

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Andrea Palm, Secretary

October 19, 2020

Senator Patrick Testin
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 131 South
State Capitol, PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Testin:

I am pleased to submit to the Committee on Health and Human Services the Newborn Hearing Report. In 2018, 100% of hospitals with birthing facilities and the majority of licensed homebirth providers continued to universally screen babies for hearing loss. Of 64,143 Wisconsin births, 63,890 babies had newborn screening records in 2018, and 62,899 of those babies (98.4%) were screened for hearing loss. Families of 616 (0.9%) newborns refused hearing screening. Only 0.7% of infants were never screened. Infants were not screened for a variety of reasons, including infant death, moving out of state prior to screening, or screenings that are still pending. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that the refer rate – the percentage of infants who do not pass the inpatient hearing screening in one or both ears and require a referral for additional testing – be below 4.0%. In 2018, Wisconsin's refer rate was 2.0%.

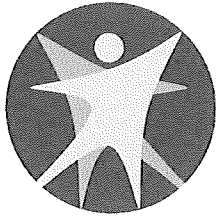
Hearing loss is the most common congenital birth defect, affecting an estimated 150 babies annually in Wisconsin. Left undetected and therefore untreated, hearing loss impedes speech, language, cognitive, and social development. The Wisconsin Sound Beginnings (WSB) Program continues to make progress toward meeting its goal of ensuring that hearing screening is available to 100% of babies born in Wisconsin and to ensure that appropriate services are provided to children who do not pass their hearing screens.

The WSB Program is improving all areas of early hearing detection and intervention through a variety of activities and working with its partners in other agencies to promote a sound beginning for Wisconsin's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Palm", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Palm
Secretary-designee



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Andrea Palm, Secretary

October 19, 2020

Senator Dale Kooyenga
Vice-Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 310 South
State Capitol, PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Kooyenga:

I am pleased to submit to the Committee on Health and Human Services the Newborn Hearing Report. In 2018, 100% of hospitals with birthing facilities and the majority of licensed homebirth providers continued to universally screen babies for hearing loss. Of 64,143 Wisconsin births, 63,890 babies had newborn screening records in 2018, and 62,899 of those babies (98.4%) were screened for hearing loss. Families of 616 (0.9%) newborns refused hearing screening. Only 0.7% of infants were never screened. Infants were not screened for a variety of reasons, including infant death, moving out of state prior to screening, or screenings that are still pending. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that the refer rate – the percentage of infants who do not pass the inpatient hearing screening in one or both ears and require a referral for additional testing – be below 4.0%. In 2018, Wisconsin's refer rate was 2.0%.

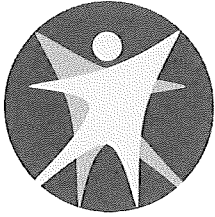
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Andrea Palm
Secretary - designee



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Andrea Palm, Secretary

October 19, 2020

Honorable Tony Kurtz
Vice-Chair, Committee on Health
Room 418 North
State Capitol, PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kurtz:

I am pleased to submit to the Committee on Health the Newborn Hearing Report. In 2018, 100% of hospitals with birthing facilities and the majority of licensed homebirth providers continued to universally screen babies for hearing loss. Of 64,143 Wisconsin births, 63,890 babies had newborn screening records in 2018, and 62,899 of those babies (98.4%) were screened for hearing loss. Families of 616 (0.9%) newborns refused hearing screening. Only 0.7% of infants were never screened. Infants were not screened for a variety of reasons, including infant death, moving out of state prior to screening, or screenings that are still pending. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that the refer rate – the percentage of infants who do not pass the inpatient hearing screening in one or both ears and require a referral for additional testing – be below 4.0%. In 2018, Wisconsin's refer rate was 2.0%.

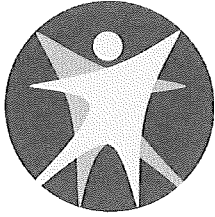
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Andrea Palm
Secretary-designee



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Andrea Palm, Secretary

October 19, 2020

Honorable Joe Sanfelippo
Chair, Committee on Health
Room 314 North
State Capitol, PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Sanfelippo:

I am pleased to submit to the Committee on Health the Newborn Hearing Report. In 2018, 100% of hospitals with birthing facilities and the majority of licensed homebirth providers continued to universally screen babies for hearing loss. Of 64,143 Wisconsin births, 63,890 babies had newborn screening records in 2018, and 62,899 of those babies (98.4%) were screened for hearing loss. Families of 616 (0.9%) newborns refused hearing screening. Only 0.7% of infants were never screened. Infants were not screened for a variety of reasons, including infant death, moving out of state prior to screening, or screenings that are still pending. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that the refer rate – the percentage of infants who do not pass the inpatient hearing screening in one or both ears and require a referral for additional testing – be below 4.0%. In 2018, Wisconsin's refer rate was 2.0%.

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