



# ***Promoting Access to Hearing Screening for Out of Hospital Deliveries***

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What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words “Out of Hospital Delivery”?



# Out of Hospital Births in WI in 2008

- Total out of hospital births: 1,304\*

-Attendant at birth

-MD	46
-Certified Nurse Midwife	110
-Other Midwife	465
-Other	683

•Data based on **birth certificate records** from the State Vital Records Office

•Source: [www.wish.dhfs.state.wi.us](http://www.wish.dhfs.state.wi.us)



Who's having out of hospital births?



# Plain Clothes Families

- Amish, Mennonite, German Baptist and other sects
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest population in the nation
- Rapidly growing population
- Fastest growing minority population in the U.S.
- ~50 settlements statewide



# Who else?

- Young professionals
- Home centered families
- Conservative Christian families
- Families with alternative lifestyles
- Other ethnic minorities
- *Everyone...*



# 2008 Hearing Screening Data

- **Total Home Births: 813\***
  - **Screened: 142 (17.5%)**
    - **Passed: 140 (17.2%; 98.6%)**
  - **Not Screened: 671 (82.5%)**

*\* Total home birth count is based on the WI State Lab of Hygiene receiving a blood card for the child. WI's EHDI tracking system is populated by the lab's records and enables staff to track and follow up on babies who do not pass or are not screened. Babies without a blood card are not counted or viewable in the system.*



# Challenges for Out of Hospital Practices

Why do you think babies born out of hospital aren't being screened?





# Barriers that out of hospital birth providers face

- High expense of purchase and maintenance of equipment
  - Gross income for average practice: \$20,000 or less annually
- No legislative mandate
- Unpredictable screening environment
- Provider bias
- Reimbursement issues (Gretchen's pic if possible)



# Barriers that families present

- Access to equipment
- Cost
- Cultural traditions
- Transportation
- Fear
- Parent bias



# History of Efforts in WI

- WSB and WI Guild of Midwives
  - long partnership
- Initial success
- Equipment challenges
- Grant funding of WSB
  - Lack of sustainability



# Midwife Champion role

- Modeled after American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter Champion position
- Key liaison between the state's efforts and the midwife community
- Provides authenticity to our message



# Midwife Champion goals

- Increase access to equipment
  - Research durable and portable equipment
  - Purchase equipment with grant funds
- Decrease LTFU rates among homebirths
- Increase use of WE-TRAC
- Overcome provider resistance to screening
- Promote investment in hearing screenings and EHDI best practices among out of hospital providers



# Questions?



# Contact Information

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