



Updated: February 2008

EHDI State and Territorial Profiles Massachusetts

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

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Category and Questions	Information
General Program Information	
Official name of the state/territory Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program	Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program
Contact for the state/territory EHDI program.	Farrell Program Director Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Family and Community Health 250 Washington St. Boston, MA 02108 (617) 624-5957 (617) 994-9822 janet.farrell@state.ma.us
Legislation regarding newborn hearing screening? If yes, does the legislation mandate or provide funds for newborn hearing screening and follow-up services?	Yes. Massachusetts legislation mandates hearing screening of all newborns and hospital licensure regulations require hospitals and birth centers to provide data to the department to ensure follow-up of identified newborns.
State/territory website related to infant/child hearing loss?	Yes. http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2terminal&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Government&L2=Departments+and+Divisions&L3=Department+of+Public+Health&L4=Programs+and+Services+T+-

	+Z&sid=Eeohhs2&b=terminalcontent&f=dph_com_health_prego_newborn_g_hear_screen&csid=Eeohhs2
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?	<p><u>On-going:</u> Project will end in 2007. http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/researchongoing.htm <u>Loss to Follow-Up</u> - CDC "1% Evaluation Project", CDC and RTI International <u>Family Surveys</u> (States involved: AR, MA, MI, UT, VA)</p> <p><u>Completed:</u> http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/researchcompleted.htm <u>Family Surveys</u> – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family and Community Health</p>
Hearing Screening Information	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing hearing screenings?	Yes The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has the responsibility to develop guidelines for testing centers and to oversee the approval process.
Primarily responsible in most hospitals for conducting in-hospital hearing screenings?	Hearing screenings are conducted by a variety of individuals depending on the hospital or birthing center. These individuals include nurses, audiologists, audiologist technicians and respiratory therapists.
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 Parents are informed about the hearing screening, but can only refuse based on religious beliefs.
What happens if a baby does not pass the initial hearing screening(s)?	Re-screen in hospital before discharge (specify by technology if known) Guidelines state that infants are only allowed to be screened a maximum of two times before hospital discharge. If an infant has not passed by the second screening they should be referred for follow-up testing, which can be done at an approved diagnostic center.
Birthing hospitals/facilities/providers required to report hearing screening results to the state?	Yes Hospital licensure regulations require hospitals and birthing centers to report hearing screening results to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).
How birthing hospitals/facilities report hearing screening information to the state/territory	100% of individual-level screening results is received on birth-certificates. Most hospitals and birthing centers report hearing screening results to the Department of Public Health (DPH) using the Electronic Birth Certificate (EBC).
Hearing screening results reported to the infant's physician? [If yes, are all results reported or only failed screening?]	<i>No information currently available</i>
Rescreening and Diagnostic Evaluations	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing hearing re-screenings?	Yes Approved testing centers are required to submit copies of their testing protocols to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for review every other year.
State's program guidelines for helping families with third party preauthorization of re-screening or diagnostic evaluations?	<i>No information currently available</i>
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols for performing diagnostic evaluations?	Yes Approved testing centers are required to submit copies of their testing protocols to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for review every other year.
State/territory EHDI program list of audiologic diagnostic centers and audiologists skilled in providing pediatric services to infants?	Yes. http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2terminal&L=6&L0=Home&L1=Consumer&L2=Community+Health+and+Safety&L3=Family+and+Community+Health&L4=Pregnancy+and+Newborn&L5=Newborn+Hearing+Screening&sid=Eeohhs2&b=terminalcontent&f=dph_com_health_prego_newborn_c_hear_screen_diag_center_list&csid=Eeohhs2

Number of pediatric audiologists and/or diagnostic centers on the list	There are 26 Department of Public Health approved diagnostic centers. The 26 centers that are approved to provide follow-up diagnostic testing are located around the state and are able to provide services without requiring most parents and families to travel.
Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for outpatient hearing re-screenings?	Hospitals Infants that do not pass the in-hospital hearing screening are required to be referred by the hospital or birthing center for follow-up testing at one of the 26 Department of Public Health approved diagnostic centers.
Who is responsible for scheduling appointments for diagnostic audiologic evaluations?	Infants that do not pass the in-hospital hearing screening are required to be referred by the hospital or birthing center for follow-up testing at one of the 26 Department of Public Health approved diagnostic centers.
How audiologists report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory	100% of audiological evaluations are reported via fax.
Guidelines and/or protocols for audiologists to report diagnostic audiological evaluation results to the state/territory?	Yes State guidelines require diagnostic test results to be sent to the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program (UNHSP) within three business days of the evaluation. Results from diagnostic evaluations are currently reported to the through paper forms. MA seeks to obtain audiological evaluation data for all children under six years of age, 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?	<i>No information currently available</i>
Early Intervention	
Lead agency for the Part C Early Intervention Program	State Department of Public Health Ron Benham, Part C Coordinator ron.benham@state.ma.us
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	<i>No information currently available</i>
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	<i>No information currently available</i>

under Part C or Part B?	
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?	MA has a data sharing agreement with Part C – information is received at the individual child level, but not the type of intervention received. Information is not received from EI providers other than Part C.
Intervention programs report other information about children, such as type of intervention, developmental test scores, use of assistive devices?	The UNHSP is able to access certain state early intervention data, including referral information and the date of the IFSP. at the individual child level.
EHDI Data System	
State/territory written guidelines and/or protocols related to the EHDI tracking system?	<i>No information currently available</i>
Type of system program uses to track hearing screening and follow-up information. .	MA has a “Home grown” system developed by state personnel. Childhood Hearing Data System (CHDS) is an Access-based database that receives data from three main sources: 1) Electronic Birth Certificate 2) diagnostic testing result forms, and 3) information provided by families and early intervention programs. The MA program does obtain birth certificate data for all occurrent births. The MA program does receive individual-level data for ALL hearing screens.
State EHDI tracking system includes data items to identify infants and children with risk factors for hearing loss?	Yes Information about risk factors for hearing loss is part of the data entered into Childhood Hearing Data System.
Unique identifier is used to identify infants/children in the state/territory EHDI tracking system	Birth certificate ID Each record for an infant in Childhood Hearing Data System has a number that is also included on that infant’s Electronic Birth Certificate.

<p>How program addresses de-duplication of screening and diagnostic evaluation data</p>	<p>Data are obtained through a trusted source and assumed to be de-duplicated or free of duplicate entries. De-duplication of diagnostic evaluation data is addressed during data entry, staff search for possible matches.</p> <p>If it is determined that two records belong to the same individual, MA can combine these two records under the same ID number without re-entering all of the data for one of the records. However, if two records have been combined into a single record, but then it is determined that this was an error, it is not 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"> -Blood spot card -EBC -Audiology -Early Intervention -Immunizations -Other 	<p>MA 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. The EHDI data system can obtain uploads from other systems.</p> <p>Most hospitals report hearing screening results to the Department of Public Health using the Electronic Birth Certificate (EBC).</p>
<p>Other EHDI Questions</p>	
<p>State materials/ brochures/ protocols for parents and professionals about the EHDI program. (Link to matrix).</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/statesclearinghouse/massachusetts.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><i>No information currently available</i></p>
<p>Statewide hearing aid loaner program for infants, toddlers, and children with hearing loss?</p>	<p><i>No information currently available</i></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><i>No information currently available</i></p>