

## EHDI Legislation: Ensuring Infants Are Screened for Permanent Hearing Loss

Track: EHDI Workforce, Advocacy, and Legislative/Policy Issues

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Permanent hearing loss is one of the most common medical conditions that can be identified in the newborn population. To help ensure infants with permanent hearing loss are identified as early as possible, 43 states have passed legislation related to newborn hearing screening. To assess the impact of enacted legislation, hearing screening data from each state were analyzed to determine if states with legislation reported a higher percentage of infants screened for hearing loss than states without legislation. Data reported each year to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/data.html>) were used to ascertain screening rates. To determine which states have passed hearing screening legislation and their individual requirements, a detailed analysis was conducted using data from <https://infantheating.org/legislative/mandates.html>. This included a review of any reporting requirements and associated rules and regulations (if applicable). While further analyses are planned, preliminary findings indicate that it may be beneficial for states to enact newborn hearing screening legislation (average screening rates in states with legislation for the past 3 years was 98.7%, while the average in states without legislation was only 94.8%). In addition to these findings, this presentation will also examine the impact of specific reporting requirements. For example, do states that have legislation mandating data reporting to the state department of health (DOH) have higher rates of initial hearing screenings than states that do not? We anticipate that this information will be helpful to states wishing to revise or pursue hearing screening legislation.

Key words: legislation, rules and regulations, data, reporting requirements

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