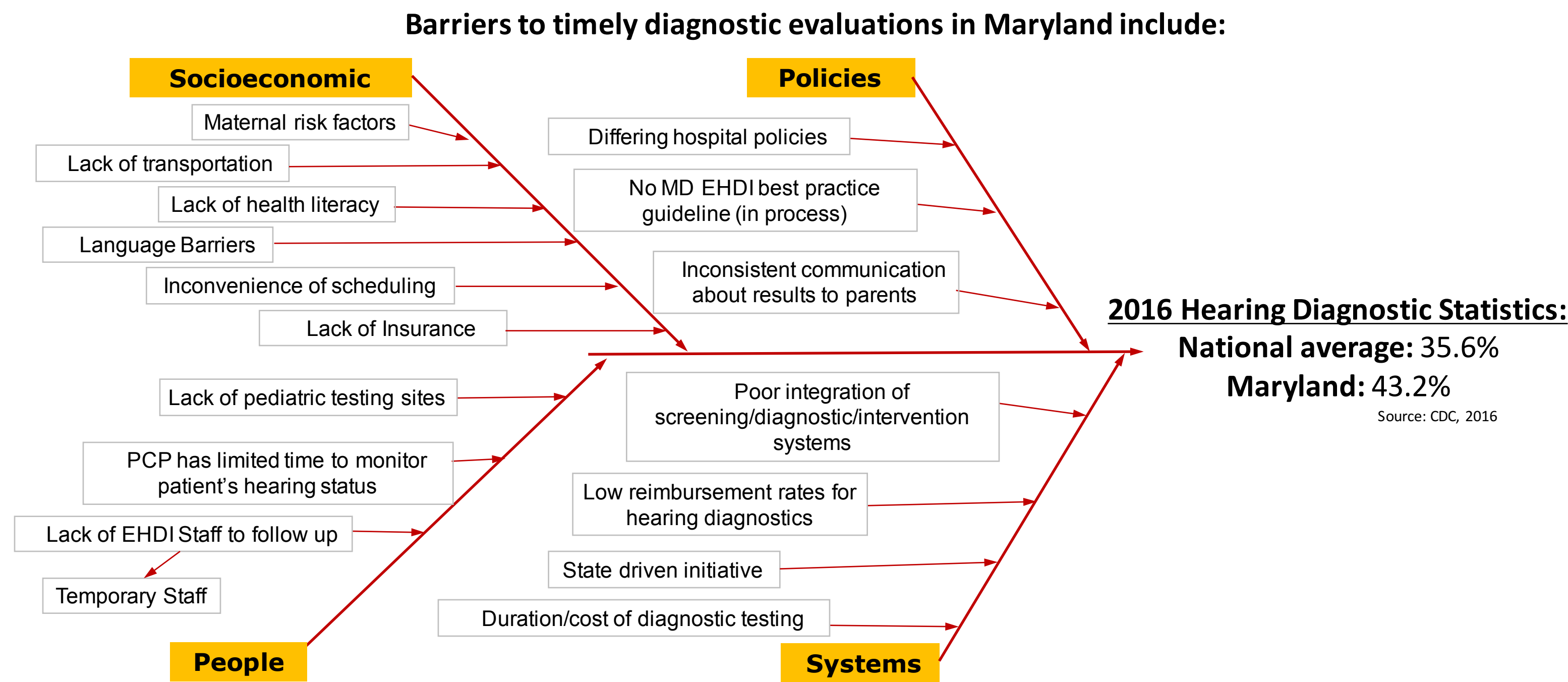


Maryland EHDl WIC Pilot Program

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University of Maryland School of Nursing

Background

University of Maryland School of Nursing DNP Student partnered with Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl) Program to increase the percentage of infants in Maryland receiving a hearing diagnostic evaluation by 3 months of age.



