



# Developing an Effective EHDI Tracking System in Alaska

Beth Kaplan, MEd and John Cartwright



# Alaska's EHDI Program

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- 2000 – Voluntary program – paper reporting
- 2005 – Database goes “live”
- 2006 – State law is passed mandating Newborn Hearing Screening, Tracking and Intervention Program
- January 2008 – law and regulations take effect

# Provisions of Statute and Regulations

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- **Birth Screen Providers - Goal: all newborns screened by 1 month of age**
  - Notify parents and primary care provider of the results of the birth screen
  - **Weekly** entry into the EHDI database of all hospital births and outcomes including screening results, missed screenings, refusals
  - Referral for rescreening and/or referral to audiology

# Provisions of Statute and Regulations

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- **Audiology – Goal: Audiologic diagnostic assessment by 3 months of age**
  - **Monthly** reporting of assessment and diagnosis to the EHDI Program
  - Early Intervention referral information reported to the EHDI Program

# Provisions of Statute and Regulations

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- **Early Intervention – Goal: all infants with a confirmed hearing loss enrolled in intervention services by 6 months of age**
  - MOA – signed between EHDI and Part C for reporting children enrolled in early intervention services to the EHDI Program
  - Goal – Obtain a signed release of information at the time of enrollment in early intervention services to report to EHDI

# Current Status of Screening

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- Screening equipment in all **21 birthing hospitals** in Alaska
- Screening equipment placed in **8 Public Health Centers** where hospitals have few births per year or communities with a high rate of home or midwifery births.
- **2007– 92.5%** of all Alaskan newborns were screened – over 10,000 infants
  - approx. 5% of infants born out of hospital

