

Tennessee Newborn Hearing Screening and Follow-up Program 2021 Factsheet

Updated June 2023

One in 500 Tennessee infants is diagnosed with congenital hearing loss. Claire's Law (T.C.A. § 68-5-9) went into effect in 2008, requiring all infants born in Tennessee to be screened for hearing loss before being discharged from the hospital. Tennessee's Newborn Hearing Screening and Follow-up Program is also known as the Tennessee Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program. The program's goal is to promote early screening, identification, and intervention of hearing loss by partnering with healthcare professionals and organizations to screen infants by 1 month of age, diagnose them by 3 months of age, and provide intervention services by 6 months of age.

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ASSURE ALL INFANTS RECEIVE A HEARING SCREENING, USING PHYSIOLOGIC MEASURES, PRIOR TO HOSPITAL DISCHARGE OR BEFORE 1 MONTH OF AGE.

Of the **87,212** infants born in Tennessee in 2021:

- ◇ **99.5%*** received a hearing screening
 - ◆ Among them, **98.0%*** were screened within 1 month of age
 - ◆ **97.3%** passed their screening
- ◇ Overall, **97.6%*** of infants were screened within 1 month of age

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ASSURE ALL INFANTS WHO FAILED SCREENING RECEIVE DIAGNOSTIC AUDIOLOGICAL EVALUATION PRIOR TO 3 MONTHS OF AGE.

Of the **2,398** infants who failed their screening or went to evaluation directly:

- ◇ **70.1%*** had documented final diagnostic results
 - ◆ Among them, **65.7%*** were within 3 months of age
- ◇ Overall, **45.9%*** of the 2,398 infants received final diagnostic results within 3 months of age

1 in 15 infants who failed their screening were confirmed to have hearing loss.

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ASSURE ALL INFANTS IDENTIFIED WITH HEARING LOSS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES NO LATER THAN 6 MONTHS OF AGE.

Of the **154** infants identified with hearing loss, all were referred to early intervention services:

- ◇ **77.2%*** had confirmed enrollment with an early intervention provider
 - ◆ Among them, **70.5%*** were enrolled within 6 months of age
- ◇ Overall, **57.3%*** of the 154 infants with hearing loss were enrolled within 6 months of age

*Excludes records marked as refusal, non-TN resident, moved out of state, expired, or age unknown at screening/diagnosis/enrollment

Data Source:
Division of Family Health and Wellness, Tennessee Department of Health.
<https://www.tn.gov/didd/for-consumers/tennessee-early-intervention-system-teis.html>
<https://www.tn.gov/health/newbornhearingscreening>
<https://www.infanthearing.org>

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