

Newborn Hearing Screening Programs

(Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs- EHDI)



All 59 states and territories receive funding from HRSA and/or CDC to operate EHDI Programs in which:

All infants:

- 1) are screened for hearing loss **before 1 month** of age, and
- 2) those who do not pass, receive diagnostic evaluations **before 3 months** of age, and
- 3) those with hearing loss are enrolled in early intervention **before 6 months** of age.

All families of infants identified with permanent hearing loss:

- 4) receive culturally-competent support and information, and
- 5) are linked to a family-centered medical home.

All young children:

- 6) are screened periodically for hearing loss and receive appropriate follow-up.

All State EHDI systems:

- 7) are linked to other relevant public health information systems;
- 8) use ongoing quality improvement methods to continually enhance services, and
- 9) disseminate appropriate and timely information to families, health care providers, and other relevant stakeholders.





From 1988-1993, the Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Project conducted a large-scale clinical trial of universal newborn hearing screening

SEMINARS IN HEARING—VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1 February 1993

UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING USING TRANSIENT EVOKED OTOACOUSTIC EMISSIONS: RESULTS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HEARING ASSESSMENT PROJECT

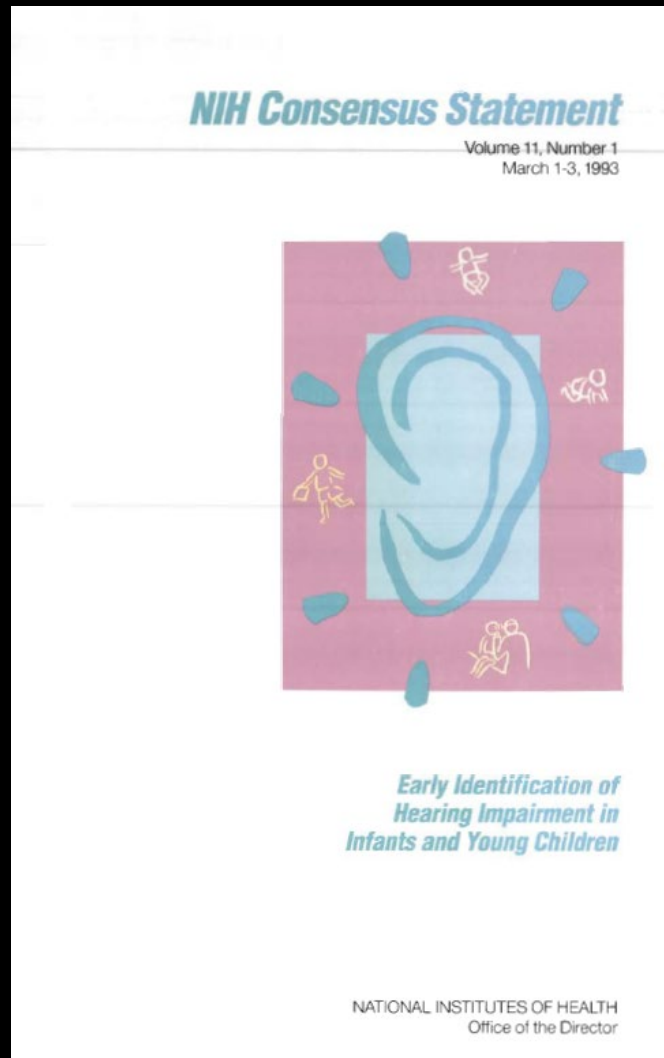
Karl R. White, Ph.D., Betty R. Vohr, M.D., and Thomas R. Behrens, Ph.D.

The earlier that hearing loss can be identified and intervention begun, the better the prognosis for the child in areas ranging from language development to academic success, social interactions, and successful participation in society.¹ Indeed, early identification of significant hearing loss is so important that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently set a goal to reduce to 12 months the average age at which significant hearing loss is identified.²

In spite of the acknowledged importance of identifying hearing loss as soon after birth as possible, the average age of identification in the United States is 24 to 30 months

