



## EHDI State and Territorial Profiles Alaska

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

*If any information in this profile is incorrect or needs to be updated please email: [ehdi@cdc.gov](mailto:ehdi@cdc.gov)*

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Category and Questions	Information
<b>General Program Information</b>	
Official name of the state/territory Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program	Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program
Contact for the state/territory EHDI program.	Beth Kaplan, M.Ed. Program Manager  Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) State of Alaska - Division of Public Health Women's Children and Family Health 4701 Business Park Blvd. Suite 20 Bldg. J Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Phone: 907-334-2273 Fax: 907-269-3432  E-mail: <a href="mailto:beth.kaplan@alaska.gov">beth.kaplan@alaska.gov</a>
Legislation regarding newborn hearing screening?  If yes, does the legislation mandate or provide funds for newborn hearing screening and follow-up services?	Yes. Legislation has been passed in 2006 and went into effect January 2008. The law mandates universal screening and the reporting of results to the Department of Health EHDI program. Reporting of audiology results is also mandated. There is a fiscal note for future sustainability.
State/territory website related to infant/child hearing loss?	<a href="http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/wcfh/newborn/default.htm">http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/wcfh/newborn/default.htm</a>
State/territory CDC/EHDI Cooperative Agreement related to	Yes

hearing screening?	
State/territory have a Maternal and Child Health Bureau Grant related to hearing screening?	Yes
Participate in a CDC funded research project?	No
<b>Hearing Screening Information</b>	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing hearing screenings?	Yes. Hospital Orientation Manual
Primarily responsible in most hospitals for conducting in-hospital hearing screenings?	Nurses
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?	There is no state legislation requiring parents to give consent to hearing screenings, but consent policies may vary by each UNHS hospital. <b>There is informed dissent.</b>
What happens if a baby does not pass the initial hearing screening(s)?	Re-screen in hospital before discharge. Re-screen as outpatient
Birthing hospitals/facilities/providers required to report hearing screening results to the state?	Yes – on a weekly basis.
How birthing hospitals/facilities report hearing screening information to the state/territory	100% of individual-level screening results are received by web-based data entry.  A designated person in each facility enters screening results into the web-based reporting system.
Hearing screening results reported to the infant's physician? [If yes, are all results reported or only failed screening?]	Physicians are Notified of all screening results ("Refer" and Pass)

<b>Rescreening and Diagnostic Evaluations</b>	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing hearing re-screenings?	Yes. The EHDI Diagnostic Taskforce developed the Pediatric Audiologic Assessment Guidelines for audiologists statewide to follow.
State's program guidelines for helping families with third party preauthorization of re-screening or diagnostic evaluations?	The state has a contract with Stone Soup Group, a "parent to parent" organization, to provide parent navigation services to families including resource information. Public Health Nurses in specific communities also assist families with follow-up. However, there are no formal guidelines.
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing diagnostic evaluations?	Yes The EHDI Diagnostic Taskforce developed Pediatric Audiologic Assessment Guidelines specific for Alaskan audiologists.
State/territory EHDI program list of audiologic diagnostic centers and audiologists skilled in providing pediatric services to infants?	Yes
Number of pediatric audiologists and/or diagnostic centers on the list	17 audiologists -- of these 17, two serve only military dependents and seven serve those eligible for Indian Health Service benefits.
Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for outpatient hearing re-screenings?	The birthing facilities, primary care providers and designated public health nurses in designated communities.
Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for diagnostic audiologic evaluations?	Primary Care Provider (PCP), Hospitals Some hospitals refer the child to the PCP and leave it up to the PCP to schedule the follow-up appointment, while others refer the child directly to the audiologist.
How audiologists report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory	Audiologists are required to send a report to state, to PCP, and EI. Starting Jan.2008, audiologists are required to report results monthly using the web-based data entry.
Guidelines and/or protocols for audiologists to report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory?	Yes. Pediatric Audiologic Guidelines developed in 2005, were distributed to audiologists. AK mandates that audiological evaluations be reported to the EHDI program monthly.  AK seeks to obtain audiological evaluation data for all children who did not pass their birth screen; did not pass their audiological screen (regardless of birth screen results; or have high risk factors.  Evaluation results are obtained for all children who did not pass their birth screen; did not pass their audiological screen (regardless of birth screen results; or have high risk factors.
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,	Yes

