

Using the Deaf-Blind Child Count to Improve Identification

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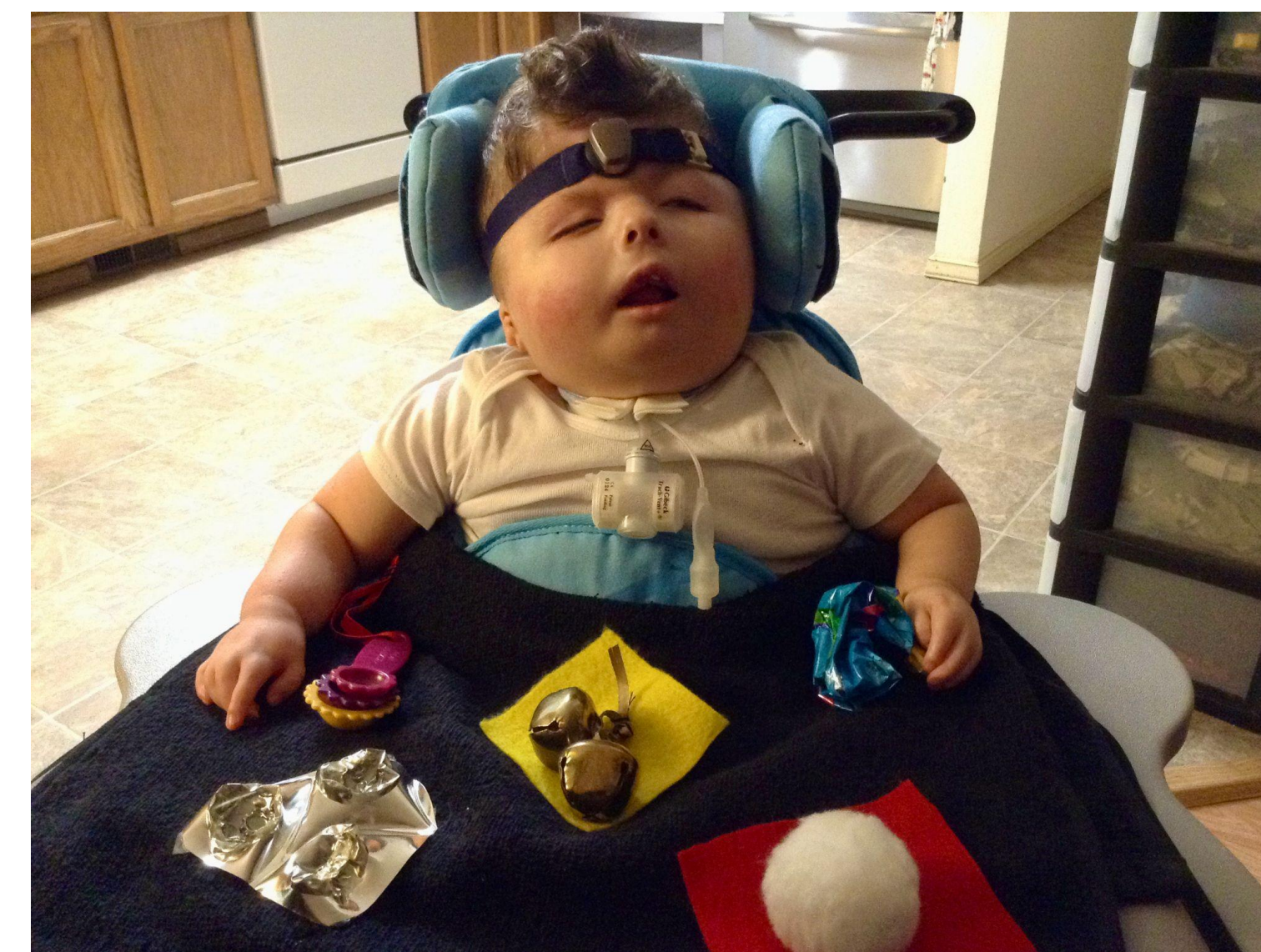
ABSTRACT

Data from the National Deaf-Blind Child Count show that many infants with combined vision and hearing loss are not identified as deaf-blind. Without early identification, infants are not referred for critical early intervention and support.