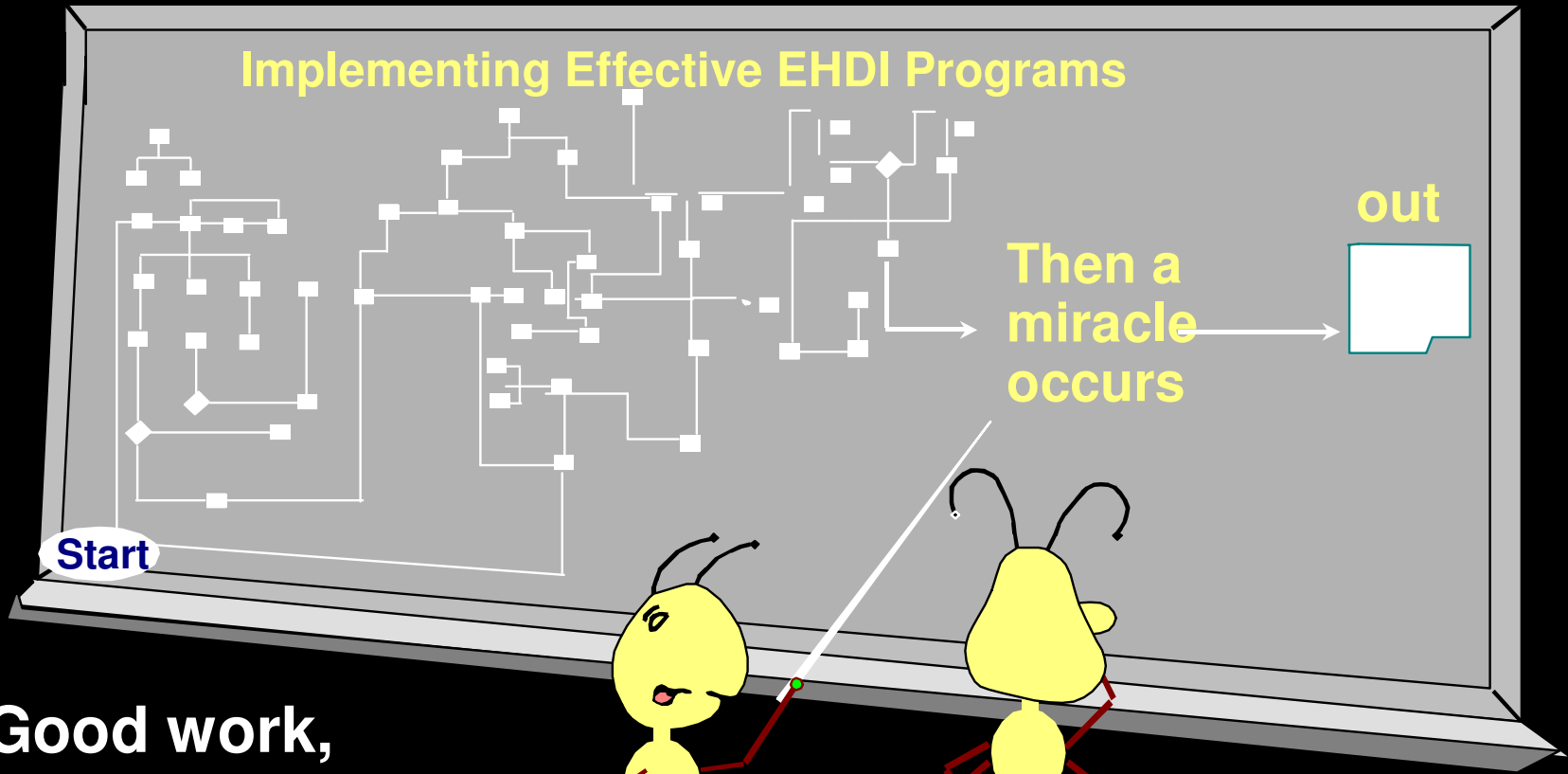
# Tracking Infants Needing Follow-Up

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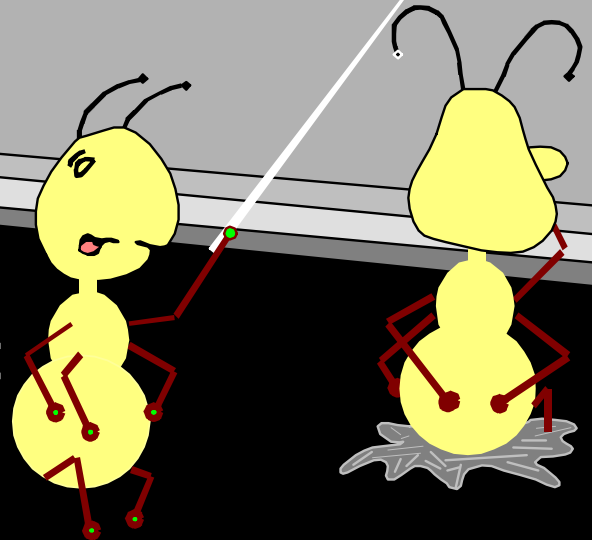
- All hospital facilities and public health centers report into database
- Data Provisions: demographics, infants screened, screening results, audiology results, children diagnosed with hearing loss, referrals for case management and early intervention
- EHDI Database linked with Newborn Metabolic Screening data January 2008.



## Implementing Effective EHCI Programs



**Good work,  
but I think we might  
need just a little  
more detail right  
here.**





# **WANTED**

**More detail.....**

**Tracking infants who  
missed or referred on  
screening**

# Beginning a Tracking System

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- 2007 -- Birth screeners reported *initial* screens in database – follow-up screens not always documented
- Infants transferred to another facility often created duplicate records
- Need to ensure screening results are given to medical home and parents

# FIRST ATTEMPTS

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- Generated lists of names from database of infants “in process”
  - Contacted primary care providers by fax and telephone calls – calls and faxes not generally not returned – time consuming
  - Telephone calls to parents – unclear results
  - No system for documenting of progress

# Follow-up for Infants with a Missed or Failed Screening

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- Reports generated from EHDI data base of infants with a missed or failed hearing screening – name, birth date, screening result, parents name
- Developed monthly “fax back” system to communicate with birth screen providers

