

Building a Statewide Taskforce: Early Lessons Learned in the CMV WiSPER (Wisconsin Screening Prevention and Early Recognition) Project



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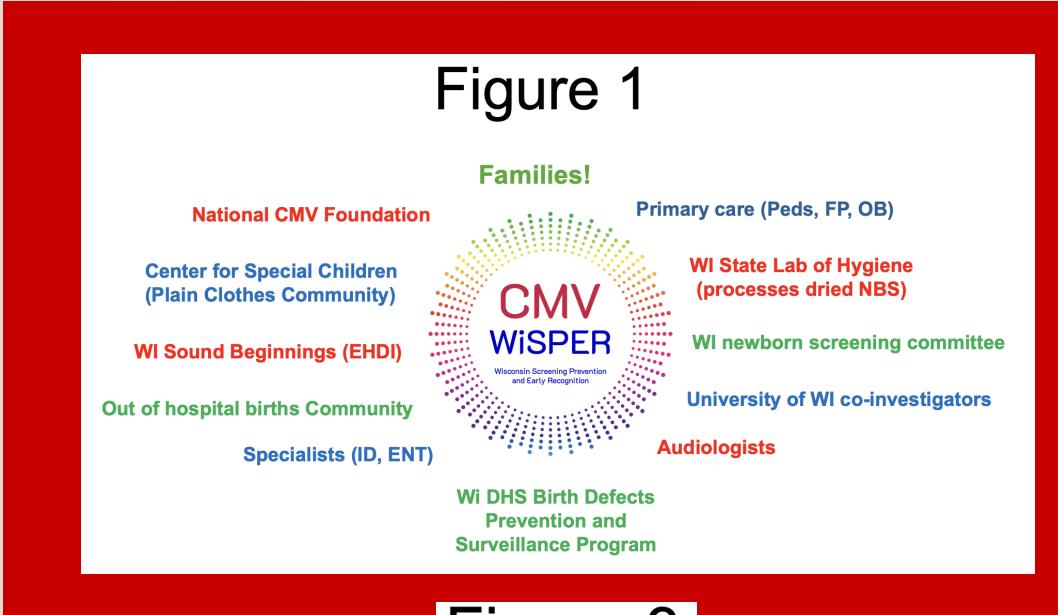
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BACKGROUND

- The lack of a national consensus statement for congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) screening has led to wide variations in statewide screening practices.
- Wisconsin currently has no standard practice around cCMV screening, diagnosis and follow—up.
- The number of Wisconsin infants screened by saliva or urine PCR or diagnosed by retroactive NBS testing is largely unknown.
- A 2023 survey of Wisconsin birthing centers showed that 41% screened newborns for cCMV and only 15% had a written policy.

METHODS

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) provided a grant to establish a statewide taskforce to identify gaps in care and develop cCMV screening recommendations.
- The CMV WiSPER (Wisconsin Screening, Prevention and Early Recognition) task force was led by staff in the DHS Birth Defects Prevention and Surveillance Program and coinvestigators in the Dept of Pediatrics at UW Madison SMPH.
- In July 2024, CMV WiSPER recruited a statewide coalition of perinatal providers, audiologists, pediatric specialists (ENT and ID) and families with lived experience.
- From Nov 2024 to Jan 2025, birthing centers were surveyed to identify gaps in cCMV screening.
- A Qualtric survey was sent by email with follow-up calls to non-responders.
- Starting Jan 2025, audiology clinics are being surveyed to identify gaps in hearing follow-up.
- Families were engaged in all sessions.
- CMV WiSPER is conducting family focus groups to identify themes in family lived experience.