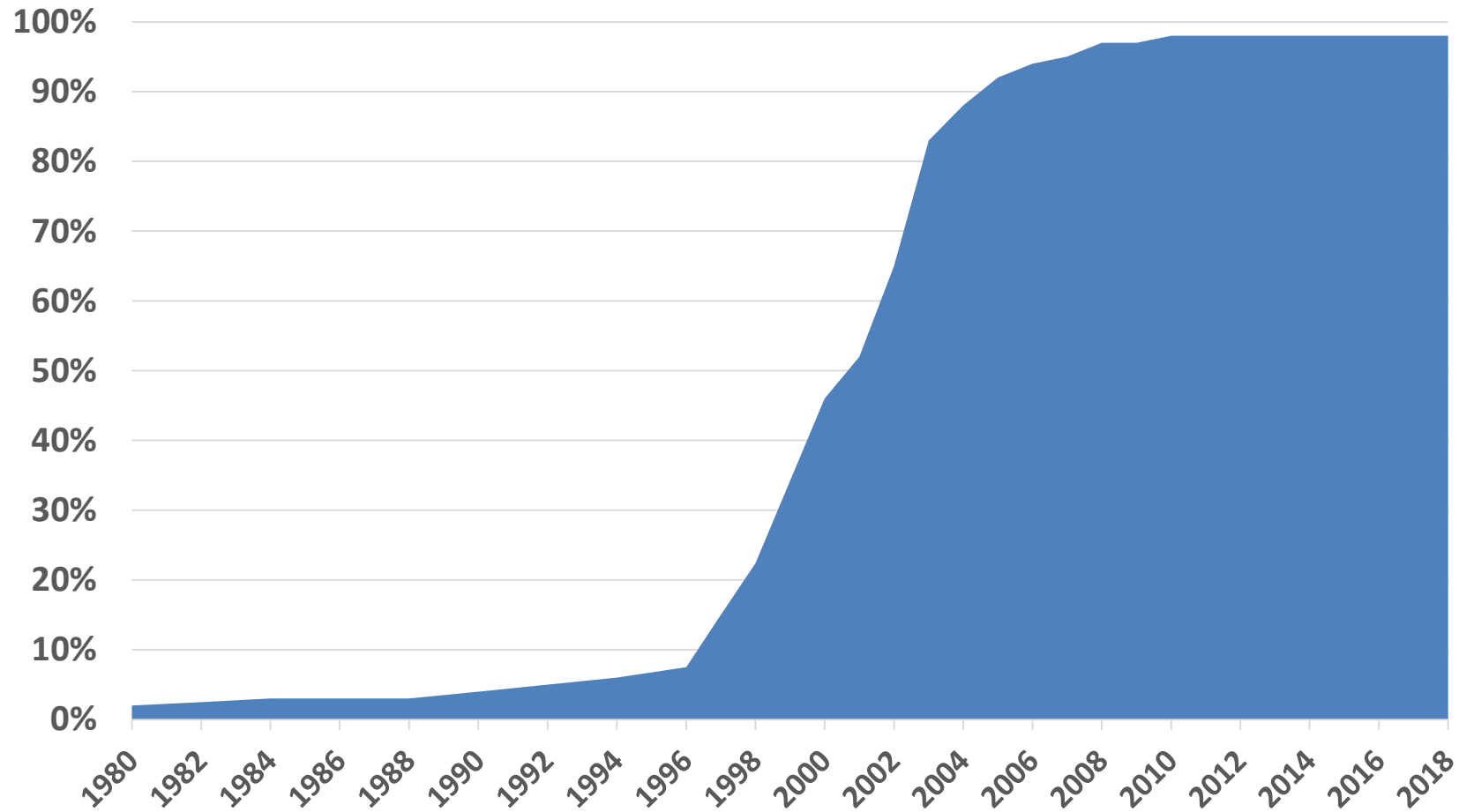
of using auditory brainstem response (ABR) to identify hearing loss among infants and toddlers.^{4,5} Such research certainly contributed substantially to the American Speech-Hearing Language Association's (ASHA) recommendation of ABR as the preferred method for screening the hearing of newborns.⁶ However, the expense of doing ABR testing of newborns was very likely what led to ASHA's recommendation that it be done only with infants who exhibit one of the ten risk factors identified by the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing.⁷ Unfortunately, recent research has demonstrated that as many as half of all children with bilateral severe-to-

In March, 1993 an NIH Consensus Panel concluded that:



