

How can I find out more about the cause of my child's hearing loss?

One step a family can take to identify the cause of their child's hearing loss is to have a genetics evaluation performed by a genetics team. It will usually consist of:

- 👂 A physical exam
- 👂 Taking a medical and family history
- 👂 Education about genetics and hearing loss
- 👂 Discussion of options for your family, which may include clinical and genetic testing

Genetic testing is a personal decision for each family. Meeting with a genetics team can provide your family with the information you need to help make an informed decision.



Where can I find more information?

You can find a more detailed fact sheet about the genetics of hearing loss at the Hawai'i Genetics Program website:

www.hawaii.gov/health/family-child-health/genetics/program.html

Who can I contact for more information?

The Hawai'i Genetics Program genetic counselors would be happy to answer your questions.

Hawai'i Genetics Program
741 Sunset Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
Tel: 808-733-9055
Fax: 808-733-9068



Who can I contact to schedule a genetics evaluation?

Hawai'i Community Genetics provides pediatric genetic clinical services across the state of Hawai'i. Services include genetics evaluation for hearing loss.

Hawai'i Community Genetics
1441 Kapi'olani Blvd., #1800
Honolulu, HI 96814
Tel: 808-973-3403
Fax: 808-973-3401

Your medical care providers at Kaiser Permanente or Tripler Army Medical Center may also provide genetic evaluations for hearing loss.

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WHAT CAUSED MY CHILD'S HEARING LOSS?



Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawai'i

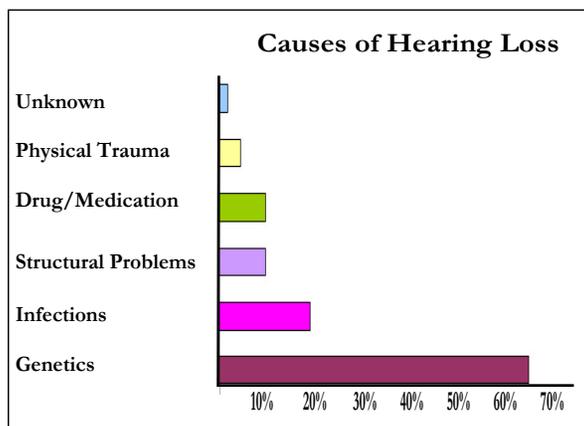
Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

Hawai'i Department of Health
Family Health Services Division
Children with Special Health Needs Branch
Newborn Hearing Screening and
Genetics Programs
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What are the causes of permanent childhood hearing loss?

Permanent hearing loss can have many causes. These include genetics, drugs or medications, infections, physical trauma and structural problems.

These causes are shown in the chart below:

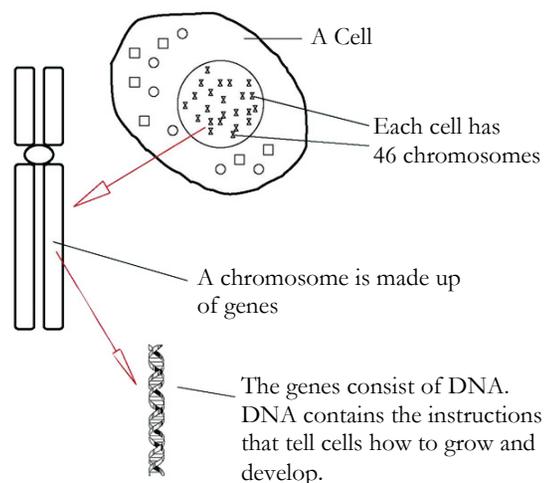


As you can see from the diagram above, **over 50%** of hearing loss has a genetic cause.



What do you mean by genetic causes?

Genes are the structures in our bodies that determine how we grow and develop. We all have genes in our body that are responsible for hearing. Over 400 genes are known to be involved in the hearing process. When these genes are changed, this can lead to hearing loss.



Gene changes can occur in the egg or the sperm. Sometimes one or both parents will also have hearing loss, but it is common that the child is the first one in the family with childhood hearing loss.



Why would it be helpful to know if my child's hearing loss is genetic?

Some gene changes that cause hearing loss also cause other health conditions. Determining the cause of hearing loss may help with your child's medical care.

If a child has genetic hearing loss, future children in the family might also have hearing loss. Some families are interested in finding out their chances of having another child with hearing loss.

