

## Ongoing Research Projects With CDC-EHDI Funding

### ***Monitoring Risk Factors for Late-Onset Hearing Loss Among Children – University of Washington***

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**Background:** All states have now implemented universal newborn hearing screening programs, which has contributed to over 90% of newborns in the United States now being screened for hearing loss. As a result, more infants with congenital hearing loss are being identified during the first few months of life. However, not all children with hearing loss can be identified during the newborn period. Some infants experience a late onset or progressive hearing loss. This project addresses the feasibility and resources that could be needed to monitor infants with risk factors for late onset or progressive hearing loss, as identified by the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH).

**Purpose:** The funded project has three goals: (1) evaluate the efficacy of the JCIH 2000 recommended neonatal risk indicators for progressive and/or late-onset hearing loss; (2) ensure the accuracy of reporting of the JCIH 2000 neonatal risk indicators for progressive and/or late-onset hearing loss by hospitals by implementing quality control measures; and (3) evaluate the compliance with the JCIH 2000 recommendations for monitoring and assessing children by their primary care physicians and parents.

**Methods:** Working in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Health, project staff intends to improve the ascertainment and reporting of risk factors in state databases. The risk information, follow-up, and hearing status of infants and young children will then be analyzed to evaluate the three goals of the project.

**Current Status:** This project, which began in late 2004, has completed several key tasks related to data quality and monitoring children with risk factors who do and do not develop hearing loss. Hospitals have been provided with training on reporting risk factors, educational meetings have been held, and fact sheets have been developed. A workshop for pediatric audiologists also has been conducted. Currently, the Department of Health is seeking to have access to all data fields in the birth certificate records, which might or might not be approved. (*Updated 10/2006*)