The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program was established to ensure all newborns are screened for hearing, and any newborns who fail to pass, receive appropriate, timely diagnoses and intervention. St. Lawrence, Chautauqua, and Yates Counties also had zip codes with the highest percentage of newborns without hearing screening results. Heuvelton, which is located in St. Lawrence county in the northern part of New York, had the highest percentage (63% among newborns born outside of a hospital or birthing facility). Analyses were performed using SAS v9.4 (SAS Institute) and Geographical Information Systems software to integrate spatial data (ArcGIS v12.0, ESRI). The zip codes above indicate the highest percentages of newborns without hearing screening results. The zip code with the highest percentage of newborns without hearing screening results is located in Cattaraugus county, which has at least 10 Amish church districts. Conewango Valley located in Cattaraugus County (marked on the map with a star) is the largest and oldest Amish settlement in NYS, with more than 1500 individuals (Census 2010). St. Lawrence, Chautauqua, and Yates Counties also had zip codes with high percentages (>60%) of newborns with no hearing screening results. Heuvelton, which is located in St. Lawrence county in the northern part of the region, is the second largest Amish community in NYS with 11 church districts (Census 2010). Zip codes above indicate the highest percentages of newborns without hearing screening results. The zip code with the highest percentage of newborns without hearing screening results is located in Cattaraugus county, which has at least 10 Amish church districts. Conewango Valley located in Cattaraugus County (marked on the map with a star) is the largest and oldest Amish settlement in NYS, with more than 1500 individuals (Census 2010). St. Lawrence, Chautauqua, and Yates Counties also had zip codes with high percentages (>60%) of newborns with no hearing screening results. Heuvelton, which is located in St. Lawrence county in the northern part of the region, is the second largest Amish community in NYS with 11 church districts (Census 2010).

The NYS EHDI program must address the lack of hearing screening results in these areas, and some next steps have been identified:

- Identify key people and leaders within the community. Midwives are often respected community members who can educate families about the importance of hearing screening.
- Research successful initiatives within the NYS Department of Health that have engaged Amish populations to improve health outcomes. Review best practices from other states:
  - Pennsylvania EHDI program provided portable hearing screening equipment to freestanding birthing centers and midwives in areas with high concentrations of out-of-hospital births. This initiative increased the number of out-of-hospital births that were screened by more than 50%.
  - Wisconsin Sound Beginnings provided midwives with otoacoustic emission screeners and sponsored a training for Amish birth attendants as part of multi-disciplinary team to provide access to newborn hearing screening. This outreach dramatically decreased the number of newborns who were never screened.

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