

# Newborn Hearing Screening In Maine



A Data Brief For Healthcare Providers And Birthing Centers (2019 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*<sup>1</sup>, 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.<sup>1</sup>

## Maine Screening Data

**96%** (n=11,075) of babies born in Maine were screened within 1 month of birth.



Of the **11,512** births that occurred in Maine in 2019

### Reasons for Not Being Screened

Missed Screening (197) **73%**

Infant died (49) **18%**

Declined services (22) **8%**

Transferred out of state (1) **1%**

**98%**  
(n=11,243)  
received hearing  
screening

**2%**  
(n=269) did  
not receive a  
screening

**98%** (n=11,015)  
passed screening

**2%** (n=228) were  
identified as having  
possible hearing loss  
and referred for  
additional testing

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

**98%** of hospital  
births screened

**30%** of home  
births screened

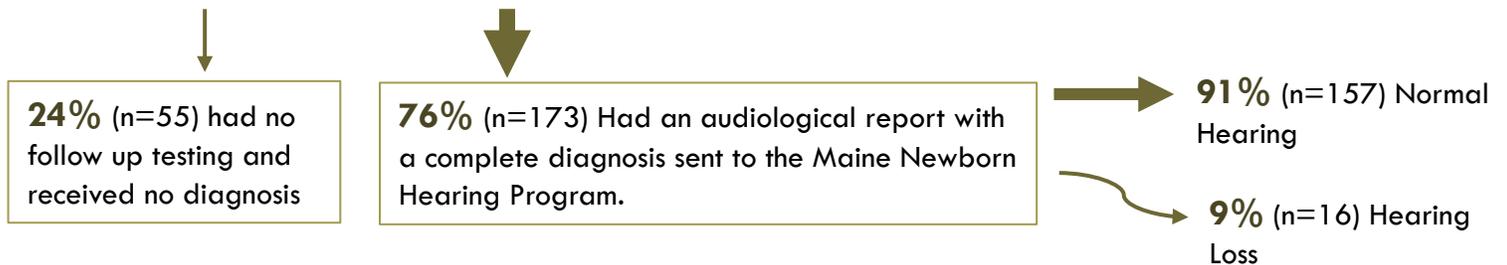
**90%**  
(n=178) of missed  
screenings in  
2019 were home births.

Home births  
represented 66% of  
all births not screened  
in 2019.

## Maine Diagnostic Data

**73%** of infants (n=127) had an audiological report and complete diagnosis before 3 months of age.

Of 228 newborns with a screening that were referred for further testing:



## Maine Early Intervention Data

Of the 16 newborns that did not pass initial screening and were then diagnosed with hearing loss:

- **100%** (n=16) were referred to an early intervention (Part C) provider
- **63%** (n=10) had confirmed enrollment with an early intervention (Part C) provider sent to the Maine Newborn Hearing Program.

**80%** of the 10 newborns with confirmed enrollment with an early intervention (Part C) provider were enrolled 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 80% in 2018 to 75% in 2019, 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—6' Guidelines – Medscape – Apr 23, 2018 NOTE: 2019 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](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/mch/cshn/hearing-screening)