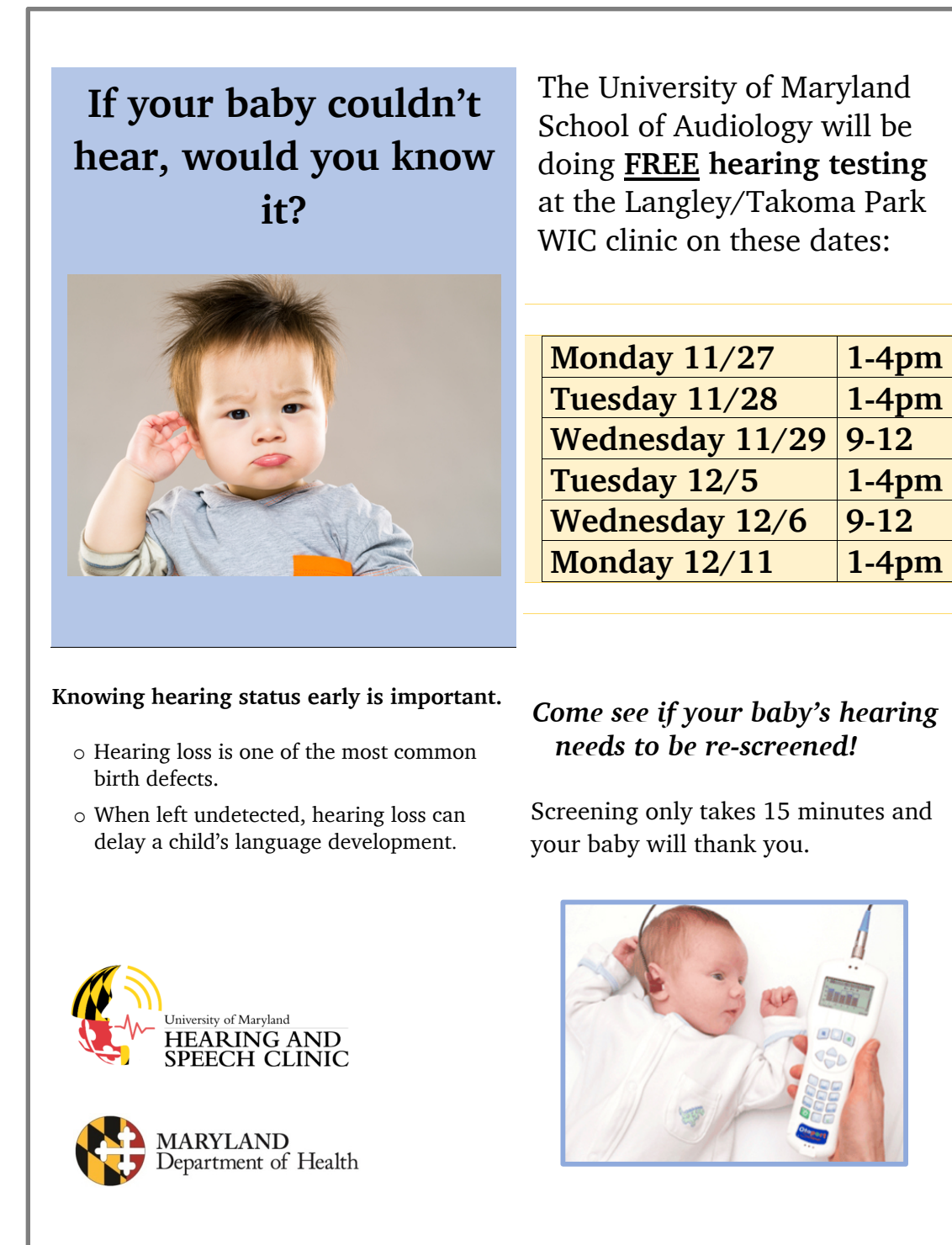
Methods

Six scheduled screening dates occurred in November/December 2017 at large WIC clinic in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Hearing testing was done **in conjunction** with scheduled WIC appointments and took place on-site in a designated conference room.

