Children's Hospital Survey
White Paper

Executive Summary

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) awarded the Eastern Great Lakes Pediatric Consortium for Disaster Response (EGLPCDR) a grant to harness and develop best practices around disaster preparedness and response, to be shared with other Children's and Non-Children's hospitals across Ohio and Michigan. Each hospital partner has filled key roles to accomplish the organizational structure in order to address the activities and strategies in the workplan. The partners established 16 workgroups with respective leads to address the items outlined in the work plan, including the Children's Hospital Survey Workgroup (please see Appendix D. for members and site affiliations).

Background

Children have unique physiologic, developmental, behavioral, and social characteristics that require special consideration. This is especially important in times of disasters and has become more relevant today as we face numerous public health emergencies and a shortage of resource (i.e., beds, specialty services, etc.). According to Remick et al., 83% of children who seek emergency care present to General Emergency Departments (EDs) rather than to specialized pediatric EDs.[1] The majority of children who seek emergency care (69.4%) are cared for in EDs that see fewer than 15 pediatric patients per day. These findings highlight the need to provide additional pediatric emergency resources to smaller (and particularly to rural) EDs.[1]

Workgroup Activities

The overall goal of the Hospital Survey Workgroup was to harness and develop best practices around disaster preparedness and response, and then share those best practices with other children's hospitals, non-children's hospitals, and affiliated entities in the region. This pertinent data can be utilized to coordinate pediatric disaster care capabilities, enhance statewide and regional surge capacity, and identify where extra hospital personnel can be deployed in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The Workgroup activities supported Activities A (strategy 1 and 2) and Activity C (strategy 1).

The Workgroup created two versions of a survey (see Appendixs A and B) and was able to gather data from 22 hospitals across Ohio and Michigan. Responding organizations included

both children's and non-children's hospitals.

The data identified how many pediatric beds were located in the responding facilities, including at several non-children's Hospitals. The data also included information about capacity from hospitals with sub-specialty pediatric providers, their trauma level, and available critical care services (e.g., PICU, NICU, and CICU). Information about capacity at non-children's hospitals is particularly helpful when beds need to be utilized when children's hospitals experience surges due to pandemics or other disaster. This information was shared with Departments of Health in both Michigan and Ohio.

Conclusion / Recommendations

The data collected provides key information that can be utilized within Ohio and Michigan and across state borders in the event that children's hospitals are at capacity and/or cannot be operational due to a pandemic or other disaster.

The Workgroup recommends that the survey be further refined. The updated survey can be used to collect data across Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Region 5 first, and from other regions across the United States. These data could be used to populate a Federal Pediatric Bed Board and provide an easier way for hospitals to identify other institutions that can provide the necessary specialty providers and/or services during times of surges and crises. The results are presented in an infographic in Appendix **C**.

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Appendices

- **Appendix A. Children's Hospital Survey v1.**
- **Appendix B Children's Hospital Survey v2.**
- **Appendix C. Children's Hospital Survey Data Infographic**
- **Appendix D. Workgroup Members & Sites**

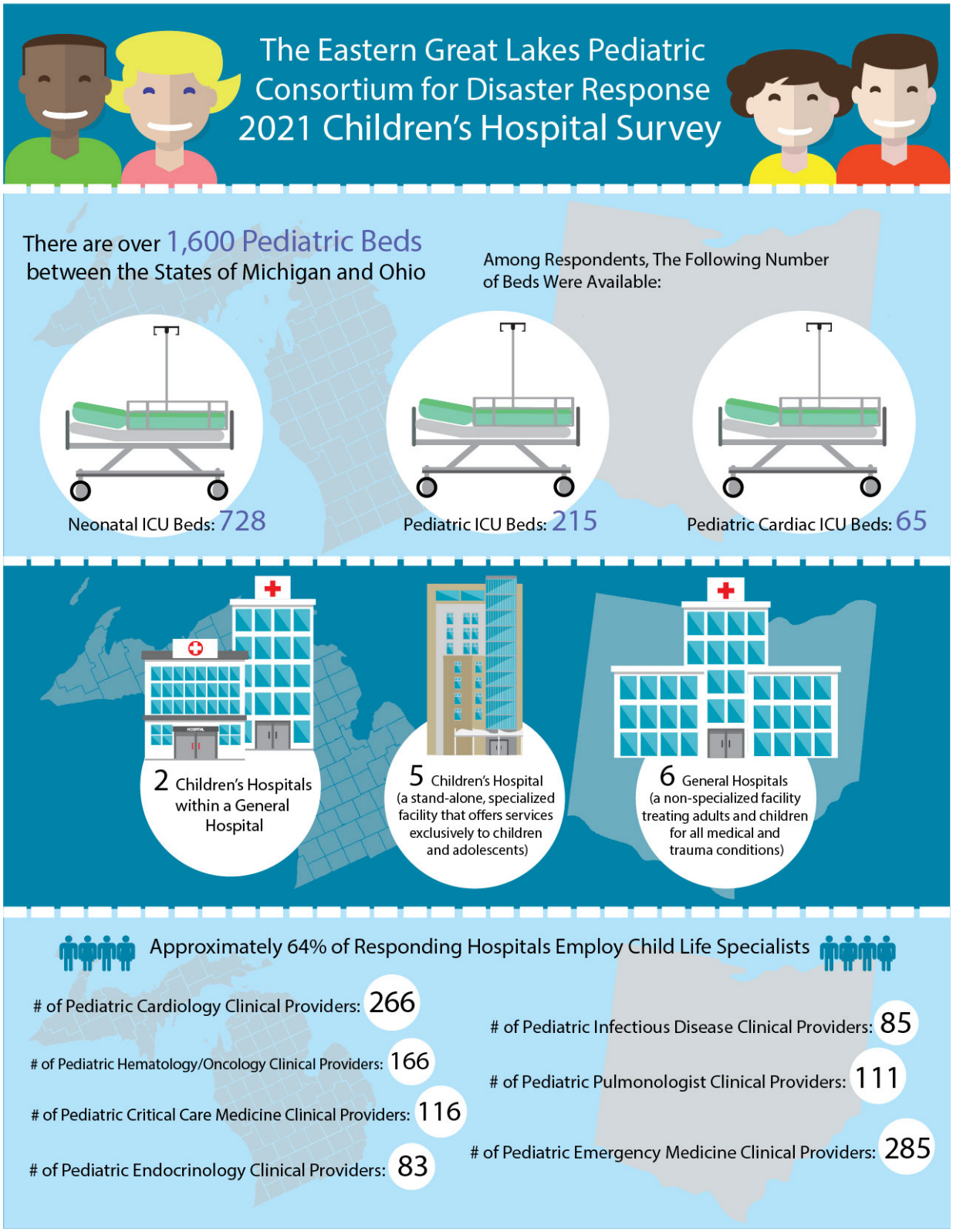
Appendix A. Children's Hospital Survey v1.

Provided as a separate PDF document

Appendix B. Children's Hospital Survey v2.

Provided as a separate PDF document

Appendix C. Children's Hospital Survey Data Infographic



Appendix D. Workgroup Members & Sites

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References

[1] Remick, K., Gausche-Hill, M., Joseph, M., Brown, K., Snow, S., Wright, J. AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Section on Surgery, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS Pediatric Emergency Medicine Committee, EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION Pediatric Committee. Pediatrics 2018, 143 (3) e20183894.