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EHD State and Territorial Profiles Louisiana

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

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Category and Questions	Information
General Program Information	
Official name of the state/territory Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHD) program	Louisiana Sound Start Program
Contact for the state/territory EHD program.	Lorraine Farr, Medical Director CDC EHD Principal Investigator Hearing Speech and Vision Program Office of Public Health 1450 L & A Road Metairie, LA 70001 Phone: 504-568-5028 Fax: 503-568-5854 E-mail: lfarr1@dhh.la.gov
Legislation regarding newborn hearing screening? If yes, does the legislation mandate or provide funds for newborn hearing screening and follow-up services?	Yes. As of July 1, 2000. Requires "all newborn infants that the hospital of birth or that hospital to which the newborn infant may be transferred provide screening for hearing impairment by AABR or OAE. Reporting of screening data to the EHD program is also mandated.
State/territory website related to infant/child hearing loss?	Yes. http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=260

State/territory CDC/EHDI 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. http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-260/Hospital%20Screening%20Guidelines.pdf
Primarily responsible in most hospitals for conducting in-hospital hearing screenings?	Nurses, Technicians, Audiologists.
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__50__%; AABR__50__% WBN Screening: OAE__50__%; AABR__50__% NICU Re-screening: OAE__10__%; AABR__10__% WBN Re-screening: OAE__10__%; AABR__10__%
State/territory require parental consent for hearing screening(s) to be done at the time of birth?	No All newborns are required by state law to be screened for a hearing loss.
What happens if a baby does not pass the initial hearing screening(s)?	Re-screen in hospital before discharge. Re-screen as outpatient, Referred for diagnostic audiological evaluation Louisiana hospitals are required to refer infants for a re-screening. If it is going to be an outpatient re-screening the birth hospital usually makes the appointment for it. To ensure that infants receive appropriate assessment and early intervention.
Birthing hospitals/facilities/providers required to report hearing screening results to the state?	Yes. screening results, risk indicators, type of screening test, and demographic information
How birthing hospitals/facilities report hearing screening information to the state/territory	90% of individual-level screening results does your program receive on the birth certificate; 8% on paper form; 2% by electronic upload from equipment/software. Most hospitals transmit hearing screening information to the Louisiana state EHDI database using the electronic birth certificate. The remaining hospitals mail paper forms or a computer disk with hearing

	information to the state.
Hearing screening results reported to the infant's physician? [If yes, are all results reported or only failed screening?]	Notify all screening results ("Refer" and Pass) Reporting of results to the infant's primary care provider usually happens.
Rescreening and Diagnostic Evaluations	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing hearing re-screenings?	Pediatric and Audiological Re-screening of Infant Guidelines have been approved and are being distributed.
State's program guidelines for helping families with third party preauthorization of re-screening or diagnostic evaluations?	No. Standing orders are utilized so no preauthorization needed. A portion of the hospital guidelines do address follow-up appointments and Medicaid community care issues.
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing diagnostic evaluations?	"Louisiana Pediatric Audiology Guidelines" produced and continues to be disseminated.
State/territory EHDI program list of audiologic diagnostic centers and audiologists skilled in providing pediatric services to infants?	Yes Louisiana has generated a list of pediatric audiologists in the state who accept referrals for hearing assessments for infants and young children. http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-260/LA%20Guide%20to%20Pediatric%20Audiology%20Services.pdf
Number of pediatric audiologists and/or diagnostic centers on the list	Approximately 84
Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for outpatient hearing re-screenings?	Hospitals Louisiana hospitals are required to refer infants for a re-screening. The birth hospital usually makes the appointment for the re-screen.
Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for diagnostic audiologic evaluations?	It varies. There is no standard for who is responsible for making referrals for diagnostic audiologic evaluations. The Sound Start program is encouraging hospitals to schedule follow-up appointment for audiological testing.
How audiologists report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory	100% of diagnostic evaluation data is obtained via paper form.
Guidelines and/or protocols for audiologists to report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory?	Yes A paper reporting form is available to audiologists which can be mailed or faxed to the Sound Start program. Reporting by audiologists is required by the guidelines produced by the statewide Advisory Council. Audiologists can submit information to the Sound Start program about children evaluated and/or identified with a hearing loss using a paper reporting form. This form can be mailed or faxed to the Sound Start program.

