

Innovative Protocols and Partnerships in Rhode Island Result in Significantly Improved Rescreen Rate

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Background:

Rhode Island has consistently achieved a high newborn hearing screening rate, however follow-up for children who require re-screen and also those children that are referred for an audiological assessment continues to be a challenge. Out of the 11,448 births in RI in 2013, 99.7% or 11,418 were screened. With a statewide refer rate of 2.2%, 185 of those infants were referred for rescreen, while the rest were referred for diagnostic testing due to risk factors.

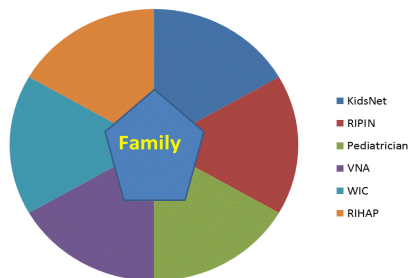
Purpose:

Changes to the EHDI follow up protocol and community partnerships were created to improve the statewide capture rate. To assess the impact of these initiatives, the loss to follow up data for the last five years, from 2008 through 2013 was analyzed.

Community Partners Include:

- Department of Health staff and KIDSNET
- Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)
- Pediatricians and Family Care Physicians
- Nurse Home Visiting agencies throughout the state
- Women Infants and Children (WIC)

Rhode Island Partners for EHDI



Comparison of Protocols for Lost to Follow-up

Pre-Partnership

- RIHAP Letter sent to family and PCP
- Family called once within the first week
- PCP offices called by RIHAP Follow-up Coordinator
- RIHAP's RIPIN Parent Consultant also reached out to families and PCP
- Referrals made to Home Visiting Agency (First Connections) to assist with contacting the family
- No WIC connection

Post-Partnerships

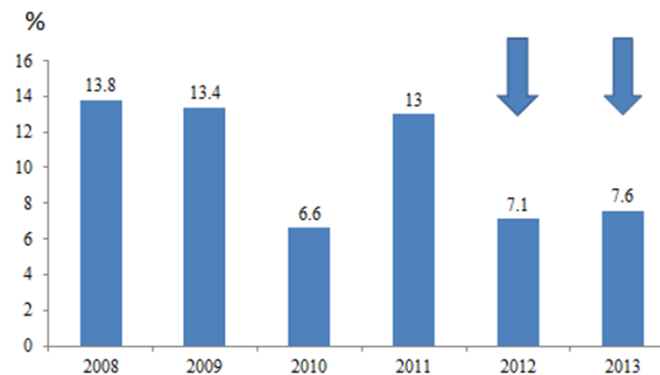
- RIHAP Letter sent to family and PCP
- Family called 3 times in 1 week
- In addition to calls RIHAP mails a new PCP report, a quarterly list of all children requiring follow-up).
- RIPIN Parent Consultants in medical offices and clinics throughout RI are also given the PCP report quarterly to assist with follow-up.
- Referrals made to Home Visiting agencies, and in-home screenings are offered to families.
- List of infants requiring follow-up sent to WIC monthly

Summary:

171 out of the 185 referred for rescreen were completed. Of the 14 still lost to follow-up, 3 were home births and the remaining were in the Well baby nursery. Seven of the 14 have invalid or inconclusive results. The other seven did not pass the screening in both ears. Since the partnerships with state agencies were implemented. Statewide rescreen follow-up rate continues to improve in **2012 & 2013** with engagement of all partners. Partners enthusiastically working on improving the Rhode Island EHDI system coordination.

Lost To Follow Up	Number of Children
Signed Parent Refusal Form	1
Family Moved Out of State	1
Incorrect Contact Information	2
Parent contacted With No Response	10

Rescreen Lost to Follow-up Rate



Future Directions:

All physicians and clinical providers will have online access to the list of children requiring follow-up within their practice in KIDSNET. Expand the in-home screening efforts to other home visiting programs. The addition of newborn hearing screening alerts within the WIC electronic tracking system. Expand our partnership with RIPIN to include Hospital Based Pediatric Clinics and other

RIHAP is striving for successful partnering with all key stakeholders in the state to ensure that all children receive the benefit not only of early screening but also early diagnosis and intervention.