Florida Newborn Hearing Screening

Jennifer A. Defant, M.S.
Genetic Counselor
Division of Genetics and Metabolism
University of Florida
Florida Statutes: all newborns screened

• All licensed hospitals and birthing facilities providing maternity and newborn care
  – Screen prior to discharge
• Home births also require referral
  – within 30 days after birth
Screening Methods

• Auditory Brain Response (ABR)
• Otoacoustic Emissions Testing (OAE)
Otoacoustic Emissions Testing (OAE)
Auditory Brain Response (ABR)
- Fail in one or both ears
- Performed one to two times
- Conducted by licensed professionals
Performed a few hours after birth to 30 days after discharge using the OAE or ABR

- **Pass**
  - Status recorded on newborn screening card and the hearing screening is completed

- **Fail**
  - Rescreened (if time permits before discharge) and the status is recorded on the newborn screening card.
  - Referred to Audiologist within four weeks of failing screen
  - Referred for medical management, and to the CMS Early Intervention Program

Assigned Regional Center in charge of tracking follow-up is notified.
# State of Florida 2006

## Department of Health Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total newborns screened</td>
<td>~218,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total passed</td>
<td>~215,000</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total referred due to failure of screen (presumptive positives)</td>
<td>3,147</td>
<td>1.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total with actual hearing impairment from those referred</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2.89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- About 1 in 35 initial referrals will be found to have confirmed hearing loss
Children’s Medical Services
Department of Health
State of Florida
www.cms-kids.org