# Fax - Back Report

Last Name	First Name	DOB	Birth Screen	Outpatient	Contact Last Name	City	State	Zip Code	COMMENTS
George	Boy	12/14/2008	Unilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	George	ANCHORAGE	AK	99762	
Longstockings	Pipi	12/31/2008	Bilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Longstockings	HOOPER BAY	AK	99604	
Monster	Cookie	12/10/2008	Unilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Monster	MTN VILLAGE	AK	99632	
Popiel	Ron	12/14/2008	Unilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Ronco	BARROW	AK	99723	
Potter	Harry	12/22/2008	Unilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Dumbledore	WASILLA	AK	99654	
Rabbit	Jessica	12/14/2008	Unilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Rabbit	ANCHORAGE	AK	99504	
Snow	Christmas	12/21/2008	Unilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Snow	KIVALINA	AK	99750	
Stillskin	Rumple	12/19/2008	Unilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Stillskin	ANIAK	AK	99557	
Swan	Bella	12/4/2008	Missed	Required - Not Scheduled	Cullen	CHUGIAK	AK	99567	
Tott	Tater	12/21/2008	Bilateral Referral	Required - Not Scheduled	Tott	ANCHORAGE	AK	99508	

# Report Completed by Facility Faxed Back to EHDI Program

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- Status of follow-up screenings
- Parent Contacts
- Referrals to Audiology

# Next Step

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- Letter to Parent
  - **Milestone Checklist**
  - **Hearing Screening Location Card**
  - **Alaska EHDI Brochure**
- Certified Letter to Physician
  - **Hearing Screening Location Card**



# What We Learned

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- Duplicates
- Missed/undocumented data
- Facilities returning fax back report can account for the screening status of their patients

# Adapt Process

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- Private Hospitals
- Indian Health System
- Military

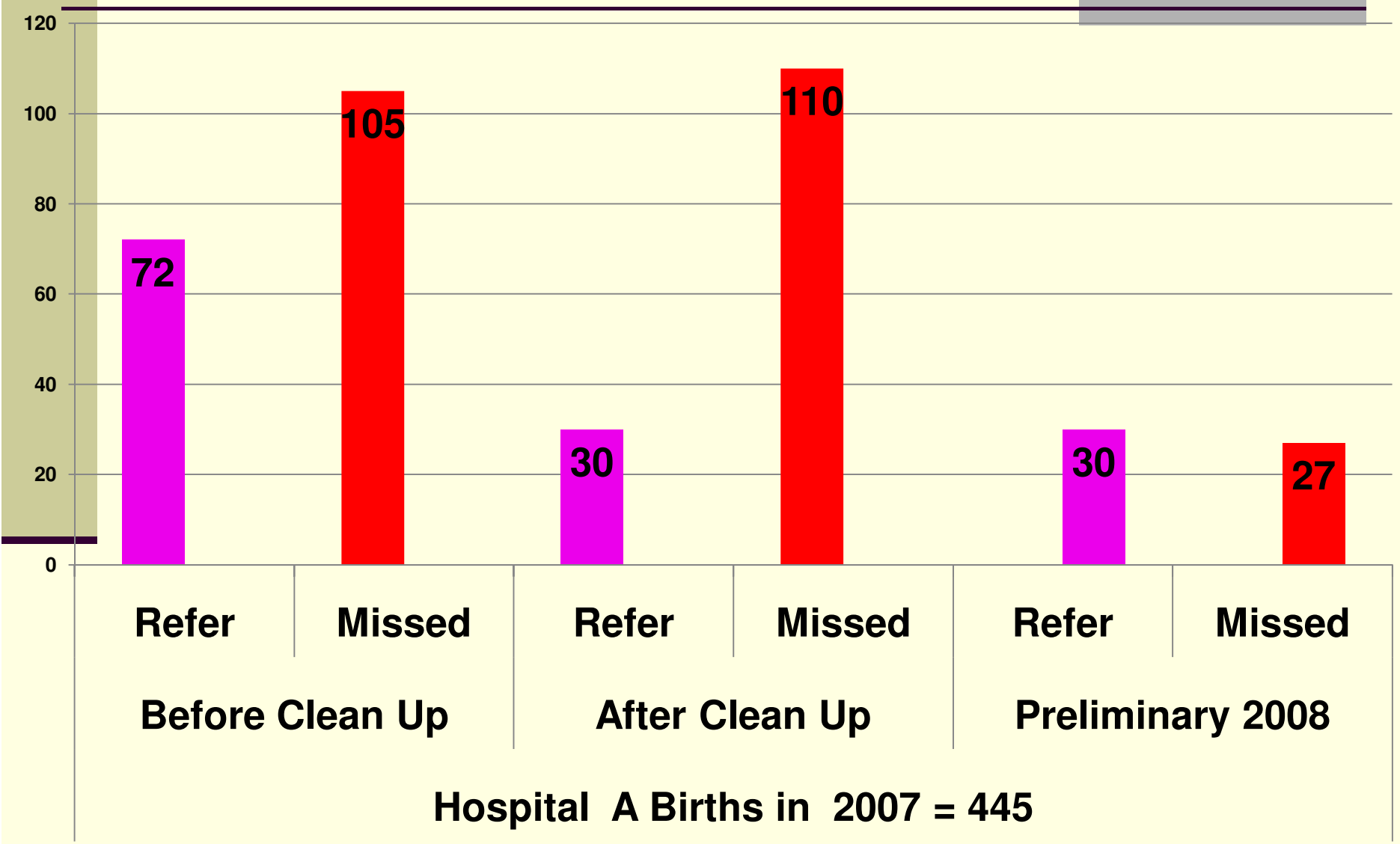
# Challenge of A Site Visit...



