

Updating the Thirteen Health and Safety Key Indicators

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I thought I should provide an updated technical research note related to the original Thirteen Health and Safety Key Indicators that appeared almost a decade and half ago in the *ASPE Research Monograph* on this topic¹. What has really intrigued me over the past decade and even in putting forth the 13 Key Indicators is how consistent they have been over time. There are fewer of them in 2016 than there were back in 2002, and there are three of them that appear in the majority of state key indicator systems consistently.

Here are the original key indicators:

- Supervision of children
- Hand washing and diapering
- Director & teacher qualifications
- Children's immunizations
- Toxic substances are inaccessible
- Emergency plan
- Fire drills
- Child abuse prevention
- Medication administration
- Staff training/first aid
- Staff child ratio and group size

Here is the updated list:

- Supervision of children
- Hand washing and diapering
- Director & teacher qualifications
- **Children's immunizations**
- **Toxic substances are inaccessible**
- Emergency plan
- Fire drills
- Child abuse prevention
- Medication administration
- **Staff training/first aid**

The three key indicators **bold faced** appear on 66% or above in state key indicator tools. That is really significant in being able to predict overall health and safety regulatory compliance with child care rules. The next big question is why do they always appear? What is it about compliance with children's immunizations, inaccessible toxic substances, and staff training/first aid that make them compelling predictors of overall regulatory compliance with health and safety child care rules?

¹ Fiene (2002). *Thirteen indicators of quality child care: Research update*. Washington, DC: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, US Department of Health and Human Services.