



## EMSC Fact Sheet State Advisory Committee

In a 2007 Institute of Medicine Report, “*Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains*,” recognizes pre-hospital provider training as a top priority and emphasizes the need for improved education for first responders and EMTs in the care of pediatric patients.

# Pediatric Emergency Training Needed in Rural Communities

## The Problem

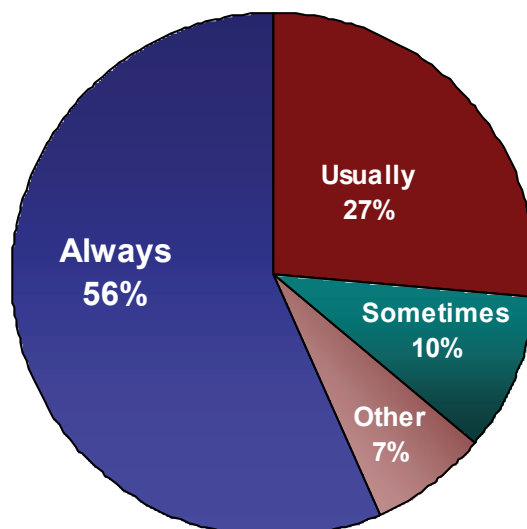
Trauma remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among pediatric patients from motor vehicle crashes within the state of Oregon. Unfortunately, pre-hospital providers are often inadequately prepared to deal with the unique medical needs of pediatric trauma victims.

Approximately 82 percent of Oregon’s transport ambulance providers are located in rural areas. Treatment at the scene, stabilization and long transport times of pediatric trauma patients is of particular concern for rural counties. EMTs require ongoing pediatric training. However, due to lack of pediatric specific training and education for rural providers children may not receive optimal care of children outside of pediatric trauma centers.

## How does this Impact Rural EMS Providers ?

Starting in 2010 the Oregon Administrative Rules governing the continuing education and recertification requirements for EMTs will require new and specific pediatric education requirements as a prerequisite for certification. The EMS for Children program provides much needed pediatric training to rural providers through its collaboration with the EMS Mobile Training Unit, mini training grants to rural providers, high tech pediatric simulation, and the only pediatric emergency conference in the state.

The State EMS for Children Advisory Committee **urges** the Oregon Legislator to continue funding the EMSC program so that rural providers can continue to receive **essential pediatric medical training**.



The need for providing on-going pediatric training to rural providers is supported in findings from a 2007 survey<sup>1</sup> of rural EMS transport agencies in Oregon. The survey found that **less than half have access to medical advice** via cell phone, radio or other electronic communications.

<sup>1</sup> A survey of Oregon transport agencies were required as part of Federal EMSC Performance Measure reporting.

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