

January 28, 2018

Dear FCEP and EMLRC Colleagues:

Florida College of Emergency Physicians has been an active partner with the ongoing development of *Florida's PEDReady* Program. The goal of this program is to enhance pediatric emergency care, "readiness" and preparation in all Florida emergency departments (EDs) on a voluntary basis with recognition for participation. Florida PEDReady parallels the national Pediatric Readiness quality improvement initiative of the Health Resources and Services Administration's EMS for Children (EMSC) Program and the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Emergency Nurses Association.

FCEP and EMLRC have a long history of collaboration and involvement in the Florida Department of Health's EMSC program. This collaborative project (*Florida PEDReady*) will be ED versus prehospital focused and will primarily center on nonchildren's community and rural hospitals and free standing EDs. Nationally, the majority (80-85%) of children and adolescents access emergency care in nonpediatric facilities and have different clinical presentations and needs compared to adults. The trend of free standing EDs is rapidly growing and parents often seek emergency care in the most convenient location.

Florida is unique as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most populous state in the US, including 20% of the population being children < 18 years of age. Our state has approximately 213 hospitals with EDs, 22+ free standing EDs and 17 children's hospitals compared to other states that may only have 1-2 children's hospitals. Access or transfer to pediatric care is usually easily accommodated by our children's hospitals, burn and trauma centers, although certain areas of the state have a paucity of EDs and pediatric resources (see map below). The 2014 Pediatric Readiness Project survey for Florida had a median score of 82 compared to the national median of 69 with higher scores in high volume EDs. According to FloridaHealthFinder.gov (AHCA), in 2016, there were 8,858,561 ED visits including 540,211 offsite (freestanding) with children 0-17 years of age accounting for 1,995,712 or 22% of those visits! Children <1 year of age account for approximately 15% of pediatric visits and those 1-9 years, 60%. Unintentional injury followed by malignancy, homicide and suicide are the leading causes of death in Florida's children over 1 year of age.

Over the next year, the *Florida PEDReady* program aims to collaborate with other pediatric, emergency, trauma, rural and hospital stakeholders. Interested EDs will be asked to submit names and contact information of two pediatric ED *champions* for the collaborative (nurse, advanced practice provider or administrator + physician). The role of the champion will be to *voluntarily* communicate with the collaborative, disseminate educational information, give feedback on what is needed in their ED to enhance pediatric care, participate in surveys, etc. Florida EMSC is collaborating with EMLRC to conduct a brief needs assessment survey, host the *Florida PEDReady* website and listserve, and to disseminate resources, educational opportunities and a free PEDReady toolkit. Dr. Shiva Kalidindi, MD, MPH, MS(Ed.), as FCEP board liaison, and the Pediatric Committee will serve in an advisory capacity for this initiative. Proposed areas of focus and toolkit materials will be further determined after survey completion. The goal is to identify pediatric readiness related measures to assist general EDs and hospitals in meeting Joint Commission, CMS and other regulatory and patient safety metrics as part of their overall mission of excellence. As we all know, a pediatric patient usually includes one or more family members and one sick crashing kid can paralyze ED throughput and emotions! A similar letter will be shared with other related state organizations.

Please help spread the word regarding this initiative and the needs assessment survey. The survey is anonymous unless you wish to share your contact information.

Survey link: <https://www.cvent.com/d/ttq23q>

Website: <http://www.emlrc.org/flpedready/>

Contact: [flpedreadyadmin@emlrc.org](mailto:flpedreadyadmin@emlrc.org)

The website will contain resources, collaborative information, educational opportunities, etc. but is still “under construction” with new materials being added based on your feedback and needs. *Florida PEDReady* updates will be included in *FCEP EM News Now* on a routine basis. Please let me know if you have ideas for improving Florida’s pediatric emergency care and “readiness”.

One of the greatest honors and responsibilities you will receive is the trust of a parent to care for their child. As the saying goes “a hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child”! Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Phyllis L. Hendry, MD, FAAP, FACEP

Professor of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics

Assistant Chair for Research, Department of Emergency Medicine

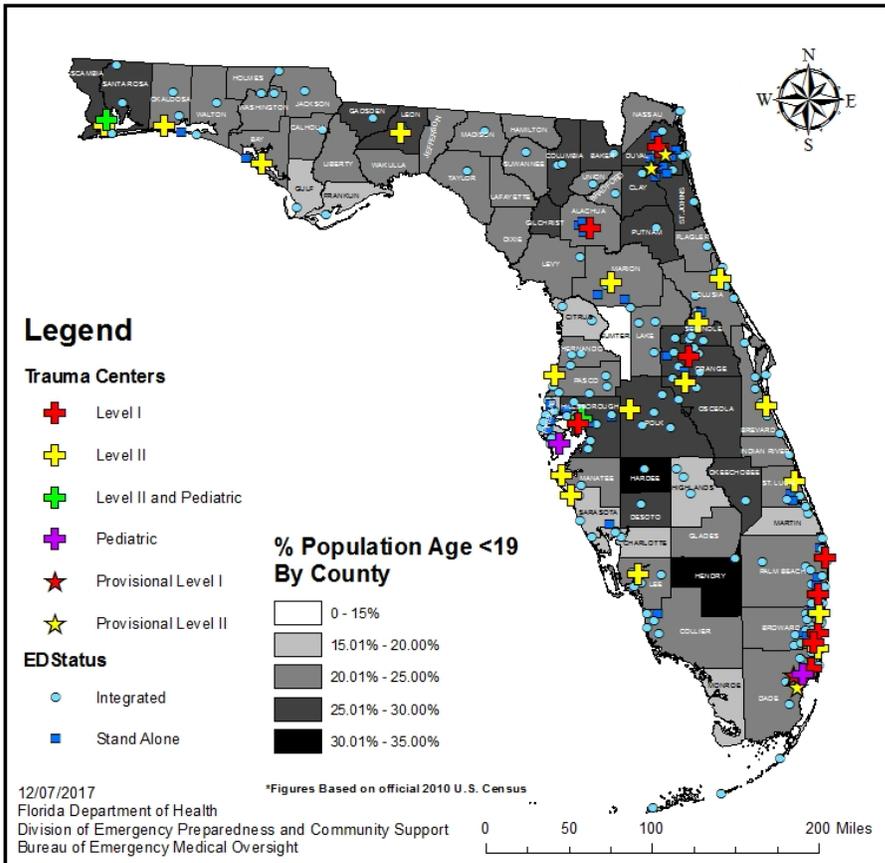
University of Florida College of Medicine/Jacksonville

Trauma One Deputy Medical Director, Pediatric Transport and Care

Florida EMSC Pediatric Readiness and Data Liaison

[phyllis.hendry@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:phyllis.hendry@jax.ufl.edu)





**Percentage of Population <19 Years of Age In Relation to Trauma Centers and Emergency Departments (As of 12/07/2017)**

Disclaimer: This thematic map is for reference purposes. Any reliance on the information contained herein is at the user's own risk. The Florida Department of Health and its agents assume no responsibility for any use of the information contained herein or any loss resulting there from.