

Purpose

Under the Newborn Hearing Screening law, RSMo 191.931, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall “monitor the delivery of early intervention services to those infants identified by the newborn hearing screening program and report annually to the department of health and senior services.” Eligible infants are served by the Missouri First Steps Program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This report provides information related to the number of First Steps infants born in 2014 and identified with permanent hearing loss through the newborn hearing screening program.

Infants Enrolled in the First Steps Program

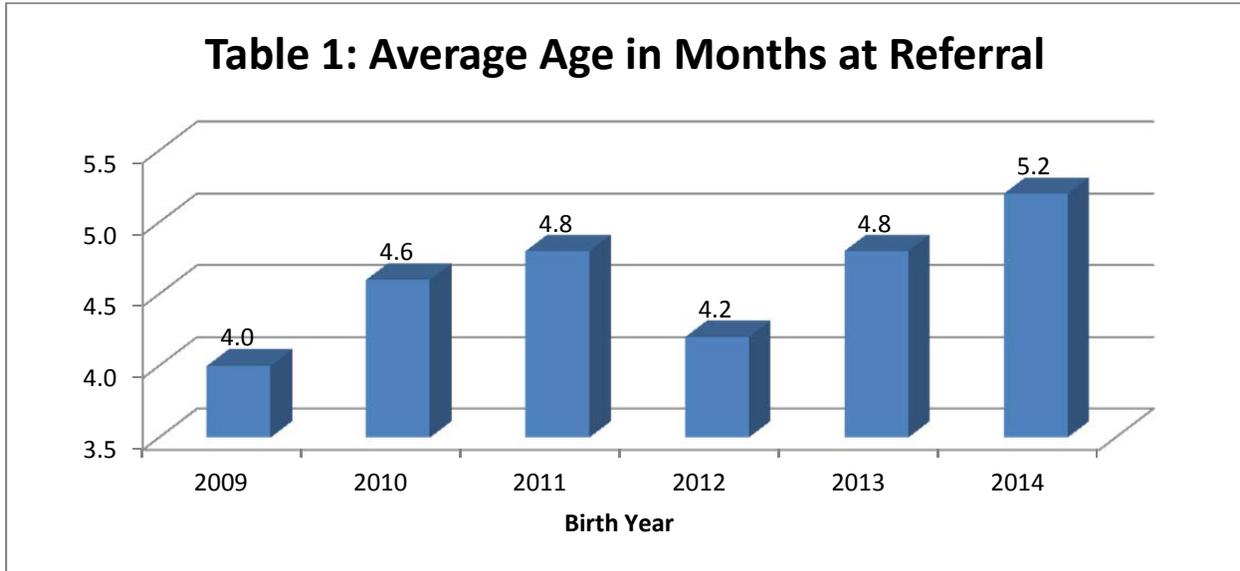
As of February 5, 2016, 133 infants born in 2014 were identified with hearing loss by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). It is important to note that the 133 infants included infants who received incomplete results or unknown types of loss based on what was reported to DHSS. Infants who were determined to be suffering from middle ear pathology (e.g., fluid in the middle ear from colds, ear infections) and who do not have a permanent hearing loss could be removed from the list at a later date based on updates received from audiologists.

Of the 133 infants identified by DHSS, 113 (85.0%) were found in the First Steps database. Of the 113 infants in First Steps, 100 (88.5%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 13 infants did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: five children were unable to locate, six children were withdrawn by a parent or guardian, and two children were recently referred to First Steps and eligibility was not yet determined.

Of the 100 infants who reached IFSP status, 92 (92.0%) were in active status at the end of 2015, and eight had been inactivated as follows: three children moved out of state, one was unable to contact or locate, three were withdrawn by a parent or guardian, and one passed away.