Participant recruitment was multi-faceted:

1. WIC clinic staff referred participants in need of testing
2. Lobby table on screening days to educate/advertise services
3. Flyers were posted in English and Spanish



If your baby couldn't hear, would you know it?

The University of Maryland School of Audiology will be doing EHDl hearing testing at the Langley/Takoma Park WIC clinic on these dates:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Monday 11/27 | 1-4pm |
| Tuesday 11/28 | 1-4pm |
| Wednesday 11/29 | 9-12 |
| Tuesday 12/5 | 1-4pm |
| Wednesday 12/6 | 9-12 |
| Monday 12/11 | 1-4pm |

Knowing hearing status early is important.

○ Hearing loss is one of the most common birth defects.
○ When left undetected, hearing loss can delay a child's language development.

Come see if your baby's hearing needs to be re-screened!
Screening only takes 15 minutes and your baby will thank you.

HEARING AND SPEECH CLINIC
MARYLAND Department of Health

Discussion

- ✓ Large volume of children/infants at Montgomery County WIC Clinic!
 - Between 66 and 94 seen per day for appointments.
 - Many parents bring multiple children <5 years old.
- ✓ Location is ideal for UMD Audiology staff and students. The students felt experience was valuable.
- ✓ Funding, IRB, and IAA secured through 2018
- ✓ Hearing testing was feasible even in busy clinic.
- ✓ WIC staff buy in was excellent!
- ✗ Misalignment of Maryland database and WIC information
 - WIC had updated baby names/contact information
 - Hispanic names differed from those in OZ
 - Babies born at Providence or other DC area hospitals are not in OZ
- ✗ Length of time between initial meeting and program start due to IAA/IRB delays.
- ✗ Changing staff roles/schedules.
- ✗ Barriers to recruiting participants
 - Relied on staff for referral or participants to approach us

