Executive Summary:

**Keeping Kids Safe:**
**A Survey of Emergency Preparedness among Early Care and Education Providers**

A survey of childcare providers in Monroe, Livingston, Orleans, Ontario, and Wayne counties was administered between January and March 2013. This survey, targeted to facilities of all types and sizes, sought to identify areas of concern for providers in complying with state and local requirements regarding emergency plans and procedures.

Respondents answered questions about the demographic information of the centers, including information on facility type as defined by the state designations, number of children cared for, county where located, operating hours, telephone access, employee and other staff member information, and an inventory of emergency supplies kept on site. The second subsection of the survey examined the services provided by the facility by age, by time of day, food services, healthcare services, educational services, and physical wellness activities for the children.

Details of the emergency plan are the subject of the third subsection of the survey. In this section, the survey asks whether the facility’s emergency plans include statements on a comprehensive list of issues, starting with basic fire safety and expanding to weather and evacuations under a range of circumstances. Respondents are asked to assess the plan’s content to determine if an aspect of the plan Does Not Exist, is Somewhat Comprehensive, is Comprehensive, or is Very Comprehensive. In some cases the respondent may choose not to answer. The survey also asked if facilities have had to use their plans, and the circumstances surrounding those instances.

Results showed that some aspects of emergency plans are stronger than others, and that plan comprehensiveness is often heavily influenced by the resources available to the facility. A set of recommendations was developed based on the information gathered from the survey sample ($n = 104$), intended to help municipalities provide needed training and assistance to childcare facilities, assist centers to write more comprehensive plans, and improve evacuation procedures and planning across the board.