



Updated: February 2008

EHD State and Territorial Profiles Georgia

This profile includes information about a state or territorial EHD program related to general program information, hearing screening, re-screening and diagnostic evaluations, early intervention, and the EHD data system.

If any information in this profile is incorrect or needs to be updated please email: ehdi@cdc.gov

Disclaimer:

Information found in the EHD State and Territorial Profiles is intended only for informational purposes. This data may not reflect the most up-to-date information related to state and territory EHD programs. Specific questions about programs in states and territories should be sent to the program contact. Information included in the State Profile does not constitute an endorsement of authors or organizations by CDC. The views and opinions of these authors and organizations are not necessarily those of CDC or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views and opinions expressed at the sites do not necessarily represent HHS, CDC, or the U.S. Public Health Services.

Category and Questions	Information
General Program Information	
Official name of the state/territory Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHD) program	Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Program
Contact for the state/territory EHD program.	Akilah Heggs, M.A., CCC-A Coordinator, UNHS Program Office of Infant and Child Health, Family Health Branch Georgia Division of Public Health 2 Peachtree St. Suite 11-273 Atlanta, GA 30303 404-463-2192 (404) 463-6729 akheggs@dhr.state.ga.us
Legislation regarding newborn hearing screening? If yes, does the legislation mandate or provide funds for newborn hearing screening and follow-up services?	Yes Legislation was signed into law in April 1999 that encouraged hospitals to participate in a hearing screening program with the goal of screening 95% of newborns by July 1st 2002. The law also requires all licensed hospitals and physicians to educate parents. GA does not mandate that screening be offered but does mandate that the results hearing screenings be reported to the EHD program.
State/territory website related to infant/child hearing loss?	Yes. http://health.state.ga.us/programs/unhs/index.asp
State/territory CDC/EHD Cooperative Agreement related to hearing screening?	Yes.

State/territory have a Maternal and Child Health Bureau Grant related to hearing screening?	Yes.
Participate in a CDC funded research project?	No
Hearing Screening Information	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing hearing screenings?	Yes. The GA Division of Public Health released Recommended Guidelines for the Georgia Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Initiative in March 2001. http://health.state.ga.us/programs/unhs/guidelines.asp
Primarily responsible in most hospitals for conducting in-hospital hearing screenings?	Nurses, Technicians, Volunteers, Audiologists Nurses mostly conduct the hearing screenings. In 2006, several hospitals participated in a vendor sales promotion to upgrade/trade in screening equipment. Some hospitals now use a hand held device that has a two set component to do both the OAE and AABR.
Estimated percentage of newborns that are initially screened with OAE or AABR. (Of the newborns that failed the initial screen, estimated percentage that are re-screened in the hospital with OAE or AABR.)	NICU Screening: OAE_____%; AABR_____% WBN Screening: OAE_____%; AABR_____% NICU Re-screening: OAE_____%; AABR_____% WBN Re-screening: OAE_____%; AABR_____%
State/territory requires parental consent for hearing screening(s) to be done at the time of birth?	No. Consent policies vary by each hospital.
What happens if a baby does not pass the initial hearing screening(s)?	Re-screen in hospital before discharge. Re-screen as outpatient. Re-screenings can be done by a hospital, physician, audiologist or the public health department.
Birthing hospitals/facilities/providers required to report hearing screening results to the state?	Yes. Aggregate numbers quarterly on the number of live births, transfers in, transfers out, newborn deaths, screening results of pass, screening results of refer, and family refusals
How birthing hospitals/facilities report hearing screening information to the state/territory	Electronic Birth Certificate, Paper form
Hearing screening results reported to the infant's physician?	Notify all screening results ("Refer" and Pass)

<p>[If yes, are all results reported or only failed screening?]</p>	
<p>Rescreening and Diagnostic Evaluations</p>	
<p>State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing hearing re-screenings?</p>	<p>Yes. http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/familyhealth/unhsi/unhs-guidelines.pdf</p>
<p>State's program guidelines for helping families with third party preauthorization of re-screening or diagnostic evaluations?</p>	<p><i>No information currently available</i></p>
<p>State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing diagnostic evaluations?</p>	<p>Yes. http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/familyhealth/unhsi/unhs-guidelines.pdf</p>
<p>State/territory EHDI program list of audiologic diagnostic centers and audiologists skilled in providing pediatric services to infants?</p>	<p>Yes. http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/familyhealth/unhsi/pediatricaudiologists.04.pdf</p>
<p>Number of pediatric audiologists and/or diagnostic centers on the list</p>	<p><i>No information currently available</i></p>
<p>Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for outpatient hearing re-screenings?</p>	<p>Department of Health (DOH) The Children 1st. program, which is housed within the Department of Health, is responsible for helping to ensure that appointments for re-screenings are made. Referrals are sent from the hospital to the local Children 1st coordinator.</p>
<p>Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for diagnostic audiologic evaluations?</p>	
<p>How audiologists report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory</p>	<p>Most of the reporting is sporadic and paper form. GA DH anticipates that audiologists will eventually have access to NB SMART. Although the timeline for all audiologists to have access is not yet set, some audiologists are expected to have access in July, 2007.</p>
<p>Guidelines and/or protocols for audiologists to report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory?</p>	<p>GA mandates that the results hearing screenings be reported to the EHDI program. GA seeks to obtain diagnostic evaluation data for all occurrent births below a given age that obtain an audiological evaluation, including children with risk factors.</p>
<p>One or more persons on the EHDI staff who are responsible for the follow-up of families who need to return for re-screen, diagnostics, or referral to intervention?</p>	<p>The Children 1st program is the single point of entry into public health programs for children birth to 5 years.</p>