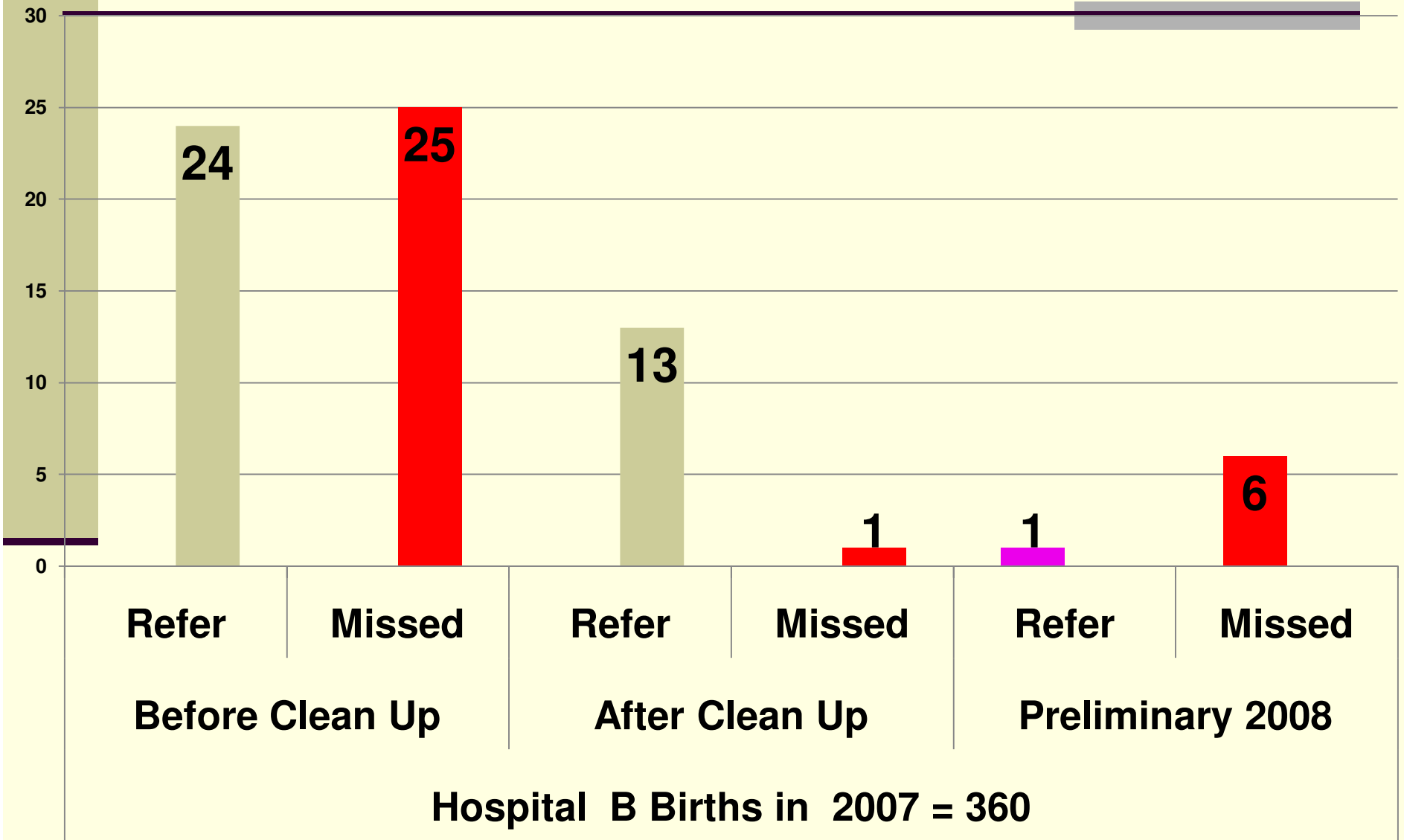




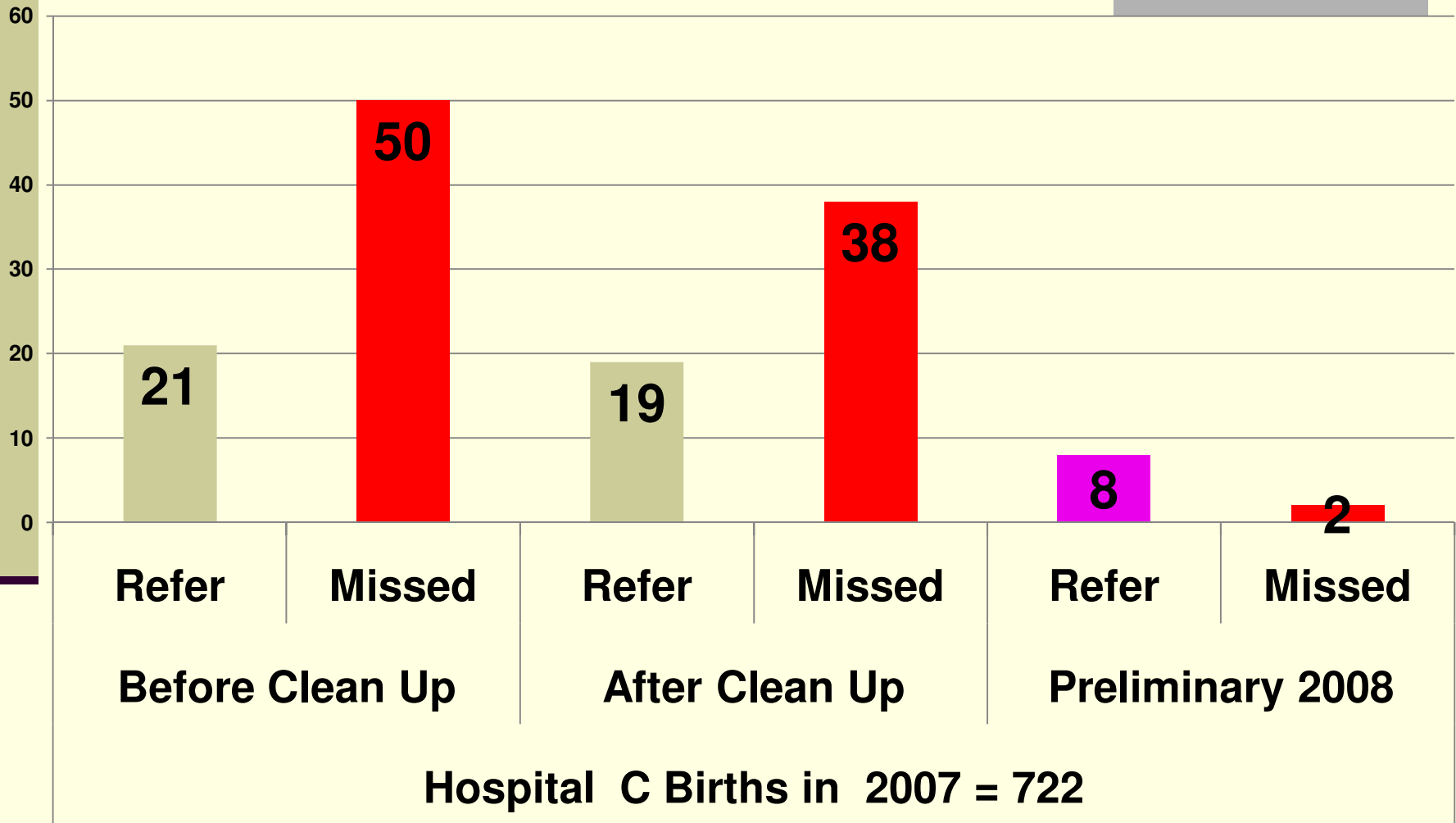
Hospital A Births in 2007 = 445						
	Before Clean Up		After Clean Up		Preliminary 2008	
	Refer	Missed	Refer	Missed	Refer	Missed
2007	72	105	30	110		
2008					30	27



