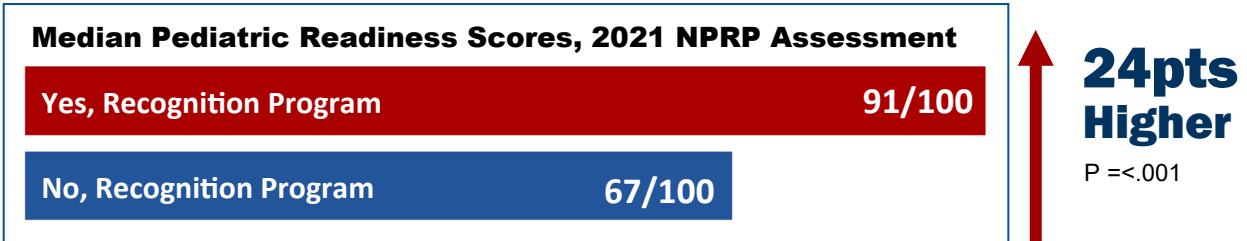


Emergency Departments that Participate in a Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program Score Significantly Higher on the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) Assessment*



What is an Emergency Department (ED) Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program?

A recognition program designates and verifies a hospital ED's capacity to provide care to children. The recognition program incorporates standards previously defined as essential capabilities and resources to meet the needs of children: presence of pediatric emergency care coordinators; required pediatric staff competencies and training; availability of pediatric equipment, supplies, and medications; and the inclusion of pediatric-specific guidelines and agreements or other processes to ensure the quality of care rendered. Examples of guidelines and policies include pediatric quality improvement processes, pediatric patient safety considerations such as a pediatric triage policy, and pediatric specific disaster plans. Recognition programs are designed by each state and territory and include establishing specific recognition criteria that are necessary to provide effective care; implementing a verification process to assess pediatric capabilities; partnering with key stakeholders to assist with verification efforts; and a well-defined plan to assure sustainability of the program, which may include the development of formal state regulations addressing the recognition program.



*The NPRP Assessment was conducted in 2021 to evaluate readiness to care for children based on nationally published guidelines for pediatric care in the ED. At the time of the Assessment, seventeen states had a recognition program to stabilize/manage pediatric emergencies:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Why is it Important to Assess and Formally Recognize the Readiness of Facilities to Care for Children?

Approximately 90% of children needing emergency care are first treated at a local community emergency department¹. Higher NPRP Assessment scores have been linked to improved clinical outcomes, and critically ill and injured children treated in EDs with high pediatric readiness scores have lower mortality than those treated in EDs with lower pediatric readiness scores²⁻⁴. As shown in the graphic on page 1, EDs that participate in a recognition program scored a median of 24 points higher than EDs not involved in a formal recognition program.

What Makes Pediatric Ready EDs DIFFERENT?

Hospital EDs verified as pediatric ready more frequently include pediatric emergency care coordinators and have established pediatric specific quality improvement indicators and initiatives to support pediatric care. Participation in a recognition program and verification processes affirms an emergency department's commitment to children, and can help to improve clinical outcomes for this important population.

References:

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