Colorado Springs CARES
About Child Care

El Paso County Department of Health and Environment
Colorado Springs, Colorado
DUI project 2001-2002
El Paso County Demographics

- One of 64 Colorado counties
- Population of 516,929 (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000)
- 27% of the population are children under the age of 18.
- 8,000 live births each year
Community Issue/Project
Goal

To improve the health and safety of children birth to 6 years of age in licensed child care centers and homes in El Paso County.
Key Community Partners

- Child Care Connections
- Child Care Response Team
- El Paso County Department of Health and Environment
- Alliance for Kids

Child Care in El Paso County

Total number of Facilities  819

Total number of Children served  14,344
Data Collection Process

- Preliminary search for data resulted in little information.
- With no data for guidance, a preliminary assessment was necessary to determine general health and safety concerns of childcare providers and parents of children in childcare.
- Developed general survey to capture issues regarding health and safety in childcare facilities.
- Census of all licensed childcare facilities and 5 parents at each facility to get as much input as possible.

Goals of a preliminary survey

- Better understanding of health and safety concerns of childcare providers
  - What health and safety services do facilities provide to children and parents?
- Better understanding of health and safety concerns of parents with children in childcare
  - What health and safety services do parents want from their childcare providers?
- Determine where providers and parents receive education and training in the area of health and safety
  - What are health and safety training needs?
- Determine how community organizations can better meet these needs for providers and parents.
Survey Results

Demographics of survey respondents

**Provider Surveys**
- N=112 surveys returned
  - 71% Home
  - 29% Center
    - 71.5% For profit
    - 18.5% Non-profit

**Parent Surveys**
- N= 278 surveys returned
  - 74% used home providers
  - 19% used center providers

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Survey Results

Major health and safety concerns of childcare providers

**Home childcare providers**
- Sick care for children 40.5%
- Special care for children with behavioral/emotional problems 19%
- Dysfunctional family issues 16.7%
- Children not current on immunizations 16.3%
- Health/nutrition/safety information for parents 15.2%
Survey Results

Major health and safety concerns of childcare providers

- Center childcare providers
  - Sick care for children 45.4%
  - Special care for children with behavioral/emotional problems 21.2%
  - Dysfunctional family issues 12.1%
  - Health/nutrition/safety information for parents 12.1%
  - Children not current on immunizations 12.0%

Survey Results

Major health and safety concerns of parents with children in childcare

- Top 5 Issues
  - Child/adult ratio and overcrowding
  - Cleanliness of the facility
  - Access to review information about facility (licenses, violations, reviews)
  - Parents bringing sick children into the facilities
  - A secure facility
Survey Results

*Services parents would like made available for children while at childcare*

- **Home care providers**
  - Health/nutrition/safety information for children: 64.1%
  - Testing for hearing, vision and other developmental skills: 39.3%
  - Special care for children with emotional/behavioral problems: 23.3%
  - Height and weight screening: 18.9%
  - Special care for children with medical problems: 17.9%

- **Center providers**
  - Health/nutrition/safety information for children: 81.1%
  - Testing for hearing, vision and other developmental skills: 58.5%
  - Height and weight screening: 28.4%
  - Special care for children with emotional/behavioral problems: 26.3%
  - Special care for children with medical problems: 24.5%
# Survey Results

## Services made available at childcare sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Home providers</th>
<th>Center providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health/safety/nutrition info for children</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>69.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/safety/nutrition info for parents</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>Access to pediatric consultant 66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals to health services</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>Vision/hearing screening 66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special care for children with emotional behavioral problems</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>Referrals to health services 63.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special care for children with medical problems</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>Health/safety/nutrition info for children 48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to pediatric consultant</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>Health/safety/nutrition info for parents 33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for sick children</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>Special care for children with medical problems 30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height/weight screening</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>Height/weight screening 21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision/hearing screening</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>Special care for children with emotional behavioral problems 18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for sick children</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>Care for sick children 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Results

Training status of childcare providers

- Home
  - CPR: 87.3%
  - First Aid: 86.1%
  - Nutrition: 75.9%
  - Growth/development: 73.4%
  - Universal precautions: 72.2%
  - Food safety: 64.6%
  - Positive discipline: 59.5%
  - Med administration: 58.2%
  - Child abuse/neglect: 40.5%
  - Injury prevention/safety: 37.9%

- Center
  - CPR: 93.9%
  - First Aid: 93.9%
  - Universal precautions: 90.9%
  - Med administration: 81.8%
  - Positive discipline: 51.5%
  - Growth/development: 48.5%
  - Injury prevention/safety: 48.5%
  - Child abuse/neglect: 45.5%
  - Food safety: 42.4%
  - Emergency/disaster preparedness: 42.4%

Survey Results

Organizations who provide health and safety training for childcare facilities

- CAEYC
- Child care response team
- Director/provider
- Peds consultant
- Fire dept
- EPCDHE
- Food programs

[Bar chart showing percentages for each organization]
Survey Results

Reported barriers to attending health and safety training for child care providers

- Hard to find training on specific topic
- Lack of local training
- None
- No funding for subs
- No funding for training
- Difficulty finding subs
- Time

Survey Results

How can community organizations meet training needs of child care providers?

- Consultants
- Computer-based programs
- Internet
- Newsletters
- Correspondence
- Videos
- Printed material
- On site training
- After hours workshops
Conclusions

- Home and center providers have similar health and safety concerns
- Parents have different health and safety concerns than providers
- Gap in services that parents want and services that are available in childcare facilities
- Gap in Specialty training for child care providers
- Barriers to accessing training include time, funding, and availability of substitutes
- Community organizations can best meet training needs by providing after hours classes, on-site training, printed educational material, videos and correspondence courses
Next Steps

- Transition project to Child Health services team
- Analyze Child Care Response team data
- Engage schools of nursing to assist our department

Next Steps

- Facilitate community partner meeting to review existing data and determine next steps for data collection
- Complete data collection and analysis
Next Steps

- Develop community response plan
- Secure funding for services
- Evaluate effectiveness of intervention strategies

Lessons Learned

- Community partners perceived this topic as a major issue of concern
- Staff time to complete the project was greater than anticipated.
- Better info could have been obtained through phone interviews and focus groups
Lessons Learned

- Timing of survey distribution could be reconsidered—avoid summer
- Keep literacy level low on family surveys
- Communicate often to keep project momentum going
- Volunteers can be great assets
- Flexibility is key to success

Contact Us

- El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

(719) 578-3283
Credits

- Thanks to the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau and El Paso County Parks Department for the photos of our county.