

National - Advanced Life Support (ALS) 2024 PPRP Summary Report

Response Rate:¹ 58% (4,859 of 8,428 ALS Agencies)

The **Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP)** includes a comprehensive assessment of the pediatric capabilities of EMS agencies that respond to public 911 or similar emergency calls across the United States. While EMS agencies with varying levels of licensure participated in the assessment, this summary report will focus on agencies with Advanced Life Support (ALS) licensure. Of the 15,293 EMS agencies invited to participate, 8,428 were known to be ALS agencies. Of these, 4,859 completed the assessment, which represents 58% of all ALS agencies nationwide. Results for Intermediate Life Support and Basic Life Support licensure levels will be available in separate reports.

Pediatric Readiness Score



Participating agencies receive a Pediatric Readiness score on a scale of 0-100. The boxes on the left represent the median and average scores for ALS agencies in the nation.

Points Earned by Assessment Domain

The assessment covers eight "domains," or focus areas. The table below shows the average number and percentage of points earned in each domain.

Average Points Earned and Percent by ALS Agencies in Each Domain (sorted highest to lowest by percentage)

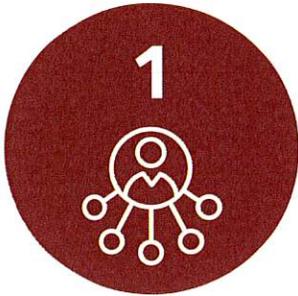
	Points Earned	Points Possible	Percentage
Equipment and Supplies*	10.8	12	90%
Policies, Procedures, and Protocols	11.0	13	85%
Patient and Medication Safety	11.6	14	83%
Education and Competencies for Providers	9.7	15	65%
Patient and Family-Centered Care in EMS	5.8	10	58%
Coordination of Pediatric Emergency Care	8.0	14	57%
Quality Improvement/Performance Improvement	6.7	12	56%
Interaction with Systems of Care	5.5	10	55%

¹ Estimated response rate based on known licensure data. The response rate may affect the representativeness of the data.

* [Recommended Essential Equipment for Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support Ground Ambulances 2020: A Joint Position Statement](#)

Three Key Elements of Pediatric Readiness

Three recommended elements of Pediatric Readiness in EMS agencies are having a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC), a process for skills-checking, and disaster plans inclusive of children. Data for these three elements are shown below and on the next page.



Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs)

PECCs are responsible for coordinating pediatric-specific activities for EMS or fire-rescue agencies. Appointing a team member to the role of PECC, sometimes called a “pediatric champion,” is important for helping coordinate readiness across focus areas.

% of ALS Agencies That Have a PECC: 43%

Top Five Reported PECC Duties

Promote pediatric continuing education opportunities	96%
Ensure providers follow pediatric clinical practice guidelines and/or protocols	95%
Ensure the availability of pediatric medications, equipment, and supplies	91%
Oversee pediatric process and/or quality improvement initiatives	89%
Ensure pediatric perspective is included in the development of EMS protocols	84%

Effect of a PECC on Scoring

Having a PECC is associated with increased overall readiness scores.

Median Adjusted Score of ALS Agencies With a PECC*

81

n=2,079
National

Median Adjusted Score of ALS Agencies Without a PECC*

68

n=2,780
National

*For comparison, points were removed for the presence of a PECC and the remaining total points were “normalized” to a score out of 100.



Skill-Checking on Pediatric Equipment

To prevent the loss of skills over time, the EMSC Program Goal recommends providers practice on pediatric equipment at least 2 times per year. A scoring system is used to take into consideration both the type and frequency of skills-checking. Therefore, this goal can be met through a combination of activities at a skill station, simulation event, or observation of an actual patient encounter.

% of ALS Agencies That Meet the EMSC Program Goal for Frequency of Pediatric Equipment Skill-Checks: 30%

Types of Pediatric Skill-Checking (regardless of frequency)

Demonstration at a skill station	79%
Demonstration within a simulated event	73%
Observation during actual patient encounter	34%



Disaster Plans That Include Children

Without tailored plans in place, the needs of children, who are particularly vulnerable during disasters, may not be met.

% of ALS Agencies That Include Pediatric Considerations in Disaster Plans: 79%

Top Five Reported Disaster Plan Components

Use of a pediatric disaster triage tool	59%
Mass transport of pediatric patients	48%
Tracking of children separated from parents	43%
Use of antidotes for pediatric patients	42%
Family reunification	41%

**Learn more and access resources to help your agency improve at www.pediatricreadiness.org.
Please reach out to your EMSC Program Manager with any questions.**

Prehospital Pediatric Readiness National Assessment Results

In 2024, the National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project – led by the federal Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program in collaboration with leading organizations in prehospital, emergency, and pediatric care – assessed how prepared emergency medical services (EMS) agencies are to care for children according to **national recommendations**. The results of this inaugural assessment were published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

About Responding EMS and Fire-Rescue Agencies

6,989

out of 15,293 agencies (46%) responded

74%

see eight or fewer children per month

70%

provide advanced life support (ALS) services

60%

are located in urban areas

58%

are fire-based agencies

Key Findings

MEDIAN SCORE: 66 OUT OF **100**



38%

of EMS agencies report having a pediatric emergency care coordinator (PECC)



52%

do skills testing with pediatric equipment at least twice per year



60%

collect pediatric elements as part of their patient care data



74%

have a performance improvement plan that includes review of pediatric encounters

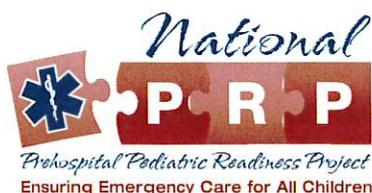


83%

have all recommended pediatric equipment

Trends and Takeaways

- **PECC Impact:** Fewer than half of agencies report having a pediatric emergency care coordinator (PECC)—someone responsible for overseeing pediatric training and care processes—yet the presence of a PECC is associated with consistently higher scores across every category measured, even in low-resourced, low-volume settings.
- **Call Volume:** Agencies that care for more children annually tend to have higher readiness scores, yet the majority of agencies see less than 8 children per month, underscoring the need for repeat practice and advanced preparation.
- **Progress Achieved:** Most agencies reported having the nationally recommended pediatric equipment and supplies, reflecting years of efforts driven by EMS and emergency care leaders and the EMSC Program.



Improve Your Agency's Readiness Today

To find out more about Pediatric Readiness, the national assessment, or to access resources, visit:

pediatricreadiness.org

Data based on the paper "The National Pediatric Prehospital Readiness Project: First Comprehensive Assessment of United States Emergency Medical Services Agencies," published in February 2026 in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.