

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 2018 and identified with permanent hearing loss through the newborn hearing screening program.

Infants Enrolled in the First Steps Program

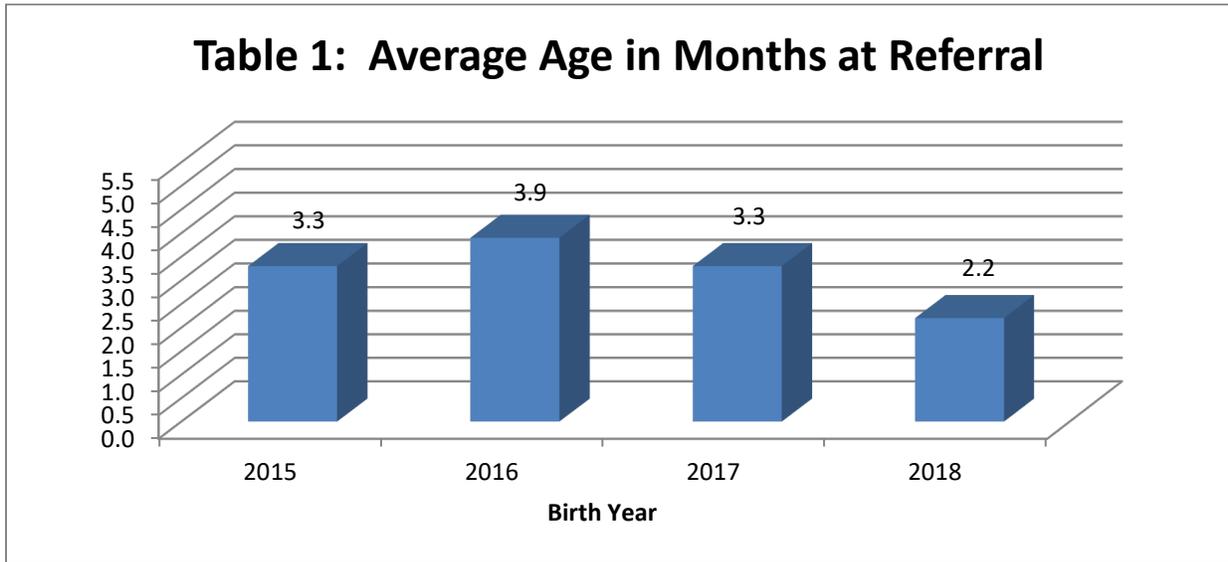
As of October 31, 2019, 95 infants born in 2018 were identified with hearing loss by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). It is important to note that the 95 infants included infants who received incomplete results or unknown types of loss based on what was reported to DHSS. Infants who 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 95 infants identified by DHSS, 88 (92.6%) were referred to the First Steps program. Of the 88 infants referred to First Steps, 72 (81.8%) were found eligible and had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 16 infants did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: nine children were withdrawn by a parent or guardian, six children were unable to be located, and one child was deceased before reaching IFSP.

Of the 72 infants who had an IFSP, 62 (86.1%) were in active status as of October 21, 2019, and one child was deceased, one child moved out of state, five children had been withdrawn by a parent or guardian, and three children were unable to be contacted/located.