- The average age of diagnosis of hearing loss remains constant at about 2 ½ years of age.
- All infants should be screened for hearing loss...this will be accomplished most efficiently by screening prior to discharge from the well-baby nursery.
- Identification of hearing loss must be seen as imperative for all infants

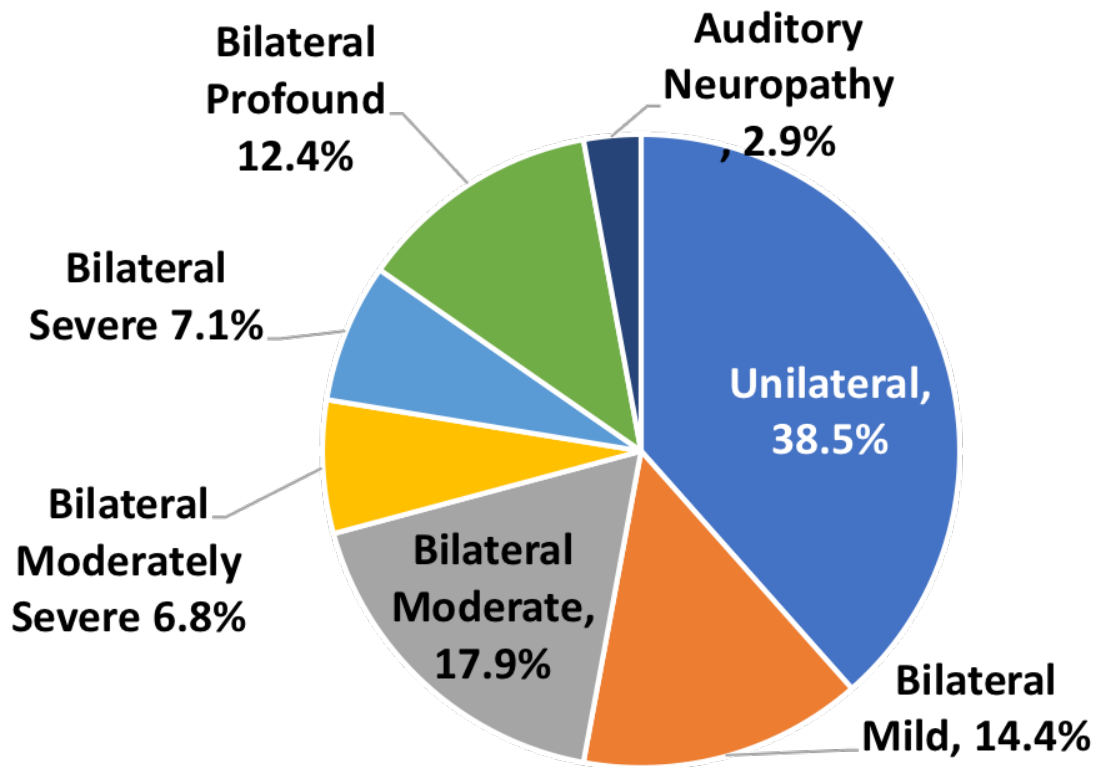
Percentage of Newborns Screened for Hearing Loss in the United States 1980-2018



Who is EHDI Serving?

