



NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING: FACT SHEET

Hawaii Newborn Hearing Program (NHSP)

The NHSP is responsible for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a statewide system of hearing screening, assessment, and intervention for infants and young children with hearing loss, in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes §§321-361 to 363. The purpose is to develop a comprehensive and coordinated statewide Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system of care to assure that Deaf and Hard of Hearing Newborns and Children under age three years receive appropriate and timely hearing screening, diagnostic hearing evaluation, and early intervention (EI) services that optimize their language, literacy, and social-emotional development.

EHDI Goal 1-3-6

Screening by 1 month

- Newborns receive hearing screening before hospital discharge.
- A rescreen is necessary if newborn does not pass initial screen.
- Newborns who are not born at a hospital can still receive a hearing screening arranged by NHSP.

Evaluation by 3 months

- Infants who do not pass screening will receive a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation.
- The evaluation will be performed by a Pediatric Audiologist.

Early Intervention by 6 months

- Infants identified with permanent hearing loss qualify for Early Intervention Services.
- Infants identified with a permanent hearing loss will be referred to Early Intervention.
- Early Intervention will assist with care coordination and provide other specialist services.

Facts

- Hearing loss is the most common birth condition in the U.S.
- Hawaii has the second highest rate of newborn hearing loss in the nation.
- Hearing testing is safe and painless.
- Infants who pass screening at birth can still develop hearing loss later in life.

Hawaii Data 2020

- Total of number of infants screened- **15,712**
- Percentage of Newborns screened- **98.6%**
- Number of infants do not pass screening-**299**
- Number of infants that received diagnostic evaluation-**198**
- Number of infants diagnosed with normal hearing-**135**
- Number of infants diagnosed with permanent hearing loss-**51**
- Number referred to Early Intervention- **32**
- Number enrolled in Early Intervention- **26**