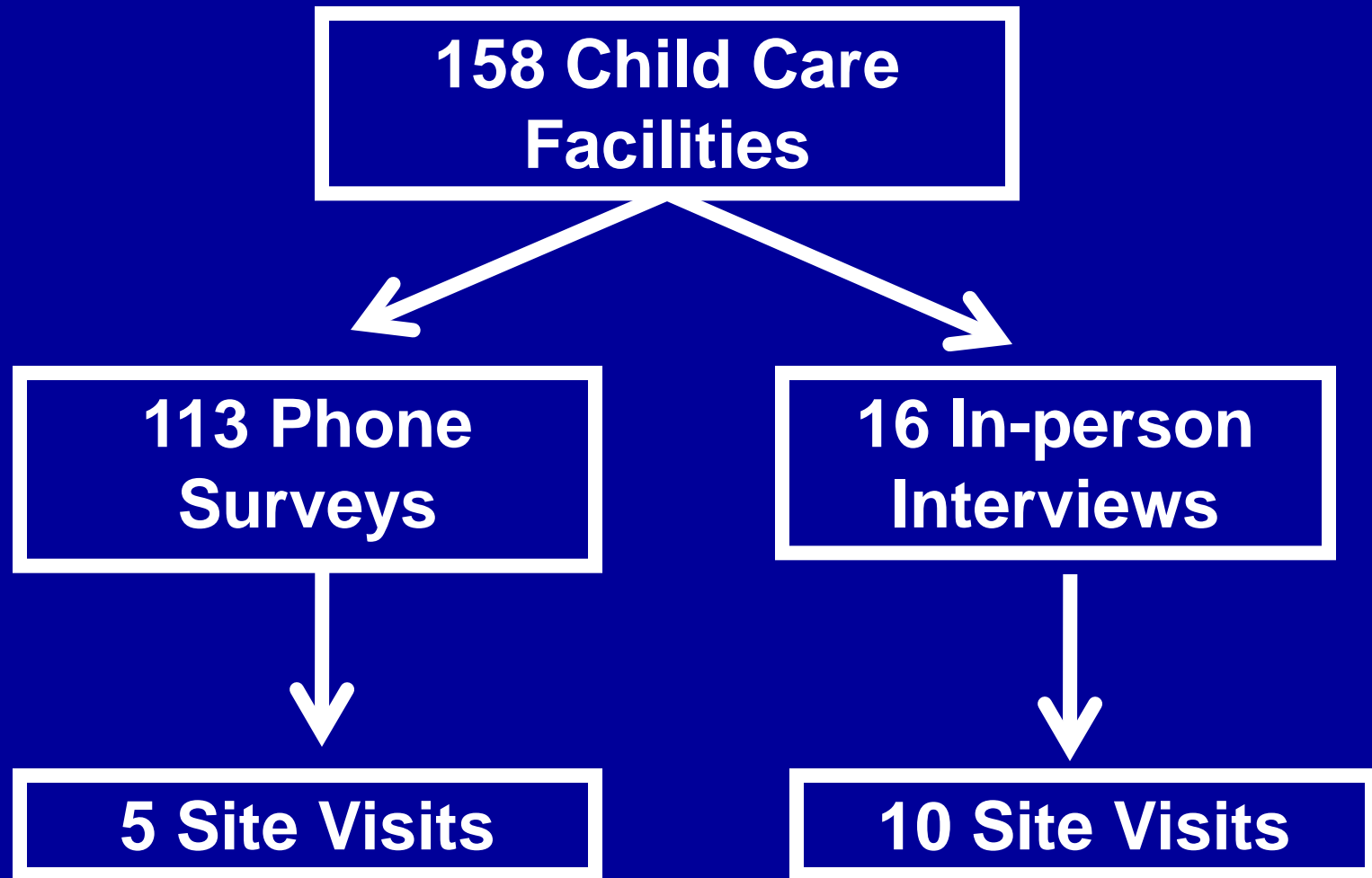
# Purpose of Survey

- **Gauge the level of emergency preparedness in child care facilities**
- **Identify resource needs**
- **Inform the development of child care emergency preparedness policy**

# Data Collection Form

- **County**
- **Type of child care facility**
- **Demographics, including special medical needs**
- **Components of emergency plan**
- **Resources on site**
- **Recommendations for how to meet needs**
- **Qualitative comments**

# Overview



# Characteristics of Childcare Facilities (n=129)

	Years in Operation	Number of Children Currently Attending	Number of Child Care Providers
median	14	15	3
range	1-43	4-131	1-25

# Characteristics of Facilities

Characteristics	N	Yes n (%)	No n (%)
Is your child care facility a free-standing structure?	129	119 (92)	10 (8)
Is your child care facility located at a child care provider's home?	129	52 (40)	77 (60)
Is your child care facility independently owned and operated?	114	105 (92)	9 (8)*

\*The affiliations for these facilities are as follows: hospital (n=1), school/university/college (n=2), church/religious institution (n=4), and unknown (n=2).