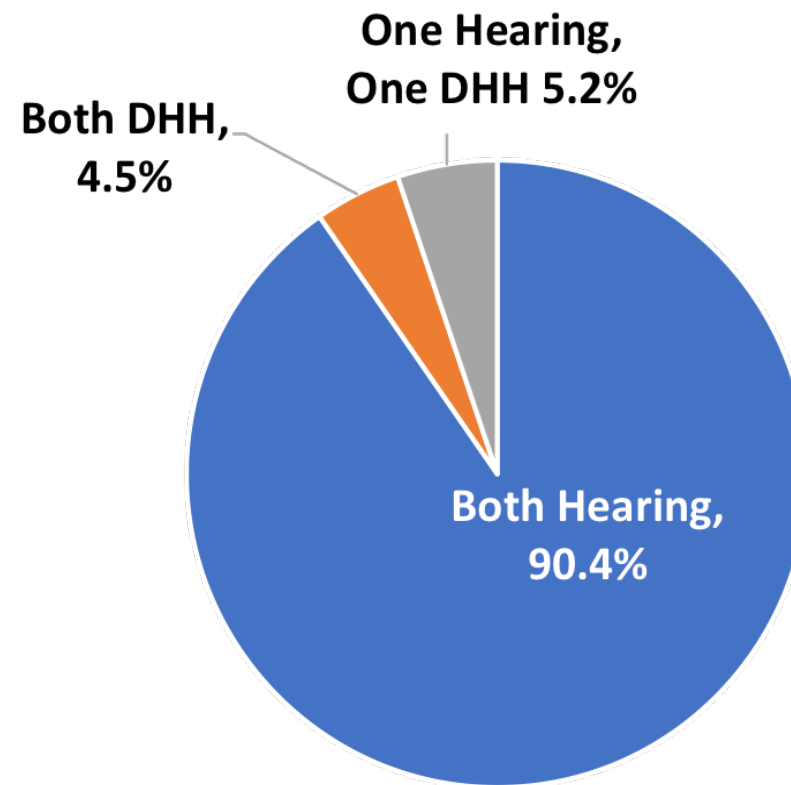
Hearing Status of Children

(Reported to CDC by EHDI Programs from 2012-2014)

