

Newborn Hearing Screening In Maine



A Data Brief For Healthcare Providers And Birthing Centers (2020 Data)

The Maine Newborn Hearing Program promotes and supports hearing screening for all Maine newborns and refers those in need for further testing and/or intervention services.

- Early identification of hearing loss and early intervention can minimize the impact hearing loss has on a child and family.
- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics' *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) 1-3-6 Guidelines*¹, all children should receive:

Hearing screening
by age



1 Month

Diagnosis
by age



3 Months

Entry into early
intervention services
by age



6 Months

- In the United States, over **97%** of newborns are screened for hearing loss - however, many do not receive recommended follow-up diagnostic and intervention services.¹

Maine Screening Data

95% (n=10,741) of babies born in Maine were screened within 1 month of birth.



Of the **11,300** births that occurred in Maine in 2020

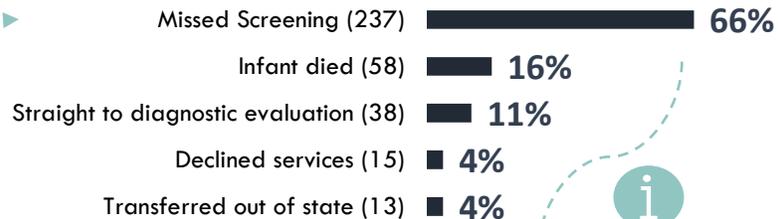
97%
(n=10,939)
received hearing screening

3%
(n=361) did not receive a screening

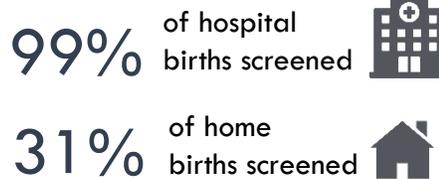
97% (n=10,610) passed screening

3% (n=329) were identified as having possible hearing loss and referred for additional testing

Reasons for Not Being Screened



Births that occur at a hospital are more likely to be screened than births that occur at home.



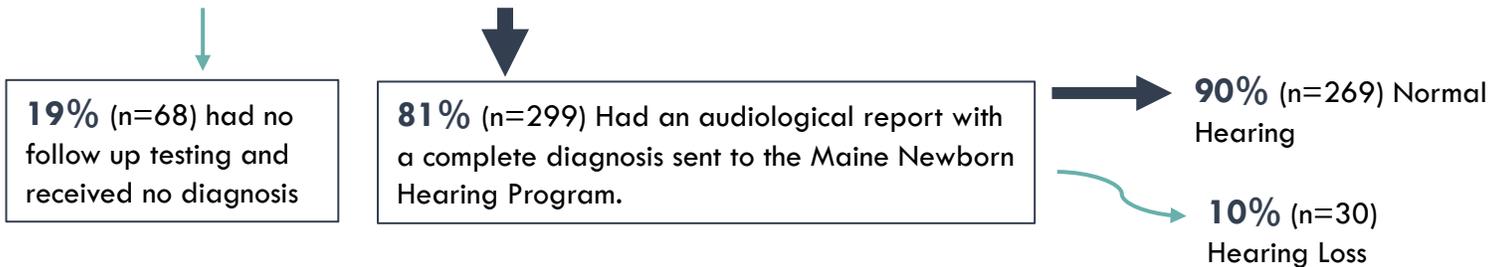
89% (n=210) of missed screenings in 2020 were home births.

Home births represented 58% of all births not screened in 2020.

Maine Diagnostic Data

56% of infants (n=205) had an audiological report and complete diagnosis before 3 months of age.

Of 367 newborns with a screening who were referred for further testing (n=329) or without a screening who went straight to diagnostic evaluation (n=38):



Maine Early Intervention Data

Of the 30 newborns that did not pass initial screening and were then diagnosed with hearing loss:

- 100% (n=30) were referred to an early intervention (Part C) provider
- 67% (n=20) had confirmed enrollment with an early intervention (Part C) provider sent to the Maine Newborn Hearing Program.

43% (n=13) of the 30 newborns with hearing loss were enrolled with an early intervention (Part C) provider within 6 months.

Room To Improve

The goal of the Maine CDC's Newborn Hearing Program is to ensure that every child receives care that meets the *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) 1-3-6 Guidelines*. Although Maine already screens almost all newborns for hearing loss, there is room to improve home birth screening rates, diagnosis rates within 3 months of birth and enrollment of those with confirmed hearing loss in early intervention within 6 months of birth. **The percentage of newborns with a complete diagnosis within 3 months of birth decreased from 73% in 2019 to 69% in 2020, moving us farther from the goal of 100%.** The Maine CDC's Newborn Hearing Program continues to work with providers and families to ensure that infants with hearing loss are identified early and receive appropriate services.

Data Sources: 1. Hearing Loss In Newborns: The '1-3-6' Guidelines – Medscape – Apr 23, 2018 NOTE: 2020 Maine Newborn Hearing Screening data obtained via Maine Smart CHSTS Newborn Screening Portal, the Maine Newborn Hearing Program's data reporting platform.

For more information: Maine Newborn Hearing Program, 207.287.8427
www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/mch/cshn/hearing-screening