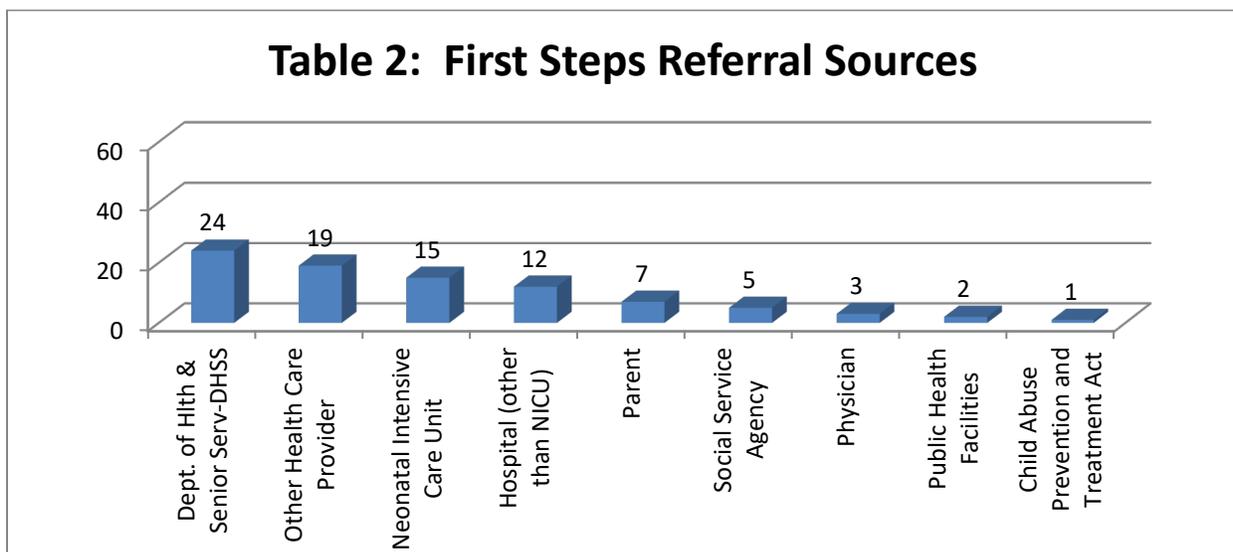
Average Age at Referral

Table 1 represents the average age in months of infants at the time of referral to First Steps for the 88 children referred. The average age at referral for infants born in 2018 was 2.2 months. The average age at the time of initial IFSP for the 72 infants who reached IFSP was 3.9 months.



Referral Sources

Table 2 represents the sources of initial referrals to First Steps for infants with hearing loss identified by DHSS. Of the 88 infants referred to First Steps, most initial referrals were made by Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) with 24 (27.3%), Other Health Care Provider with 19 (21.6%) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with 15 (17.0%).



Eligibility Categories

Table 3 provides the primary First Steps eligibility category for the 72 infants determined eligible for services and reached IFSP status. There were 66 children (91.7%) found eligible due to a diagnosed condition.

Table 3: Reasons for Eligibility

Reason for Eligibility	Number of Infants	% Eligibility
Diagnosed Condition	66	91.7%
Newborn Condition	2	2.8%
Developmental Delay – Half age delay	3	4.2%
Other Condition	1	1.4%
Total	72	100.0%

Type of Hearing Loss

Table 4 represents the type of hearing loss and related First Steps referral and eligibility percentages for the 95 infants identified by DHSS. Of the 95 infants, 64 (67.4%) had a sensorineural hearing loss. Of the 64 infants with sensorineural hearing loss, 58 (90.6%) were referred to First Steps and, of those referred, 46 (79.3%) reached IFSP.

Table 4: Type of Hearing Loss and First Steps Status

Type of Loss	Number of Infants	Referred to First Steps	Reached IFSP	% Reached IFSP
Sensorineural	64	58	46	79.3%
Auditory Neuropathy	4	4	4	100.0%
Mixed	6	6	4	66.7%
Permanent Conductive	6	6	6	100.0%
Conductive	4	4	3	75.0%
Incomplete Testing and/or Unknown Type	11	10	9	90.0%
Total	95	88	72	81.8%

Service Authorizations

Table 5 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 62 infants identified by DHSS who were in active IFSP status as of October 21, 2019. There were 308 active authorizations for the 62 infants with hearing loss. The top three categories of First Steps service authorizations were:

- 1) 106 (34.4%) authorizations for Audiology;
- 2) 95 (30.8%) authorizations for Special Instruction; and
- 3) 42 (13.6%) 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	9	17	3	22	13		21	10	11	106	34.4%
Occupational Therapy			7	20		1				28	9.1%
Physical Therapy			9	28						37	12.0%
Special Instruction			11	51	33					95	30.8%
Speech Language Pathology			9	32		1				42	13.6%
Grand Total	9	17	39	153	46	2	21	10	11	308	100.0%

* ABR – Auditory Brainstem Response

* AT – Assistive Technology

* OAE – Otoacoustic Emissions

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