Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)
Stories from the Field: Knoxville-East Region

Situation

East Tennessee’s regional pediatric population is underrepresented in regards to bed capacity. Just 137 pediatric & 121 NICU beds are available with a regional pediatric population of approximately 250,000. Pediatric surge capacity consistently ranks high on the coalition’s Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA).

Intervention

Train
Training is a priority for both pre and in-hospital providers. Subject matter experts presented on a variety of pediatric specific topics and conducted hands-on trainings. A high-fidelity pediatric simulator was purchased to facilitate simulations.

Equip
Pediatric evacuation supplies for neonatal units
Pediatric trauma supply carts to treat a surge of 440 pediatric patients across 21 hospitals in both metro and rural counties
332 Pedi-Sleeve pediatric dosing systems (one for every ambulance in our region)
1200 Pediatric tourniquets (four for every ambulance in our region)
21 Broselow carts (1 for each hospital in our region)

Exercise/Evaluate
A community-wide tabletop exercise (130 participants) focused on the community’s ability to manage a surge of pediatric patients without the option of transfer to a pediatric hospital or trauma center. Lessons learned were incorporated into a follow-up full scale exercise with 100% coalition hospital participation. During the exercise, the region simulated a surged of approximately 330 pediatric “victims”, with 80% under the age of 8.

Impact
86% of affiliate hospitals and 100% of regional 911 ambulances received critical pediatric surge supplies.
Additional areas for pediatric supply and surge improvement were identified and continue to be addressed through KET Coalition initiatives, including a recent project that provided 8 blood control kits to every school in the region.

Simulation training continues for both pre and in-hospital providers with excellent feedback from participants. Specific planning considerations to meet pediatric needs have improved as a result of this project, which has been shared at national and state conferences as a best practice initiative.

The Hospital Preparedness Program establishes a nationwide healthcare emergency management system that strengthens the ability of our nation’s communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from health and medical threats - saving lives 24/7/365.