Early Intervention	
Lead agency for the Part C Early Intervention Program	<p>Human Resources/Public health Stephanie Moss, Part C Coordinator skmoss@dhr.state.ga.us</p> <p>After diagnosis, a Georgia Pines specialist (Department of Education) contacts the family, provides information to the family, and refers families who are eligible to the Part C program – Babies Can't Wait. Babies not eligible for Part C, are provided some services by Georgia Pines.</p>
State/territory written guidelines, and/or protocols for providing intervention services for children with hearing loss?	<i>No information currently available</i>
Eligibility criteria for Part C services for infants and toddlers with hearing loss	. Georgia Part C (Babies Can't Wait) provides intervention for children with bilateral, severe to profound hearing loss or any children with any type of documented developmental delay.
Eligibility criteria for Part B services for preschool children with hearing loss	<i>No information currently available</i>
Children with mild or unilateral hearing loss eligible for services under Part C or Part B?	Georgia Pines provides intervention services to any child with any degree of hearing loss – bilateral and unilateral.
Other public or private programs(s) and services (other than Part C or Part B) that provide intervention services to children with hearing loss	<i>No information currently available</i>
Services such as family support, transportation to follow-up appointments, parent to parent available to families with children with hearing loss? List.	<i>No information currently available</i>
Program receives information regarding whether or not a referred child is receiving Part C services or other intervention services?	<p>Yes, some at the individual child level and some in aggregate level.</p> <p>Limited reporting on children who receive intervention is currently available. GA Pines can provide information to GA UNHSI program with parental consent. As a Part C program, Babies Can't Wait is limited by FERPA in their information sharing with DPH.</p>
Intervention programs report other information about children, such as type of intervention, developmental test scores, use of assistive devices?	Some information regarding the type of EI service a child is receiving through Part C and other EI providers is received at the individual child level and some in aggregate level.
EHDI Data System	

<p>State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols related to the EHDI tracking system?</p>	<p><i>No information currently available</i></p>
<p>Type of system program uses to track hearing screening and follow-up information. .</p>	<p>“Home grown” system developed by state personnel.</p> <p>Georgia Depart of Public Health (GPH) is expecting phase 1 of the new web-based integrated system (NB SMART) to go live July 1, 2007. The original system (NSTS) is being redesigned and developed in house and is now referred to as NB SMART). NB SMART will use the same platform, Oracle, as the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance system (SENDSS) with the matching and de-duplication software, Netrics as a component of NB SMART. A rough estimate for roll out of the entire system is one year.</p> <p>The GA program obtains birth certificate data for all occurrent births.</p> <p>The GA program receives individual-level data for ALL hearing screens.</p>
<p>State EHDI tracking system includes data items to identify infants and children with risk factors for hearing loss?</p>	<p><i>No information currently available</i></p>
<p>Unique identifier is used to identify infants/children in the state/territory EHDI tracking system</p>	<p><i>No information currently available</i></p>
<p>How program addresses de-duplication of screening and diagnostic evaluation data</p>	<p>De-duplication of screening and diagnostic evaluation data is addressed during data entry, software checks for approximate or probabilistic matches.</p> <p>If two records belong to the same individual, or if two records have been combined into a single record, it is possible to fix the error without re-entering the data.</p>
<p>EHDI system linked to or integrated with any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Blood spot card -EBC -Audiology -Early Intervention -Immunizations -Other 	<p>GA has an integrated state data system (i.e., EHDI is only one piece in a larger system that includes other programs)</p> <p>Release 1 of NB SMART will include interfaces with Vital Events Information System Birth Registry, the Public Health Laboratory Newborn Screening Information System, hearing screening, and Children 1st modules. Release 2 will include the birth defects module and release 3 will incorporate blood lead level surveillance and follow-up. It is hoped that there will be a future link with the GA Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS)</p>
<p>Other EHDI Questions</p>	
<p>State materials/ brochures/ protocols for parents and professionals about the EHDI</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/statesclearinghouse/georgia.htm</p>

program. (Link to matrix).	
Agencies, foundations, organizations, or other programs that provide funding for the purchase of any of the assistive devices for children with hearing loss	<i>No information currently available</i>
Statewide hearing aid loaner program for infants, toddlers, and children with hearing loss?	<i>No information currently available</i>
Resources, other than those from the state or territory, available to help families with the costs of caring for an infant, toddler, or child with a hearing loss?	<i>No information currently available</i>