



2015-2016
Guam Early Hearing
Detection & Intervention
(Guam EHDI)
Progress Report At-A-Glance



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 & surveillance system to support the Guam EHDl Project.

Through the efforts of this Project, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention is a public 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 goals of the current Guam EHDl Project are to assure that:

- all babies born on Guam are screened for hearing loss by 1 month of age;
- babies with hearing loss are diagnosed by 3 months of age;
- quality early intervention services they need are initiated by 6 months of age (known as the "1-3-6 Plan").

2013-2015 Hearing Screening, Diagnosis, & Intervention Data

	Total Births	Total Screened	Total Diagnosed with Hearing Loss	Total Receiving Early Intervention Services
2013	3542	2937*	14	10 ¹
2014	3401	2969*	8	5 ²
2015	3373	2942*	2	1 ³

**This represents a 99% initial screening rate at civilian birthing sites.*

¹4 refused EI services. ²2 relocated and 1 refused EI services. ³1 relocated.

Early Identification of Hearing Loss & Intervention Makes a Big Difference

Guaifon Terlaje is your typical 12-year-old kid. He is a sixth grader at Jose Rios Middle School. He likes water sports such as swimming, snorkeling, and spearfishing. He plays baseball and soccer and loves to get into pick up basketball games in his neighborhood. Guaifon is also one of the first children who was identified as having a hearing loss through Guam EHDI.

Shortly after his birth, Guaifon failed his initial hearing screening at Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center and was referred to Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) for further hearing assessments. After a full audiological evaluation was completed, it was determined that he had a mild to moderate hearing loss in both of his ears. At that point, and until he turned 3 years of age, he received early intervention services.

Guaifon then attended the Special Education Pre-School Program at LBJ Elementary School. He attended kindergarten through fifth grade at Agana Heights Elementary, and was placed in regular classes. He received speech therapy services through the Department of Education Special Education Program. According to his father, Joe Tuquero, "it was determined that Guaifon no longer needed speech therapy in fourth grade and graduated from the program."

Currently a middle schooler, Guaifon is supported through his "504 Plan." This ensures that he has access to the regular curriculum in general education classes with accommodations such as seating at the front of the class, repetition of directions, and small group instruction as needed.

One thing Joe stresses is his appreciation of the early identification of Guaifon's hearing loss, and the supports his son received from an early age. "I really want to thank the program and early intervention. Early identification really made a difference, especially at such a young age. Dangkulu na si Yu'os Ma'ase!"



Project Achievements

- Benchmarks were met for hearing screening performed on newborns at the civilian birthing sites before 1 month of age.
- There were no infants loss to follow up (LFU) at the Early Intervention (EI) enrollment level.
- There was a reduction on the percentage of infants loss to follow-up who needed an outpatient rescreen or high risk rescreen.
- Successful strategies used to reduce loss to follow-up of infants needing rescreen included:
 1. Offering alternate hearing screening appointment dates and sites;
 2. Providing incentives for kept appointments;
 3. Making reminder calls about appointment date/time;
 4. Giving hearing screening outpatient appointments from the birthing sites before discharge.
- Public awareness on the importance of early detection of hearing loss through the screening and evaluation processes was greatly enhanced by the Project's participation in numerous community outreach activities.
- Hearing screeners, physicians, parents and early intervention providers were surveyed to assess the Project's strengths and needs for quality improvement purposes. The findings of these surveys will identify future training and technical assistance needs that will be addressed.
- Guam EHDl and the University of Hawaii, Telecommunications and Social Informatics (TASI) Research Program, continue to collaborate on the plan for interoperability between the Electronic Health Record (EHR) at the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and Guam ChildLink - EHDl. Timelines were developed and key staff were designated to specific roles to pilot the interoperability plan by June 30, 2016.



For more detailed information, visit
www.guamehdi.org



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