Hospital B Births in 2007 = 360						
	Before Clean Up		After Clean Up		Preliminary 2008	
	Refer	Missed	Refer	Missed	Refer	Missed
2007	24	25	13	1		
2008					1	6



Hospital C Births in 2007 = 722						
	Before Clean Up		After Clean Up		Preliminary 2008	
	Refer	Missed	Refer	Missed	Refer	Missed
2007	21	50	19	38		
2008					8	2



# Challenges

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- Follow-up on “refers”
- Staff changes and shortages throughout EHDI system
- Access to audiology for diagnostic follow-up
- Infants who return to remote communities



# Infants Born Out of Hospital

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- Statute addresses notification by Bureau of Vital Statistics (monthly) to EHDI Program of infants delivered outside of a hospital.
- EHDI Program to notify parents of the merits of newborn hearing screening.
- Names checked against database and letters generated.
- Match with Newborn Metabolic Screen.
- Certified Letter sent to Parents.

# WHAT TO WATCH FOR...

## A Check List | YOUR BABY'S HEARING

Post and use this Hearing Checklist. If you suspect your baby can't hear, call your baby's doctor or nurse as soon as possible. Your baby is counting on you.

### BIRTH TO THREE MONTHS... 0-3

- Startles to sudden loud noises
- Stirs, wakes up, or cries to loud sounds
- Soothes or calms to your voice
- Makes cooing sounds



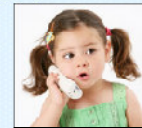
### THREE TO SIX MONTHS... 3-6

- Begins to turn eyes or head to sounds
- Stops crying when spoken to
- Awakens easily to sounds
- Begins making vowel sounds such as "ah and "ou"



### SIX TO NINE MONTHS... 6-9

- Looks for family members when named
- Turns head towards sounds
- Will respond to own name
- Responds to simple requests with gestures
- Begins babbling such as "baba" and "mamama"
- Uses voice to get your attention



### NINE TO TWELVE MONTHS... 9-12

- Understands "No", "Bye bye"
- Responds to soft sounds
- Looks at pictures when named
- Repeats simple sounds that you make
- Uses voice when playing alone



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907-334-2273









**QUESTIONS?????**

# Contacts

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Beth Kaplan, MEd  
EHDI Program Manager  
907-334-2273  
[Beth.Kaplan@alaska.gov](mailto:Beth.Kaplan@alaska.gov)

John Cartwright  
Health Program Associate  
907-334-2420  
[John.Cartwright@alaska.gov](mailto:John.Cartwright@alaska.gov)

Please contact us for information or materials.