Project Purpose

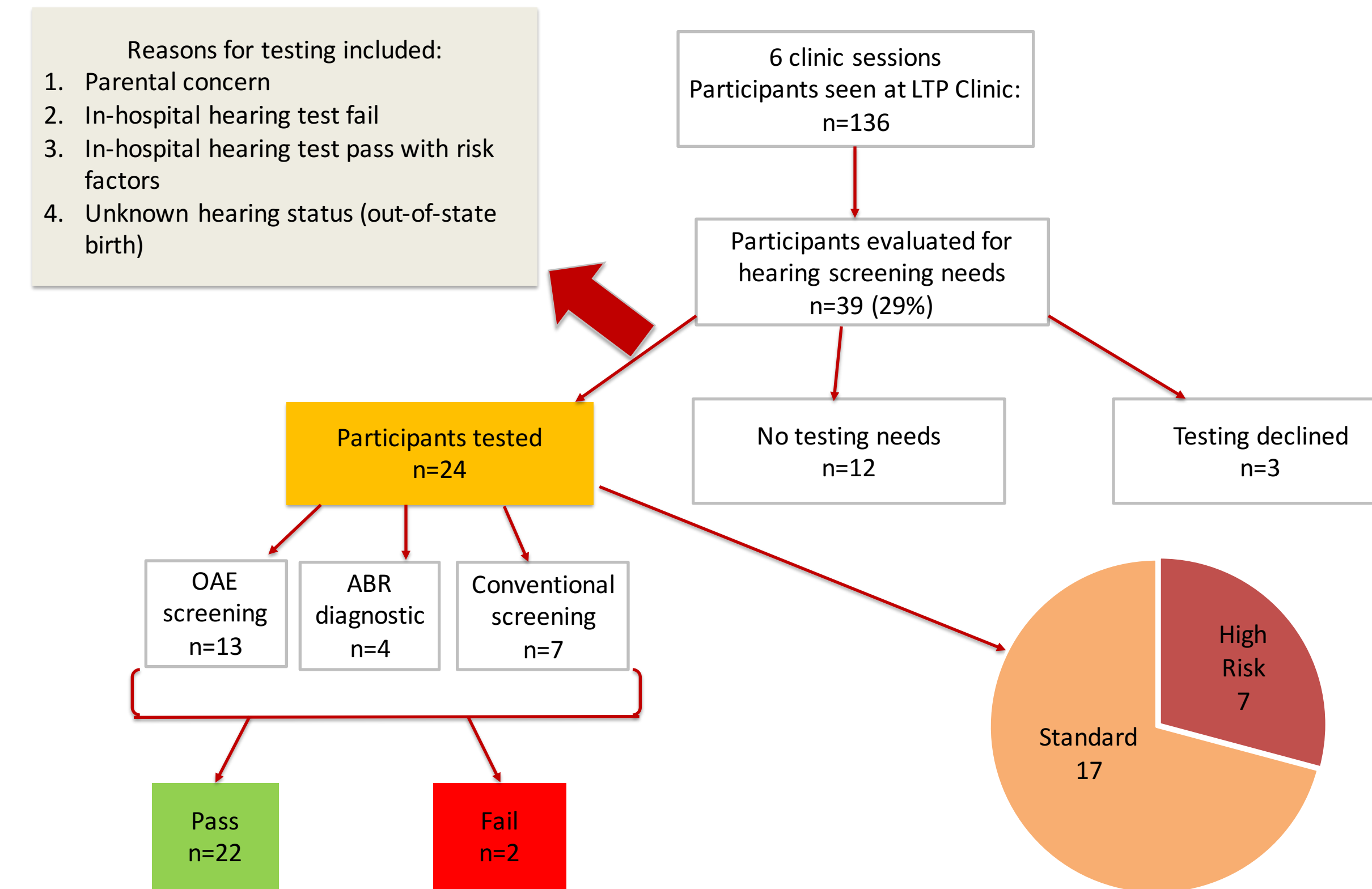
Key Questions

- How can the State of Maryland increase the percentage of infants receiving their diagnostic evaluation by three months of age?
- How can we reach the most babies based on what we know about the reasons behind the low percentage of hearing diagnostics?

Recommendations

- Implementing on-site hearing testing and screening of infants/children who present to a large WIC clinic will directly target barriers to testing.
- Develop a partnership between the University of Maryland School of Audiology, the Maryland Department of Health, Maryland WIC, and the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

Results



Conclusions

1. Pilot program was successful in performing hearing testing on high-risk infants/children on-site at a large WIC clinic: 39 infants/children were evaluated to determine need for hearing testing and 24 were tested over six sessions.
2. Maryland WIC clinics may be ideal locations for implementing hearing testing programs for high-risk infants/children.
3. Interdisciplinary Partnership between MDH, UM Audiology and Maryland WIC was successful and proves the model for future expansion to other sites/settings.