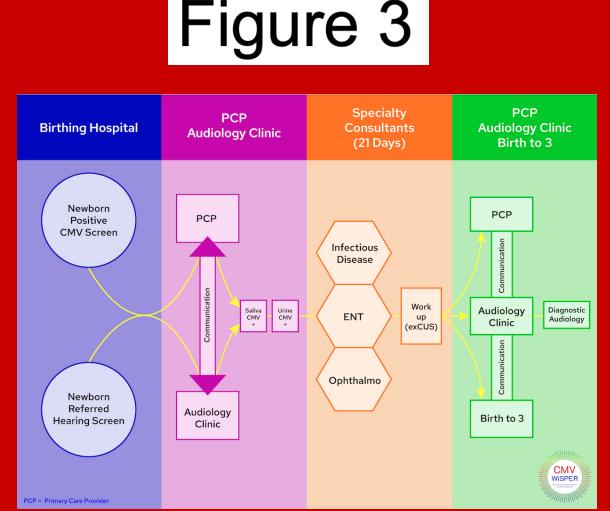


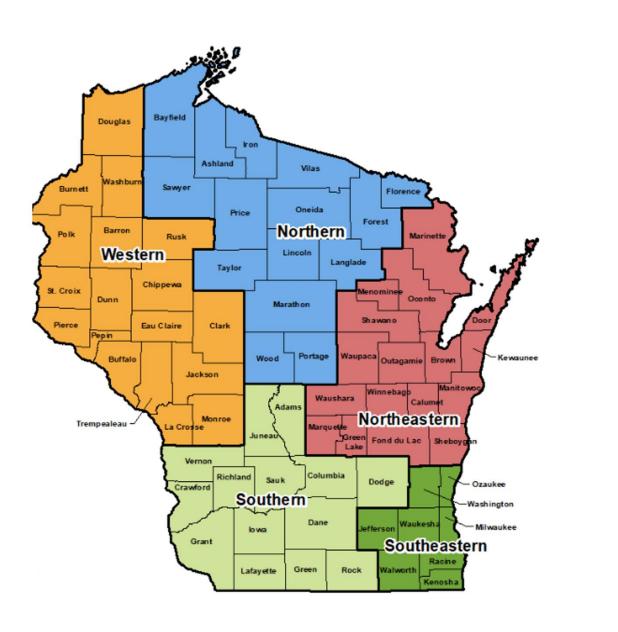
Figure 2		
Gaps Survey Question	Response	
Do you screen for congenital CMV?	No Yes Unsure	38%
By what method is screening done?	Not done Saliva PCR Urine PCR Urine culture Unsure/Other	25% 17% 4%
How do you define microcephaly?	Fenton <3% WHO <3% WHO <10% Fenton <10% Both Other	16% 16% 14% 11%

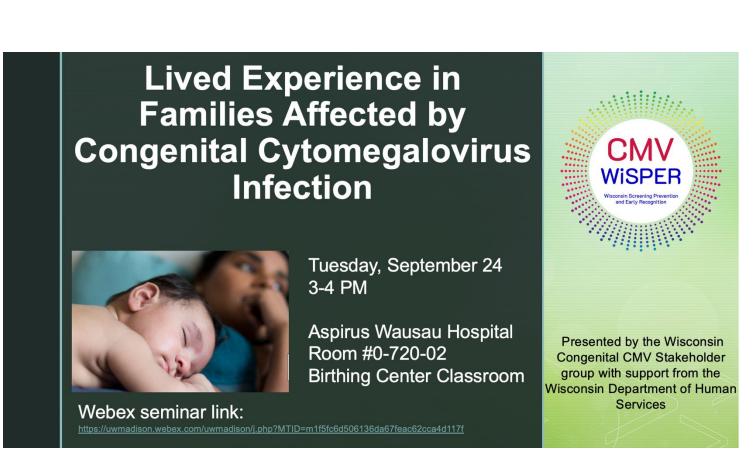
Figure 4

Challenges	Lessons Learned
Scheduling	"Do No Doodles" – Leaders set meeting dates in advance- people will come!
No central data base for cCMV screening results and QI studies	Explore options in birth defects and Infectious disease reporting
Institutional restrictions on sharing guidelines/protocols	Limited access of protocols to leaders/workgroups for consensus development
Back to basics	For hearing-targeted screening, how many screens before referral to audiology?
Common language	In extended-screening such as microcephaly, how is it defined (growth curve and %)

RESULTS

- The stakeholder group was multidisciplinary (Figure 1) with representation from the 5 regions in Wisconsin.
- "State-of-the-Art" talks on cCMV were done in 4/5 Wisconsin regions.
 - Talks were hybrid with CMV WiSPER leaders visiting on site.
- Birthing Center Gaps Survey response rate was 70% (55/79) using email and follow-up calls.
- Increased from 50% in 2023 (email only)
- Most birthing centers were small with level one nurseries.
- Primary respondents were nurse managers.
- Birthing Center Gaps Survey included 30 questions.
 - Figure 2 selected responses
- Survey results and family lived experience will be used to inform development of statewide tools.
 - Sample draft of audiology workflow tool shown in Figure 3





CONCLUSIONS

- In 2024, less than half of Wisconsin birthing centers currently screen for cCMV.
- Grant funding was pivotal for project momentum.
 Masters of Public Health (MPH) students (\$30/hr)
 Family-lived experience (\$30/hr)
- What worked well.....
 - Stakeholders valued families-first orientation.
 - First regional meeting was family lived experience.
 - Inclusive stakeholder meetings led to engaging and insightful discussions.
 - Surveys were sent by email with follow-up calls by MPH student.
 - Three workgroups focused on making statewide tools/workflow diagrams.
 Family and Education
 Birthing Hospital/Newborn Screening
 - Audiology
- Challenges and lessons learned (Figure 4) may vary from state-to-state.
- The CMV WiSPER stakeholder group is a model of an action plan and tools for other states seeking to identify state-specific gaps in cCMV screening.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Year 1

- Audiology Gaps Survey
- Family focus groups
 - Theme-based, structured group interviews
- Statewide public facing website for tools
 - Educational materials
- Hearing-targeted screening tool
- Retroactive NBS testing tool
- Audiology follow-up workflow
- Education and media for June national CMV month

Year 2

- Develop QI options to track cCMV screening.
- Focus on provider and family education
 - Roll out American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations on extended cCMV screening (in publication)
 - Increase prenatal education
 - Obstetrics, family medicine and maternal/fetal medicine specialists