# Facilities with Special Needs Children

Special medical needs or disability	<u>Family</u>		<u>Group</u>		<u>Center</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Total	%
Yes	3	10.7%	12	26.7%	26	46.43%	41	31.78%
No	25	89.3%	33	73.3%	30	53.57%	88	68.22%
Total	28	100%	45	100%	56	100%	129	100%

# Facilities with Written Plan

	<u>Family</u>		<u>Group</u>		<u>Center</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Comprehensive Written Plan	Count	% of Family	Count	% of Group	Count	% of Center	Total	% of All Facilities
Yes	25	89.3%	38	84.4%	55	98.2%	118	91.5%
No	2	7.1%	7	15.6%	1	1.8%	10	7.8%
Don't know	1	3.6%		0.0%		0.0%	1	0.8%
Total	28	100%	45	100%	56	100%	129	100%

# Components of Written Plan

<u>Plan Components</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>% (among 118 facilities with written plan)</u>
Fire	118	100.0%
Floods/flash floods	46	39.0%
Earthquake	24	20.3%
Severe winter storm/snow/ice	100	84.7%
Tornado/damaging wind/severe thunderstorm/lightening	118	100.0%
Severe heat wave	63	53.4%
Disease outbreak (epidemic)	87	73.7%
Bomb threat/terrorism	53	44.9%
Utility failure (electric, water, gas)	100	84.7%
Communication failure (phone/internet)	87	73.7%
Hazardous materials accident	67	56.8%
Nuclear accident	17	14.4%
Animal emergencies (bee sting, rabid animal contact)	94	80.3%
Injuries or illnesses of children or caregivers	112	94.9%
Child abduction	90	76.3%
Workplace violence	68	57.6%
Law enforcement emergencies	85	72.6%
<b>Plan Specifies Evacuation Procedures</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>98.3%</b>
<b>Plan Designates Alternate Shelter Arrangements</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>81.4%</b>

# Frequent Elements

<u>Plan Components</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>% (among 118 facilities with written plan)</u>
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# Infrequent Elements

<u>Plan Components</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>% (among 118 facilities with written plan)</u>
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# Sheltering in Place Capabilities

	Count	Percent (among 118 child cares with written plans)
Child Care Feels Prepared to Shelter in Place	83	70.3%
Child Care Feels They Can Determine When to Evacuate and When to Shelter in Place	103	92%

# Reported Supplies Available

Facilities (n=129)

## Equipment Immediately Available

	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
First aid supplies	129	100%
Instant ice packs*	108	86.4%
Backup communication	126	97.7%
Fire extinguishers	128	99.2%
Nonperishable food/water supplies	120	93.0%
Copies of children's medical information in portable container	112	86.8%
Copies of responsible party information in portable container	124	96.1%
Immediate availability of local emergency phone numbers	128	99.2%
Inhaler of asthma attacks	50	38.8%
Epinephrine autoinjector	62	48.1%

\*Note: data were missing from 4 records

# Desire for Assistance

Resource	N	Yes n (%)	No n (%)	Unknown n (%)
Going online for assistance	129	103 (80)	21 (16)	5 (4)
Availability of template(s)	129	117 (91)	10 (8)	2 (2)
Emergency planning handbook	129	124 (96)	4 (3)	1 (1)
Setting staff time aside monthly	129	103 (80)	20 (16)	6 (5)
Training	129	124 (96)	4 (3)	1 (1)
Videos/DVDs	127	119 (93)	8 (6)	1 (1)
Technical assistance at your site	128	102 (80)	18 (14)	7 (6)

# Other Requests for Assistance

- **Having a city-wide plan that includes busing/transportation for child care facilities**
- **Regular updated email reminders that include checklists**
- **EMS meetings at the child care facility**
- **Specific guidance on evacuation plans**
- **Involvement of parents of child care attendees**
- **List of needed supplies**

# Other Requests for Assistance

- Area meetings with emergency responders
- Mail and phone reminders that include checklists
- Meetings and inservices, with funding from state to support attendance
- Newsletters with plans and updates
- Radios and storm shelters
- Child care facility/provider support groups
- Text message warnings and updates

# Discussion

- **Variation in capabilities**
- **Consistent components of emergency plan were required**
- **Cannot rely on warning siren**
- **Demand for emergency planning assistance**

# Limitations

- **Self-reported information**
- **Survey tool not validated**
- **Emergency written plans not verified**

# Recommendations

- **Consider developing multiple modes of emergency alerts (sirens, texts, etc)**
- **Conduct onsite assessments**
- **Use GIS to verify specific hazards near child care facilities**
- **Develop preparedness resources**
  - **Raise awareness of existing resources**
  - **Consider customizable resources**

# Post Preparedness Survey

- **New TN Licensure Regulations soon**
- **DHS Emergency Preparedness Manual revised and updated**
- **Regional training scheduled for licensed facilities in June 2011**
- **Plan is for the partnership and training to spread throughout the State**

# Post Preparedness Survey

- **The Survey Report information was disseminated among the 14 County Emergency Management Directors**
- **Great strides have been made on National Commission Report's recommendations for shelter items**
- **Article has been published on Child Care Emergency Preparedness in the TN Upper Cumberland Region**

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- Others

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**Thank You!**