

CDC's Progress in Detecting Infant Hearing Loss

CDC's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) is making clear progress in supporting the early identification of deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) children. The earlier children are identified with hearing loss and start getting intervention, the more likely they will reach their full potential.



98 percent of U.S.-born infants are now screened for hearing loss usually before leaving the hospital¹.

Since 2005 **over 84,000** D/HH infants in the U.S. have been identified early.

\$200 million in education costs are saved each year in the U.S. due to newborn hearing screening².

Hearing Professionals Use These Important 1-3-6 Benchmarks

1 mo Before **one month** of age: *Hearing Screening*

3 mo Before **three months** of age: *Hearing Evaluation*

6 mo Before **six months** of age: *Early Intervention*

Hearing screening is the first hearing service to determine if a baby may have a hearing loss.

Hearing evaluation is a comprehensive test to determine if a baby has hearing loss and the severity and type of hearing loss.



Identifying hearing loss early is important

Hearing loss is one of the most common birth defects.

- When left undetected, a hearing loss can delay a child's speech and language development as well as his or her thinking, learning, and social skills.
- CDC-supported research show meeting the 1-3-6 Benchmarks results in better vocabulary development for children who are D/HH³.

How CDC is making a difference

- The CDC EHDI program provides assistance to all states and territories to support the early identification of all D/HH infants.
- CDC is responsible for collecting and analyzing EHDI data from across the United States.
- CDC funds the development and use of systems and data tools that help states and territories ensure D/HH children receive essential services
 - » Newborn Hearing screening, which is usually done soon after birth.
 - » Diagnostic hearing evaluation, which involves tests to confirm if a child is D/HH.
 - » Early intervention services help D/HH children with learning language and other important skills.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

