



**2017-2018**  
**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 (HSS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support Guam's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program. Guam EHDl also receives support through a Cooperative Agreement by the U.S. HSS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to complement Universal Hearing Screening by implementing Guam ChildLink-EHDl, an integrated data tracking & surveillance system to support the Guam EHDl Project.

Through the efforts of this Project, the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Act, Public Law 27-150, was enacted 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 Guam EHDl Project promotes the following Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) guidelines:

- 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").

## 2015-2017 Hearing Screening, Diagnosis, & Intervention Data

Jan-Dec	Total Births	Total Number of Infants Screened	Total Number of Infants Diagnosed with Hearing Loss	Total Number of Infants Receiving Early Intervention Services (EIS)	Not Receiving EIS
<b>2015</b>	3373	2942*	5	3	2 <sup>1</sup>
<b>2016</b>	3440	2984*	4	1	3 <sup>2</sup>
<b>2017</b>	3293	2856*	4	1	3 <sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> 1 Relocated; 1 Refused

<sup>2</sup> 1 Relocated; 2 Lost to follow-up (LFU)

<sup>3</sup> 1 Refused; 1 Relocated; 1 Pending Enrollment

# Project Achievements

- Benchmarks (targeted numbers) were met for hearing screening performed on newborns at the civilian birthing sites before 1 month of age, infants needing outpatient rescreen, and infants needing a high risk rescreen.
- Strategies used to reduce the number of infants lost to follow-up in the outpatient rescreen category included:
  1. Scheduling and giving hearing screening outpatient appointments from the birthing sites before discharge;
  2. Offering flexible hearing screening appointment dates and sites; and
  3. Making reminder calls about appointment date and time.
- 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.
- Guam EHDl and the University of Hawaii, Telecommunications and Social Informatics (TASI) Research Program, continued to collaborate on the efforts toward interoperability between the Electronic Health Record (EHR) at the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and Guam ChildLink - EHDl.
- Efforts continued to strengthen the data collection and reporting system in preparation of the long-term goal of turning ChildLink - EHDl over to system partners.
- The High Risk Re-screening Clinic was moved to the Department of Public Health & Social Services Central Health Clinic. This was also a first step towards sustainability and strengthening our system of services.
- More users received training and are inputting data into ChildLink EHDl which also strengthens tracking and surveillance efforts.
- Memoranda of Agreement were finalized and executed with two local nonprofit organizations to implement the parent engagement component of Guam EHDl-Fitme.
- The Guam EHDl Learning Community, consisting of parents of children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing (D/HH), audiologists, pediatrician, Guam Early Intervention System Project Coordinator, Department of Education D/HH Coordinator, Nurses, Birthing Assistants and Nursing Supervisors, Medical Facility Manager, and the Department of Public Health and Social Services Bureau of Family Health & Nursing Services Administrator, was established to increase health professionals' engagement and knowledge of the EHDl system.



For more  
information, visit

[www.guamehdi.org](http://www.guamehdi.org)

## Caleb's Story

Caleb Suzuki is not your typical eight-year-old. While most children would be ecstatic to visit a toy store, this is not the case with Caleb. According to Trisha Suzuki, Caleb's mom, he loves office supplies. He loves to write, read and is a "social butterfly." He entered the Special Education Preschool Program at three years of age and is currently a second grader at P.C. Lujan Elementary School. He is proficient in American Sign Language (ASL) and Signing Exact English (SEE). According to mom he has excellent teachers. He is currently mainstreamed into the second - grade class and utilizes the services and supports of a sign language interpreter. Trisha proudly shared how Caleb has an extensive vocabulary for his age and is academically on track with his peers.

Trisha Suzuki recalled that at four months of age Caleb fell ill with meningitis and was hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit for two to three weeks. This was a trying time for the family. While in the hospital, Caleb required a regiment of antibiotics, which led to a recommendation from his physician for further testing of his vision and hearing. She followed up with the recommendation for a hearing screening and had Caleb screened at Chief Brodie School. It was at this screening where Trisha found out that Caleb would require a sedated Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) which Guam did not have at the time. The family then went off-island to have Caleb's vision and hearing tested. The hearing evaluation revealed that Caleb had a profound hearing loss. Trisha shared how she was saddened when she received the news. The thought of her son never hearing her voice was overwhelming news for her. She remembers purchasing a sign language program shortly after learning of Caleb's hearing loss. Trisha was determined to provide Caleb with as many resources available for children his age to develop language skills for effective communication.

Trisha's long-term goal for Caleb is to have him attend Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. She has set a strong foundation for him to reach this goal in her efforts to advocate for her son at school, immersing him in as many activities such as the ASPIRE after-school program, summer camp, summer school, deaf camp, and the Deaf Church Community to name a few. These activities provide a multitude of life experiences for Caleb. He is a fearless young man who is ready to take on the world and is excelling in all that he does!

Trisha would like to see more parents of children with a hearing loss be active in the community and expose their children to more experiences. She would like Caleb to be part of the whole wide world for him to explore, learn from, and experience. She shared how because Caleb is so social, he thinks everyone knows how to sign. She believes the more interactions her child has with the deaf community as well as the community at large, the more confident he will be which will enable him to accomplish his dreams!



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