Development



Interdisciplinary Partnership

Maryland WIC
Better Nutrition Brighter Future

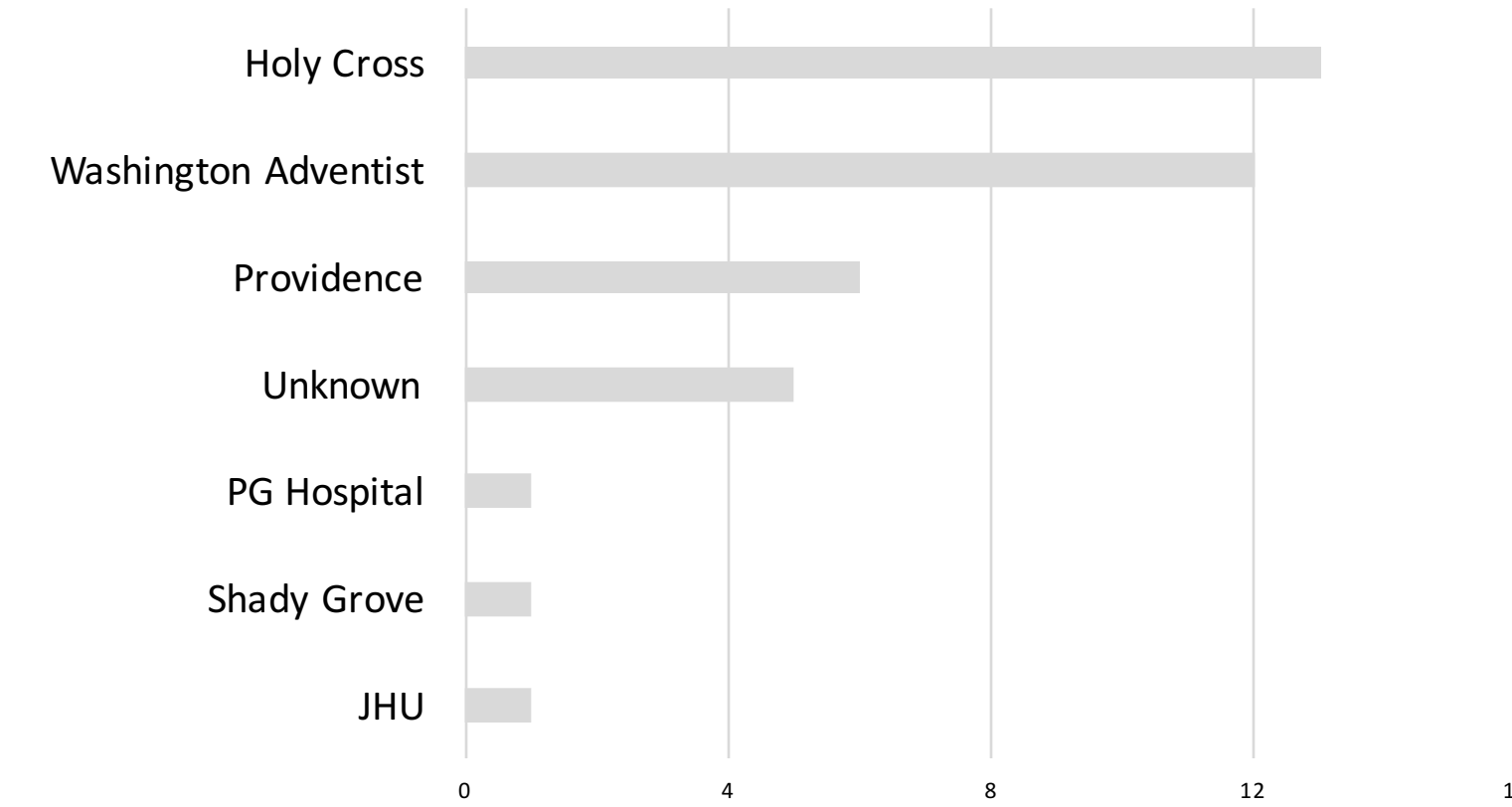
- UMD students are required to have clinical hours for licensure.
- The UM Hearing and Speech Clinic (HESP) had screening equipment and tools that can be easily transported and used remotely.

- State-wide database crucial for tracking infants in need of testing.
- State resources including funding and staff support allowed for project implementation.

- Early access to the most at-risk infants/children through regularly scheduled clinic appointments.
- 85 WIC locations state-wide (Montgomery, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George's Counties have highest number of WIC clinic locations).