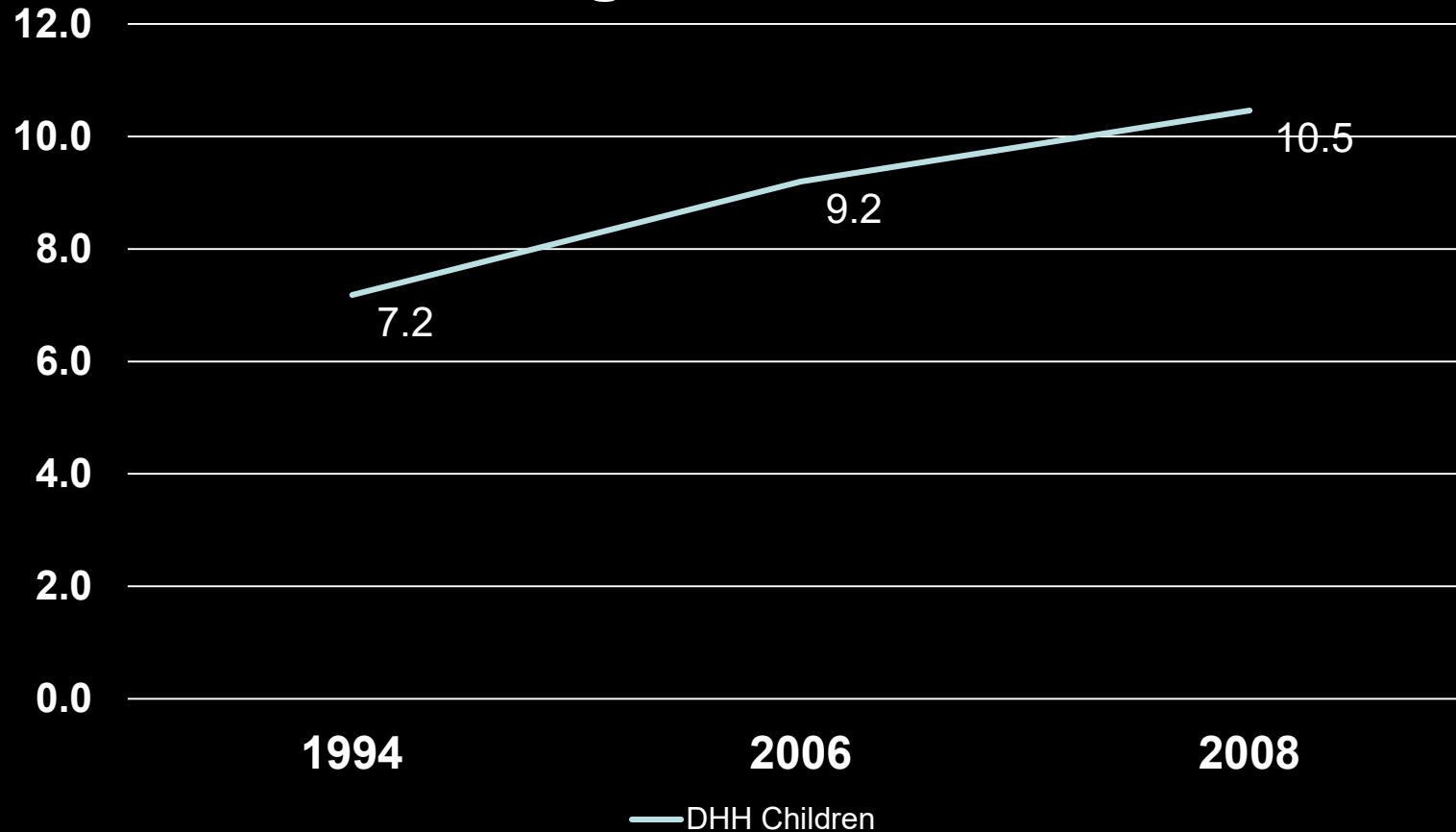


Hearing Status of Parents

(Gallaudet 2011-2012 Annual Survey of DHH Children and Youth)



Children per 1,000 identified with hearing loss PTA \geq 40 dB



Data from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey for 6-19 year-olds based on audiometric examinations

COVID-19 CHALLENGES: SCREENING

- "Essential Hospital Employee" status
- Screening done by contractors
- Quality of Screening affected by length of stay
- Outpatient re-screening
- Targeted Screening for congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV)



COVID-19 CHALLENGES: FOLLOW-UP

- Diagnostic Audiology Evaluations
- Fitting of Hearing Technology
- Is Telehealth a solution?
- Early intervention services
- Parent/Family "Fear Factor"
- EHDI program monitoring and support
- Addressing the backlog
- Self-care and supporting our workforce





<https://infanthearing.org>

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Need Technical Assistance?

Please contact the [NCHAM Helpdesk](#) through email or call 1-435-797-3584.

COVID-19 Resources

Guidance from your state or local government may supersede any federal or organizational guidance. This is not an exhaustive list of resources.

- [General Information](#)
- [EHDI System Resources](#)
 - [Scripts for newborn hearing screeners](#)
 - [Stakeholder Discussion Suggestions](#)
 - [Letter from Directors of Speech and Hearing Programs](#)
 - [Guidance from State EHDI Programs](#)
- [Guidance from other, related professional organizations](#)
- [What are hospitals and healthcare practices doing to keep people safe](#)
- [Support for families and caregivers](#)
- [Working from home](#)
- [Maintaining health and wellness](#)

Social Media

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(((NCHAM serves as the **National Technical Resource Center** for the implementation and improvement of comprehensive and effective Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems. As a multidisciplinary Center, our goal is to ensure that all infants and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audiological, educational, and medical intervention. Materials and activities described on this website were funded in part by a cooperative agreement (U52MC04391) from the **Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)** of the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. NCHAM staff are responsible for the views and content of material on this website and no endorsement by MCHB/HRSA is implied or expressed.

Events and News

Upcoming Events & Webinars

- [Audiology 101 – Introduction to Audiology for Non-audiologists Working in and Supporting EHDI Activities](#) NCHAM Webinar: July 22nd, 2020 | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm MT
- [Introduction of Family Support/Role of Families in the EHDI System](#) NCHAM Webinar: July 23rd, 2020 | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm MT
- [More Events & Webinars...](#)

EHDI News / RSS

- [Volume 5 Issue 1 of JEHDI is Now Available](#)
- [Communicating Effectively While Wearing Masks and Physical Distancing](#) July 23rd, 2020
- [EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | Year 2019 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs](#) July 22nd, 2020
- [NCHAM Webinars This Week](#) July 20th, 2020
- [Coming Together to Support Communities: Supporting Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond](#) June 30th, 2020
- [The Input Matters: Assessing Cumulative Language Access in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals and Populations](#) June 26th, 2020
- [Deaf in the time of Face Masks](#) June 25th, 2020
- [June is National Cytomegalovirus \(CMV\) Awareness Month](#) June 24th, 2020
- [More News...](#)

Disclaimer

Communication Options



SIGN IT!
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES ONLINE

Would you like to learn American Sign Language (ASL)? If you have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing who is under 36 months of age, [click here](#) to get free access to an innovative on-line curriculum to learn ASL.



An interactive resource, in English and Spanish, for parents and professionals to support spoken language development.