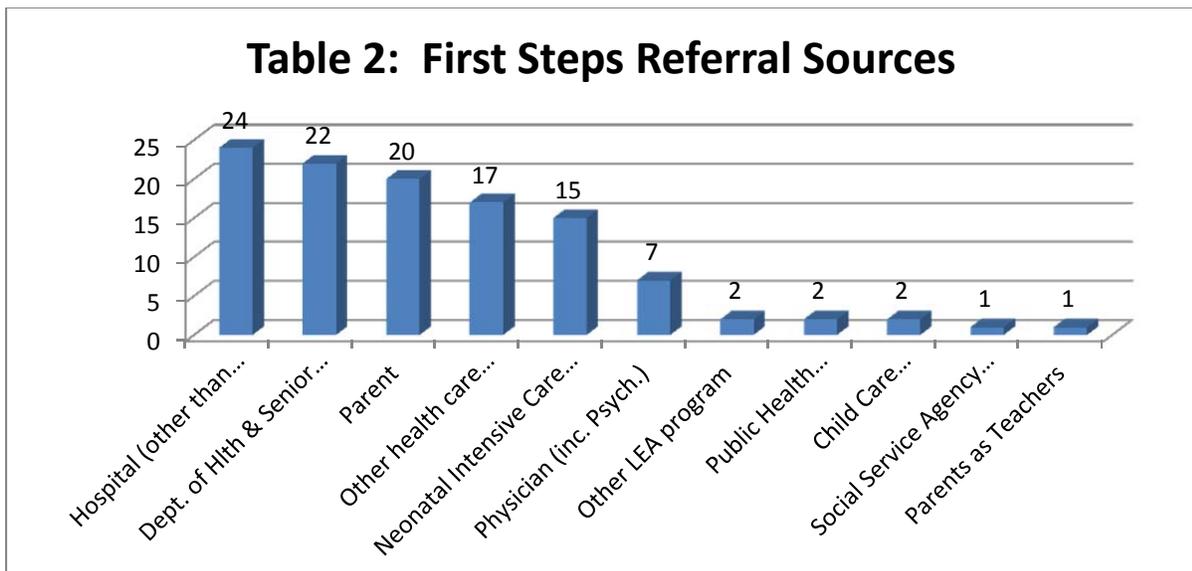
Average Age at Referral

Table 1 represents the average age in months of infants at the time of referral to First Steps for the 113 children referred to First Steps. The average age at referral for infants born in 2014 was 5.2 months. (Of note: The average age at the time of initial IFSP for the 100 infants who reached IFSP was 6.3 months.)



Referral Sources

Table 2 represents the sources of First Steps referrals for infants with hearing loss identified by DHSS. Of the 113 infants referred to First Steps, most referrals were made by hospitals with 24 (21.2%), DHSS with 22 (19.5%), and parents with 20 (17.7%).



Type of Hearing Loss

Table 3 represents the type of hearing loss, and related First Steps referral and eligibility percentages, for the 133 infants identified by DHSS. Of the 133 infants, 89 (66.9%) were found to have a sensorineural hearing loss. Of the 89 infants with sensorineural hearing loss, 78 (87.6%) were referred to First Steps and, of those referred, 72 (92.3%) reached IFSP.

Table 3: Type of Hearing Loss and First Steps Status

Type of Loss	Infants Identified by NHS in 2014	Referred to First Steps	Reached IFSP	% Reached IFSP
Sensorineural	89	78	72	92.3%
Auditory Neuropathy	2	2	2	100.0%
Mixed	1	0	0	N/A
Permanent Conductive	6	6	6	100.0%
Conductive	10	10	9	90.0%
Incomplete Testing and/or Unknown Type	25	17	11	64.7%
Total	133	113	100	88.5%

Service Authorizations

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 92 infants identified by DHSS who were in active IFSP status at the end of 2015. At the end of calendar year 2015, there were 298 active authorizations for the 92 infants with hearing loss. The top three categories of First Steps service authorizations were:

- 1) 127 (42.6%) authorizations for Audiology;
- 2) 72 (24.2%) authorizations for Special Instruction; and
- 3) 38 (12.8%) authorizations for Speech/Language Pathology.

	ABR: Audiometry evoked potential	AT Service	Consultation/ Facilitation with Others	Direct Child Service	Evaluation/ Assessment	Family Education/ Training/Support	OAE limited or complete	Tympanometry (impedance testing)	Visual Reinforcement Audiometer	Grand Total	Percentage
Audiology	18	15	9	24	6		21	17	17	127	42.6%
Occupational Therapy			12	23						35	11.7%
Physical Therapy			5	21						26	8.7%
Special Instruction			18	49	3	2				72	24.2%
Speech Language Pathology			4	34						38	12.8%
Grand Total	18	15	48	151	9	2	21	17	17	298	100.0%

Note: There were 46 authorizations for Assistive Technology devices

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