Participant Demographics

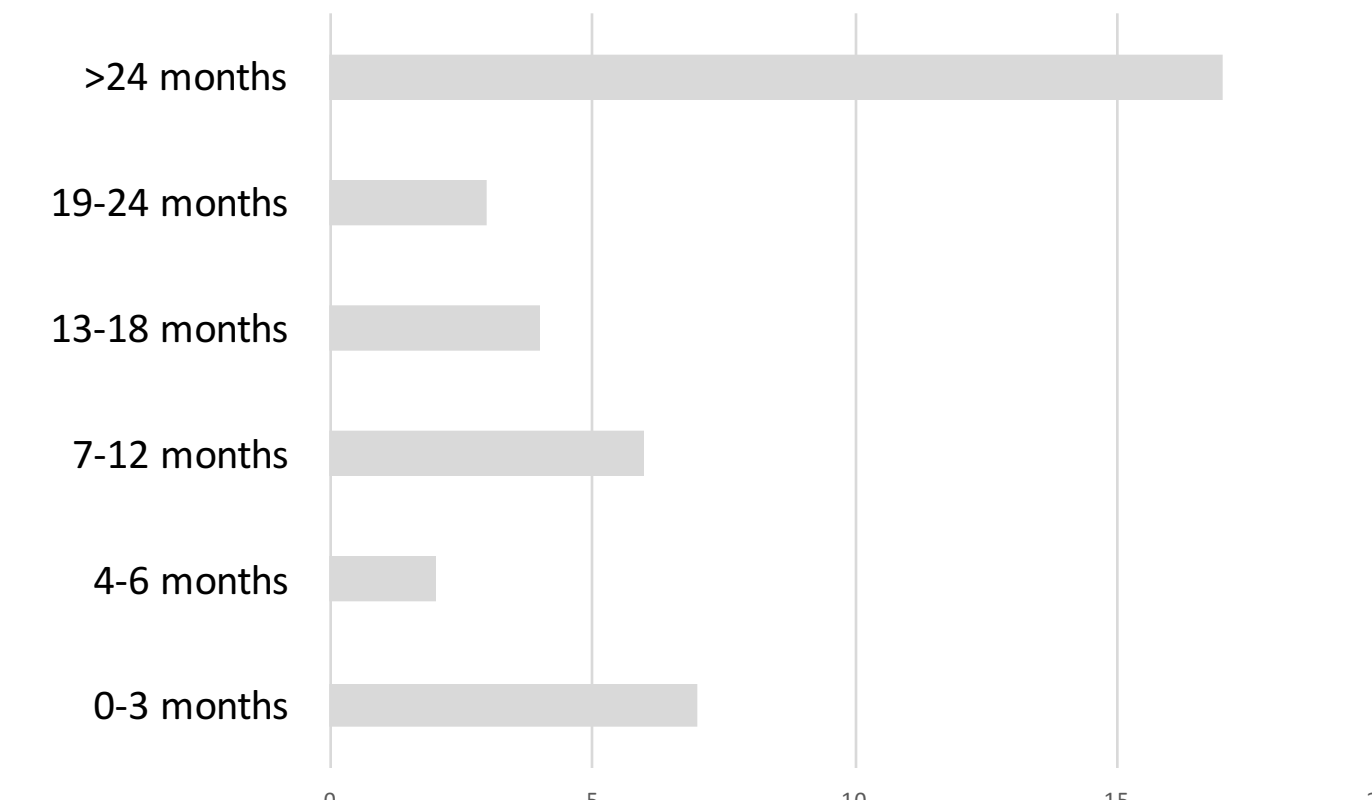
Birth Hospitals



- Majority of those screened were born at hospitals within 5 miles of the chosen WIC clinic.

- Large number of participants were born in Washington DC (Providence Hospital) due to the WIC clinic's proximity.
 - No record of these infants in the Maryland database created difficulties in screening these participants.

Age of Participants



- Of participants presenting for screening, majority were >24 months of age (higher than target age group of <3 months).

- 7 participants <3 months were evaluated, but none required testing.

Appendix

- Inspiration for this pilot program was gathered from external research, most notably from the **Influence of the WIC program on loss to follow-up for newborn hearing screening** by Hunter, Meitzen-Derr, Wiley, Horvath, Kothari, & Wexelblatt (2016).
- This project was supervised and facilitated through the University of Maryland School of Nursing by Dr. Bridgitte Gourley as part of completion of a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree.
- Special thanks to Maura Dwyer, Tanya Green and Erin Filippone of the Maryland Department of Health and Dr. Nicole Nguyen at the University of Maryland Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences for their coordination and guidance.