PROBLEM

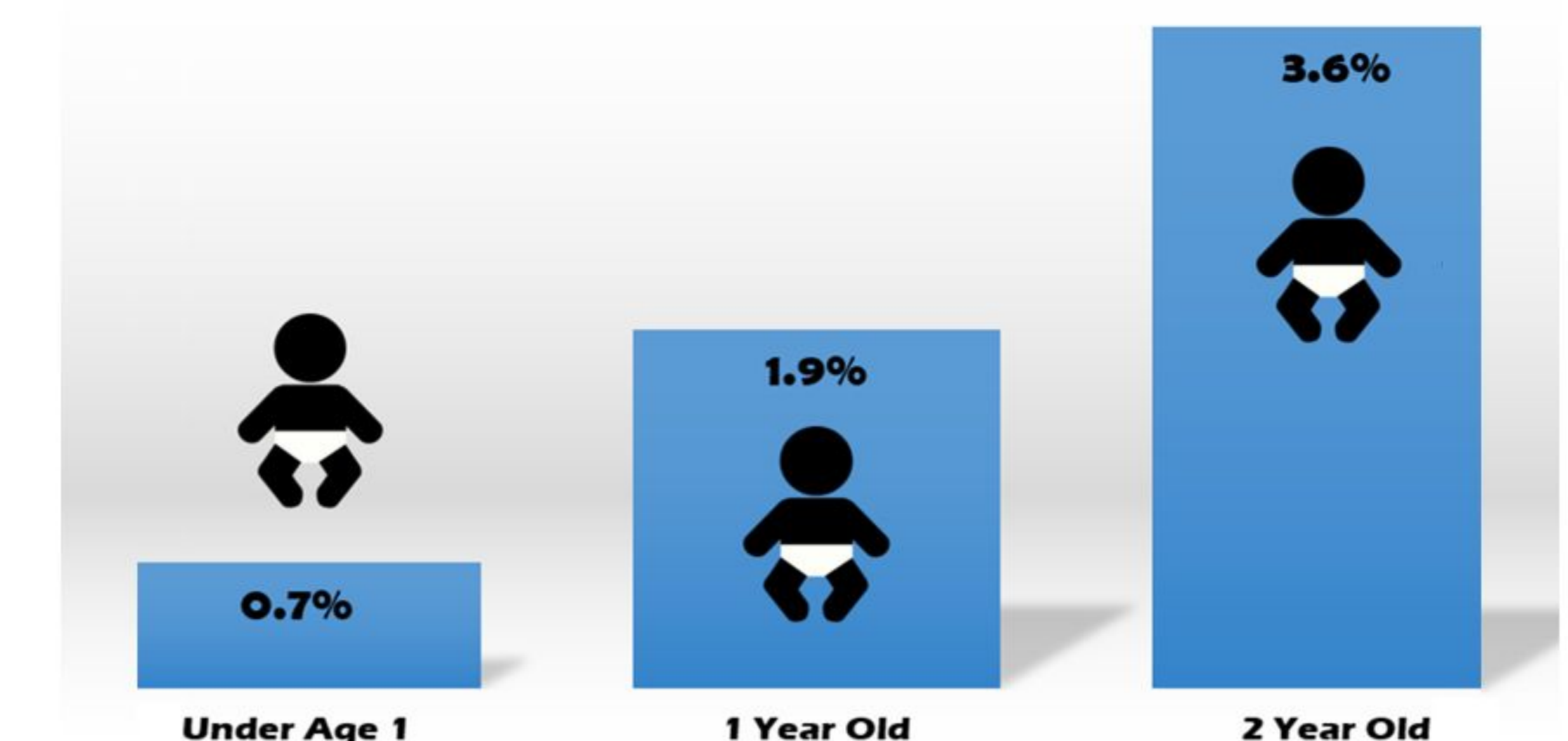
Deaf-blindness has a profound impact on an infant's ability to access and develop communication and concepts. It can also impede the ability to develop and maintain relationships. Proper identification is a critical first step in supporting infants with the interventions they need to meet their developmental needs.



FINDINGS

According to the 2019 National Deaf-Blind Child Count, deaf-blind children are under-identified in many states. Many children under age 3 are not identified and not reported to state deaf-blind projects. Variations in state identification data demonstrate there is a need to increase collaborative partnerships that will strengthen the identification of infants with deaf-blindness.

Deaf-Blind 0-2 Population



THE NATIONAL CHILD COUNT

Each year, NCDB publishes the National Deaf-Blind Child Count using information collected by state deaf-blind projects. It provides important details on the population of U.S. children who are deaf-blind. The count supplements the Federal IDEA Part C and B child counts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Early identification of vision and hearing loss and referral to state-deaf-blind projects can help families and providers learn unique strategies that support the growth and development of infants who are deaf-blind. To increase early identification, the National Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Network, which includes state deaf-blind projects and NCDB, is developing systemic partnerships across the country.

National DB Child Count: Birth – 6

Age	N	% DB Total
Under 1	72	0.7%
1	206	1.9%
2	380	3.6%
3	431	4.1%
4	435	4.1%
5	433	4.1%
6	495	4.7%



**National Center
on Deaf-Blindness**



Visit our website
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Reference

National Center on Deaf-Blindness. (2020). *2019 national deaf-blind child count*.