	LA seeks to obtain audiological evaluation data for all occurrent births below a given age that obtain an audiological evaluation, including children with 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, or referral to intervention?	Louisiana has a position to be filled for a Follow-up Coordinator.
Early Intervention	
Lead agency for the Part C Early Intervention Program	Department of Health and Hospitals/Developmental Disabilities Brenda Sharp, Acting Part C Coordinator bsharp@dhh.la.gov
State/territory written guidelines, and/or protocols for providing intervention services for children with hearing loss?	Yes. Guidelines for Early Intervention: Serving Infants and Toddlers Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Their Families
Eligibility criteria for Part C services for infants and toddlers with hearing loss	25dB hearing loss, bilateral or unilateral is a medical diagnosis for eligibility, but they must still demonstrate a developmental delay for services.
Eligibility criteria for Part B services for preschool children with hearing loss	25dB or greater for bilateral hearing loss, 40dB or greater if unilateral.
Children with mild or unilateral hearing loss eligible for services under Part C or Part B?	Unilateral and mild losses are eligible for Part B and C services.
Other public or private programs(s) and services (other than Part C or Part B) that provide intervention services to children with hearing loss	(Greater New Orleans area) Bright School, New Orleans Oral School (Baton Rouge and vicinity) Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation (statewide) Parent-Pupil Education Program/LA School for the Deaf
Services such as family support, transportation to follow-up appointments, parent to parent available to families with children with hearing loss? List.	Parent to parent support available from Hands and Voices Louisiana, PPEP program, and various other intervention services, such as Bright School, NO Oral School, etc. This is more of an issue for rural areas.
Program receives information regarding whether or not a referred child is receiving Part C services or other intervention services?	The program is working to receive individual level data from Part C and other EI providers. Some non-Part C services provide information regarding all intervention services that a child receives.
Intervention programs report other information about children, such	Yes, the program receives information about the type of intervention received through Part C and other EI providers.

as type of intervention, developmental test scores, use of assistive devices?	
EHDI Data System	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols related to the EHDI tracking system?	Louisiana has protocols established for reporting follow-up to the state, data entry, and reporting of follow-up data to hospital supervisors,
Type of system program uses to track hearing screening and follow-up information. .	<p>LA has a "Home grown" system developed by outside vendor. LA uses a secured Microsoft Access database to track hearing screening information.</p> <p>The database is an updated version of a DOS based system. Information about risk factors for hearing loss, hearing screening results, any referrals for follow-up testing, and diagnostic evaluation results can be entered into this data system.</p> <p>A few hospitals still use paper form or disk to submit screening results. Most hospitals include this information on the EBC. Typically information is downloaded from the EBC into the Access database.</p> <p>The LA program obtains birth certificate data for all occurrent births.</p> <p>The LA program receives individual-level data for ALL hearing screens.</p>
State EHDI tracking system includes data items to identify infants and children with risk factors for hearing loss?	Yes.
Unique identifier is used to identify infants/children in the state/territory EHDI tracking system	The infant's name, birth date, and mother's name are used for identification in the EHDI tracking system.
How program addresses de-duplication of screening and diagnostic evaluation data	<p>LA program addresses de-duplication of screening and diagnostic evaluation data during data entry, software checks for exact matches.</p> <p>If two records belong to the same individual, or if two records have been combined into a single record, it is not 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>LA has an integrated EHDI data system (i.e., the EHDI program has a separate data system from other state programs, but contains all screening, diagnostic, service data in one system.</p> <p>Most hospitals transmit hearing screening information to the Louisiana state EHDI database using the electronic birth certificate.</p>
Other EHDI Questions	

<p>State materials/ brochures/ protocols for parents and professionals about the EHDI program. (Link to matrix).</p>	<p>Yes. http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/statesclearinghouse/louisiana.htm</p>
<p>Agencies, foundations, organizations, or other programs that provide funding for the purchase of any of the assistive devices for children with hearing loss</p>	<p>The State of Louisiana mandated insurance coverage for hearing aids for children under 18 years old (only mandates La based companies). The Office of Public Health/ Children’s Special Health Services Program provides hearing aids to children qualifying for the program. Several local organizations such as Sertoma Club also donate money towards school-based assistive listening devices such as FM systems. Many school systems provide ALD at school, especially if mandated in the IEP.</p>
<p>Statewide hearing aid loaner program for infants, toddlers, and children with hearing loss?</p>	<p>LA does have legislation that states that insurance companies must cover the cost of hearing aides for children under the age of 18. It provides for up to \$1,400 per hearing aide for each impaired ear every 36 months.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>We are not aware of any assistance, unless the child has severe disabilities, and would qualify for waiver services through Medicaid.</p>