

Oklahoma: Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration of Hospital Data within the Oklahoma Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program



The [Oklahoma Early Hearing Detection and Intervention](#) (OK EHDI) program was tasked with tracking babies from screening through diagnosis and ensuring enrollment in early intervention. Hospitals often set the pace for all follow-up care yet monitoring this activity is often overwhelming for states. With competing demands on staff, high turnover rates, and budget challenges, hearing screening and reporting can be overlooked and underestimated. Recognizing the power of partnership and data-driven decision making, OK EHDI developed an initiative to create statewide data reports for individual birthing hospitals, and provide quarterly consultation to improve the *Refer/Do Not Pass*, *Not Performed*, and *Not Reported* rates.

Primary Accomplishments

- The Oklahoma State Department of Health prioritized the provision of hearing screening as a critical public health service for Oklahoma’s children.
- The Oklahoma [Newborn Hearing Screening Program](#) (NHSP) utilized grant funding to provide enhanced quality assurance and surveillance to reduce the number of children “loss to follow-up” and results that are “loss to documentation.”
- The OK NHSP was able to increase communication with hospitals while reducing the number of infants not having screening performed and/or not reported to the EHDI program. The hospital hearing reports also allowed the program to increase the expectations of all three concern areas to ensure enhanced care for Oklahoma infants. (*Refer/Do Not Pass*, *Not Performed*, and *Not Reported*.)

Background Information

- Type of Setting: Oklahoma Newborn Screening Program in conjunction with Oklahoma birthing hospitals
- Location: State of Oklahoma
- Population Served: The project targeted all Oklahoma births with a specific focus on the population of infants at risk infants for potential hearing loss. This project has impacted 250,000 infants born at 60 Oklahoma birthing hospitals within the last 5 years (2013-2018).

Implementation Strategies/Intended Outcomes

- The OK NHSP aimed to raise awareness of hospital screening and reporting by creating hospital reports for all birthing hospitals that included site specific information regarding the following three areas: *Refer/Do Not Pass*, *Not Performed*, and *Not Reported* rates.
- The OK NHSP sought to reduce *Not Reported* and *Not Performed* rates at Oklahoma birthing hospitals.
- The OK NHSP utilized the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) [Model for Improvement](#) to incorporate small tests of change (Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles) to develop and disseminate quarterly hospital reports.

- The OK NHSP provided training to hospitals with high concerns in any of the three hospital hearing reports. (*Refer/Do Not Pass, Not Performed, and Not Reported*)

Challenges

- Hospitals faced high staff turnover rates which impacted screening and reporting.
- Reduced staff resulted in competing demands with fewer workers.
- Several hospitals with high *Refer/Do Not Pass, Not Performed, and Not Reported* rates did not show improvement following implementation of hospital reports.
- Aging hearing screening devices resulted in high refer rates.

More Information

- For more information, contact [Patricia Burk](#), Coordinator, Newborn Hearing Screening Program, Oklahoma State Department of Health.
- For more information about American Academy of Pediatrics Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) initiatives, visit aap.org/ehdi.