

EHDI Program Update

CDC's Progress in Detecting Infant Hearing Loss

CDC's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) has made clear progress in supporting the early identification of deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) infants.

The earlier children with hearing loss are identified and start getting intervention, the more likely they will reach their full potential.



Hearing Professionals use These Important 1-3-6 Benchmarks



1

Before one month of age: Hearing Screening



3

Before three months of age: Hearing evaluation



6

Before six months of age: Early Intervention

Hearing screening is the first hearing service to determine if a baby has hearing loss.

Hearing evaluation is a comprehensive test to determine the severity of hearing loss.

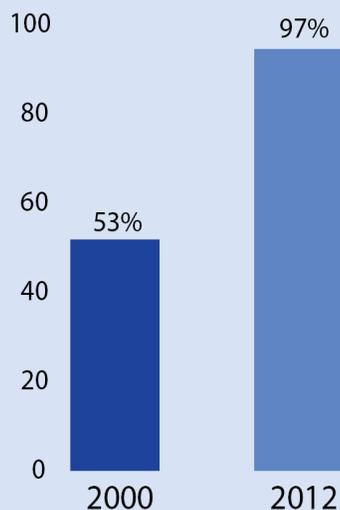
Identifying hearing loss early is important

- Hearing loss is one of the most common birth defects.
- Each year 12,000 infants are born deaf or hard of hearing (DHH).
- When left undetected, a hearing loss can delay a child's speech and language development, as well as his or her thinking, learning, and social skills.
- Newborn hearing screening and intervention programs can save nearly \$200 million in additional education costs annually¹.

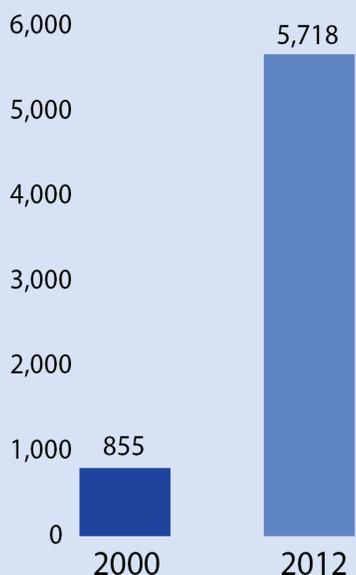
How CDC is helping to make progress

- CDC is responsible for collecting and analyzing EHDI data from across the United States.
- The CDC EHDI program provides technical assistance to all states and territories to help support the early identification of DHH infants.
- CDC funds the development and use of systems and data tools that help states and territories ensure DHH children receive essential services:
 - Hearing screening
 - Hearing evaluation
 - Early intervention
- Nearly all newborns are screened for hearing loss, usually before leaving the hospital.

Percent of infants screened for hearing loss has nearly doubled²



Number of infants identified early as DHH has increased



CDC's data shows clear progress in identifying infants

- The percentage of infants who received needed follow-up to determine if they were DHH increased from only 36% in 2005 to 63% in 2012.
- Better systems and tools are helping states and territories ensure more DHH infants receive the follow-up testing they need to be identified early.

CDC supports states and strengthens partnerships

- CDC coordinates with partners and leverages advances in health information technology. This work supports states and territories in the collection, use, and dissemination of standardized data.
- CDC funds 52 states and territories to develop and improve data information systems, which help make sure all infants receive recommended services.

Next steps for CDC EHDI

- Expand the capacity of states and territories to collect and use complete and accurate data.
- Update and promote the use of national standards on information exchange and electronic quality measures.
- Support research to study the impact and effectiveness of infants' hearing screening and follow-up activities.

Continued efforts are needed to:

- Ensure all DHH infants are diagnosed early by documenting that they have received critical screening, testing, and early intervention services.
- Generate timely data analyses to assess and support ongoing progress.
- Strengthen information exchange between health information systems.
- Provide technical assistance to states and territories to support the enhancement and use of their data systems.

For more information

visit: www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss

email: ehdi@cdc.gov

call: 800-CDC-INFO

Follow us on Twitter: @CDC_NCBDDD

Find detailed data maps at

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/dash-intro.html

References:

¹ Gross, SD. Education cost savings from early detection of hearing loss: New findings. *Volta Voices* 2007; 14(6):38-40

² Data obtained from **CDC Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey** at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/ehdi-data.html Data obtained from **CDC Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey** at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/ehdi-data.html