



Newborn Hearing At-A-Glance Guam EHD Progress Report 2010 - 2013



Håfa Ådai!

The Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHD) Project staff is excited to provide you with this Newborn Hearing At-A-Glance Guam EHD Progress Report from January 2010 to December 2013. The purpose of this publication is to provide parents, health care professionals, policy makers, and other community partners with a status report of the Guam EHD Project's activities for 2010 to 2013. This report includes information about newborn hearing screening, early detection of hearing loss and intervention services on Guam, which includes public awareness & training activities.

Guam EHD is 100% federally funded through grants and cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

The project is committed to continuing activities to ensure that all infants have access to newborn hearing screening and intervention services through strengthened partnerships with our community!

Guam EHD Project staff welcomes inquiries. For more information at 735-2466 or visit us online at www.guamehdi.org.



"I thought I caused it; maybe it was something that I did in my pregnancy. The doctor told me that it just happens sometimes, then I started having questions like, Can he hear? What can be done about it?"

- Veneranda Leon Guerrero, parent of child with hearing loss

About Guam EHDl

The Guam EHDl Project was established in 2002 through a federal grant awarded to the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service (Guam CEDDERS).

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish Guam's Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Program. In 2003, Guam CEDDERS also applied for and received funding through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. HHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish an integrated data, tracking, and surveillance system to support the Guam EHDl Project. Guam received training and technical assistance from the University of Maine to develop the data system, known as Guam ChildLink. Guam CEDDERS continues to

submit applications to the U.S. HHS HRSA and CDC for continued funding support for the Guam EHDl Project.

Through the efforts of the Guam EHDl Project, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention is a law on Guam. The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Act Public Law 27-150 became law in December 2004. Guam's local legislation aligns with national goals and assures an upgraded standard of care for all babies born on Guam.

The goal of the Guam EHDl Project is to assure that all babies born on Guam are screened for hearing loss by 1 month of age, that those with hearing loss are diagnosed by 3 months of age, and that quality early intervention services they need are initiated by 6 months of age (known as the "1-3-6 Plan").



Hearing screening is performed on a newborn infant.

Types of Hearing Loss Identified from 2002-Present

Conductive¹	36
Sensorineural²	16
Mixed³	4

Total: **56**

¹Conductive Hearing Loss - Type of hearing loss where sound is not conducted efficiently through the outer ear canal to the eardrum and can often be medically or surgically corrected.

²Sensorineural Hearing Loss - Type of hearing loss when there is damage to the inner ear or to the nerve pathways from the inner ear to the brain.

³Mixed Hearing Loss - Type of hearing loss that is a combination of conductive hearing loss and sensorineural hearing loss.

Note: Data is from 2 of 3 birthing sites: Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) and Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center.

There were **56** children **that were diagnosed with hearing loss from November 2002 – 2013**. These children were all identified and referred for early intervention services through the Guam Department of Education, Division of Special Education, Guam Early Intervention System (Guam DOE-GEIS).

Figures 1 thru 4 (below) highlight Guam’s performance since 2010 in the 1-3-6 Plan of infant hearing screening, diagnosis of hearing loss, and receipt of early intervention services. The data includes infants born at GMHA & Sagua Mañagu.

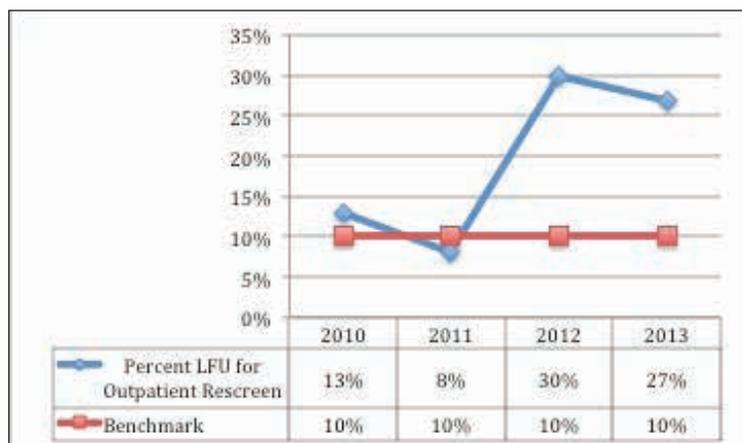
Figure 1 - Initial Screen 2010 to 2013



The red lines in the graphs (benchmarks) are the goals Guam EHDl strives to achieve or exceed. The blue lines in the graphs indicate the level of achievement for each component of the hearing screening/evaluation process.