or referral to intervention?	
<b>Early Intervention</b>	
Lead agency for the Part C Early Intervention Program	Department of Health and Social Services Erin Kinavey, Part C Coordinator <a href="mailto:erin.kinavey@alaska.gov">erin.kinavey@alaska.gov</a>
State/territory written guidelines, and/or protocols for providing intervention services for children with hearing loss?	The state is in the process of reviewing the protocol.
Eligibility criteria for Part C services for infants and toddlers with hearing loss	40dB+ in two or more frequencies, bilaterally pure tone, hearing loss diagnosed by an audiologist or Chronic otitis Media (6 or more months in duration) diagnosed by a medical provider, with fluctuating hearing loss diagnosed by an audiologist.
Eligibility criteria for Part B services for preschool children with hearing loss	Deafness or hearing impairment that adversely affects educational performance and requires special facilities, equipment or methods to make his/her educational program effective and be diagnosed by a physician or audiologist and be certified as qualifying for and needing special education services.
Children with mild or unilateral hearing loss eligible for services under Part C or Part B?	Clinical opinion can be used if HL is less than 40dB, bilaterally, with additional risk factors, or unilateral HL greater than 30 dB with additional risk factors if condition could lead to a 50% or greater delay in one or more areas of development.
Other public or private programs(s) and services (other than Part C or Part B) that provide intervention services to children with hearing loss	Speech language pathologists in private practice. Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) has a loaner program for distributing devices for children that are HOH/deaf.
Services such as family support, transportation to follow-up appointments, parent to parent available to families with children with hearing loss? List.	Family support services are available through the Stone Soup Group parent navigation program.
Program receives information regarding whether or not a referred child is receiving Part C services or other intervention services?	Yes, information is received from Part C in aggregate form. The EHDI Program recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with EI/ILP for EI/ILP to report named data.
Intervention programs report other information about children, such as type of intervention, developmental test scores, use of assistive devices?	No
<b>EHDI Data System</b>	
State/territory written guidelines	The state is in the process of revising the protocol.

and/or protocols related to the EHDI tracking system?	
Type of system program uses to track hearing screening and follow-up information. .	<p>Commercial Product - OZ Systems Web-based system was implemented in 2005.</p> <p>The AK program receives individual-level data for ALL hearing screens.</p> <p>The Bureau of Vital Statistics reports individual data on “out of hospital” births on a monthly basis.</p>
State EHDI tracking system includes data items to identify infants and children with risk factors for hearing loss?	Risk factors can be entered into the OZ system
Unique identifier is used to identify infants/children in the state/territory EHDI tracking system	Confidential identification number.
How program addresses de-duplication of screening and diagnostic evaluation data	<p>AK addresses de-duplication of screening data after data entry, staff searches for possible matches. A fax back system to birthing facilities is another mechanism for flagging duplicates.</p> <p>Audiologists, as well as all birth screeners receiving transfers, are instructed to contact the EHDI Program if they cannot locate a record before creating a new record. If it is determined that two records belong to the same individual, one of the two data entities can merge the record.</p> <p>If two records have been combined into a single record, but then it is determined that this was an error, it is possible to “undo” this and re-create the original, separate records under different ID numbers 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"> <li>-Blood spot card</li> <li>-EBC</li> <li>-Audiology</li> <li>-Early Intervention</li> <li>-Immunizations</li> <li>-Other</li> </ul>	<p>Newborn metabolic screen was integrated into the EHDI database.</p> <p>Alaska does not currently have an electronic birth certificate.</p> <p>Development of a system for sharing data between EI and ILP is in process.</p> <p>The EHDI Program is developing a process for sharing data with the Alaska Birth Defects Registry.</p>
<b>Other EHDI Questions</b>	
State materials/ brochures/ protocols for parents and professionals about the EHDI program. (Link to matrix).	<p>Yes.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/statesclearinghouse/alaska.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/statesclearinghouse/alaska.htm</a></p>

Agencies, foundations, organizations, or other programs that provide funding for the purchase of any of the assistive devices for children with hearing loss	The Lion's Club.
Statewide hearing aid loaner program for infants, toddlers, and children with hearing loss?	Yes through the EHDI Program.
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>