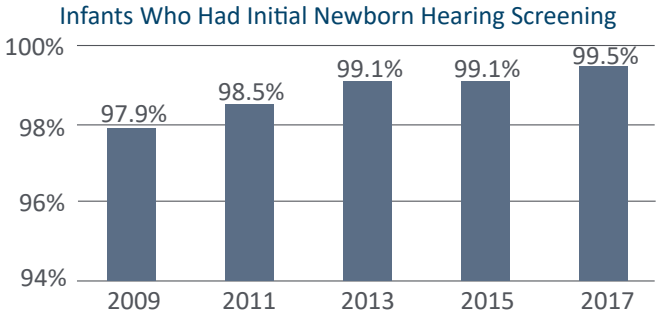
Sound Matters

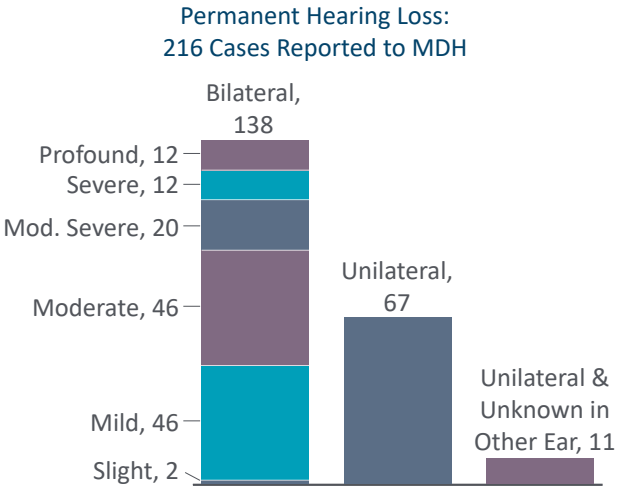
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2019 • ISSUE 2

Audiology Newsletter of the Minnesota Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

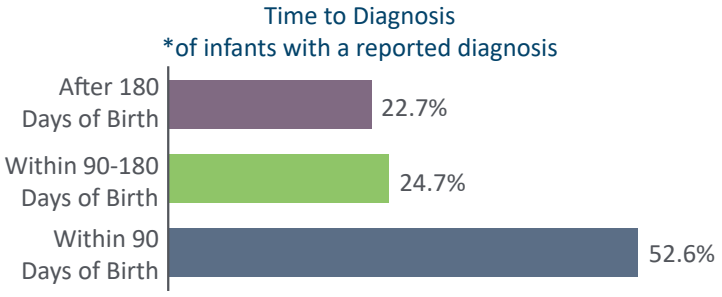
Data Snapshots From 2017

66,977 newborns had their hearing screened in 2017 (99.5% of all infants born in Minnesota) with a **REFER rate of 4.6%.**

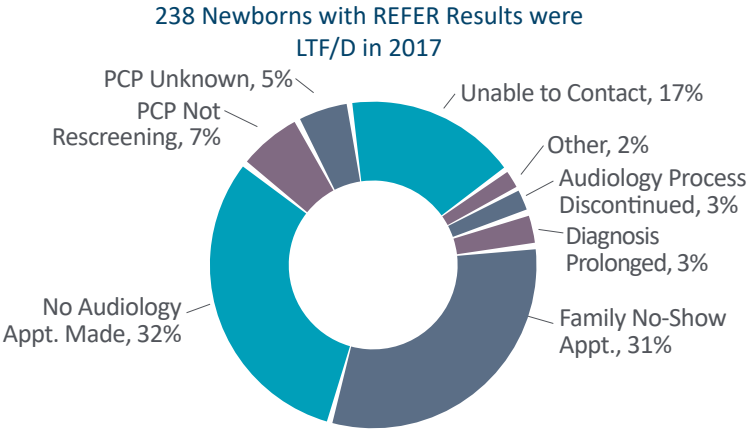




52.6% of infants had a complete diagnosis (normal, or confirmed type/degree of hearing loss for each ear) within 90 days of birth. The **national average is currently 75.9%.**



Minnesota continues to hover around just over 200 infants each year who REFER/did not pass newborn hearing screening and are lost to follow-up/documentation.



Did you know? Online Minnesota Health Care Programs (MCHP) Provider Directory

The online MCHP Provider Directory (http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/) is available to assist in finding audiologist providers who dispense amplification through Medical Assistance. This can be especially useful when assisting families to locate a provider closer to their residence. Select "Audiology Services" in the drop down menu for "Type," then under "Sub Type" select "Audiologist." Choose a "MN County" rather than "City" for better results.

Have You Heard?

The EHDI App

The EHDI App is a smartphone app developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and is now available on the Apple or Google Play stores. The app reminds parents about completing newborn hearing screening follow-up if their baby did not pass before leaving the hospital. The prompts align with Minnesota recommendations to complete an outpatient rescreen 2 weeks after the hospital/first screening, and schedule diagnostic testing before 3 months if baby still did not pass. Once the parent indicates that baby passed both ears or confirms a normal diagnosis for both ears, they have the option to uninstall the app. If the baby is diagnosed with hearing loss, links to state EHDI program contacts, the EHDI PALS listing of audiologists, and national Hands & Voices are provided as resources within the app. Currently, the app is only available in English. At this time there is not a plan to include additional prompts for risk factor monitoring for delayed onset hearing loss.

Last Words from the Advisory Committee

Meeting highlights...

- Extending the expiration date of the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee through 2025 is currently under review. Progress for HF910/SF1021 can be viewed here https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/trackbill
- Roles and responsibilities of committee members were reviewed
- Demographic factors associated with delayed diagnosis of hearing loss were presented
- 2017 EHDI data (highlights on page 1)

Next meeting:

May 15, 2019
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Amherst A. Wilder Foundation
451 Lexington Parkway North
St. Paul, MN 55104

Contact Us:

Newborn Screening
601 Robert St N, St Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (800) 664-7772 or (651) 201-5466
Fax: (651) 215-6285
Email: health.newbornscreening@state.mn.us
Web: www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening
EHDI Website: www.improveehdi.org/mn