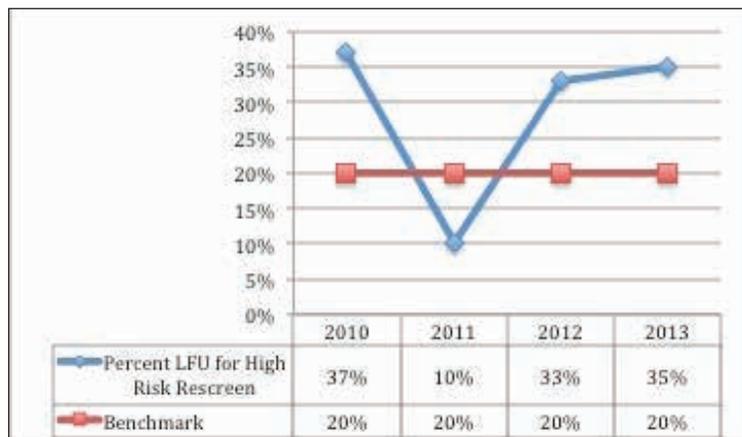
As noted in Figure 1, a small percentage of the infants did not have their hearing screened before discharge every year, due to being medically evacuated to an off-island facility for further treatment, or the infants expired before hearing screening could be performed.

Figure 2: Outpatient Rescreen 2010 to 2013



*LFU - Lost to follow-up

Figure 3: High Risk Rescreen



In 2012 and 2013, there were no infants lost to follow-up for a hearing test or diagnostic audiological evaluation (DAE). This accomplishment was due to the implementation of the Tele-audiology project that began in November 2011 and ended in June 2013. The Tele-audiology Project was started to address the lack of a pediatric audiologist available to service very young infants on Guam. This project involved the successful collaboration between Guam EHDl, the Children’s Hospital in Denver, Colorado, Guam DOE Audiology Department, and GEIS.

Figure 4: Diagnostic Audiologic Evaluation (DAE)

	Total Referred for DAE	Total with Normal Hearing	Total with Hearing Loss	Total with DAE before 3 months	Total DAE via Tele-audiology	Total receiving EI Services	Total Receiving EI Services before 6 months	Total Pending DAE	Total Deceased	Total Relocating/ Refusing Services	Total LFU
2010	14	6	1	4	0	1	1	3	0	1	3
2011	22	5	3	1	2	4	2	5	0	7	2
2012	40	13	4	13	11	12	10	3	1	10	0
2013	26	3	8	11	2	4	4	7	1	3	0

Guam EDHI Works Towards Cultural And Linguistic Competence

Guam EHDHI established a goal in 2012 to enhance cultural and linguistic competence (CLC) within the Guam EDHI program. Efforts towards this goal included the implementation of several CLC-related training sessions for Guam’s Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDHI) Program. On October 3, 2012, a power point on CLC and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) was presented to Guam’s EHDHI Core Team. On December 3, 2012 training was provided for interpreters who might serve young children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The training focused on content pertaining to defining what hearing loss is, types of hearing loss, and various degrees or severity of hearing loss, CLAS Standards and federal mandates, the roles and responsibilities of different hearing services providers (e.g., audiometrists, audiologists, ENT or otolaryngologists), terminology used during hearing screenings or audiological diagnostic evaluations, models, stages and other information about the role of interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. As part of a national EHDHI Community of Learners, the Guam EHDHI team completed a plan which defined the goal of enhancing Guam EDHI’s cultural and linguistic competence. The Guam team also delivered a power point presentation about Guam for the national group of EHDHI Community of Learners on March 28, 2013, to promote an understanding of Guam’s cultural context impacting on service delivery. Guam’s team includes a parent member representing the important perspectives of families. On August 30, 2013, a presentation on CLAS Standards and the significance of cultural and linguistic competence in addressing disparities was presented during the Guam EHDHI Conference: Pioneering in the Pacific. This conference was attended by about 39 participants made up of agency representatives and families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Currently, Guam EHDHI is a stakeholder and participant in Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service Partners (CLASP), a newly formed coalition of agencies working together to improve language access services (LAS), including sign language interpreters for deaf or hard of hearing consumers. CLASP recently sponsored a public forum to bring attention to the role of LAS in addressing health disparities. In March 26, 2014, members completed a Strategic Planning process outlining CLASP vision of advancing LAS in Guam via strategic activities such as developing a Language Interpreter’s Training program at the University of Guam. CLASP members currently sit in an Advisory Board for GCC to help develop the curriculum for the Training program.

For more information contact:

Guam EHDHI

Phone: 735-2466 TTY: 734-6531

Email: nenehearing@guamehdi.org

Website: www.guamehdi.org

Office: Dean Circle House 22-23, University of Guam

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8am - 12 noon/1pm - 5pm

