

Newborn Hearing Screening Follow-Up: A Telehealth Model for Rural Tennessee

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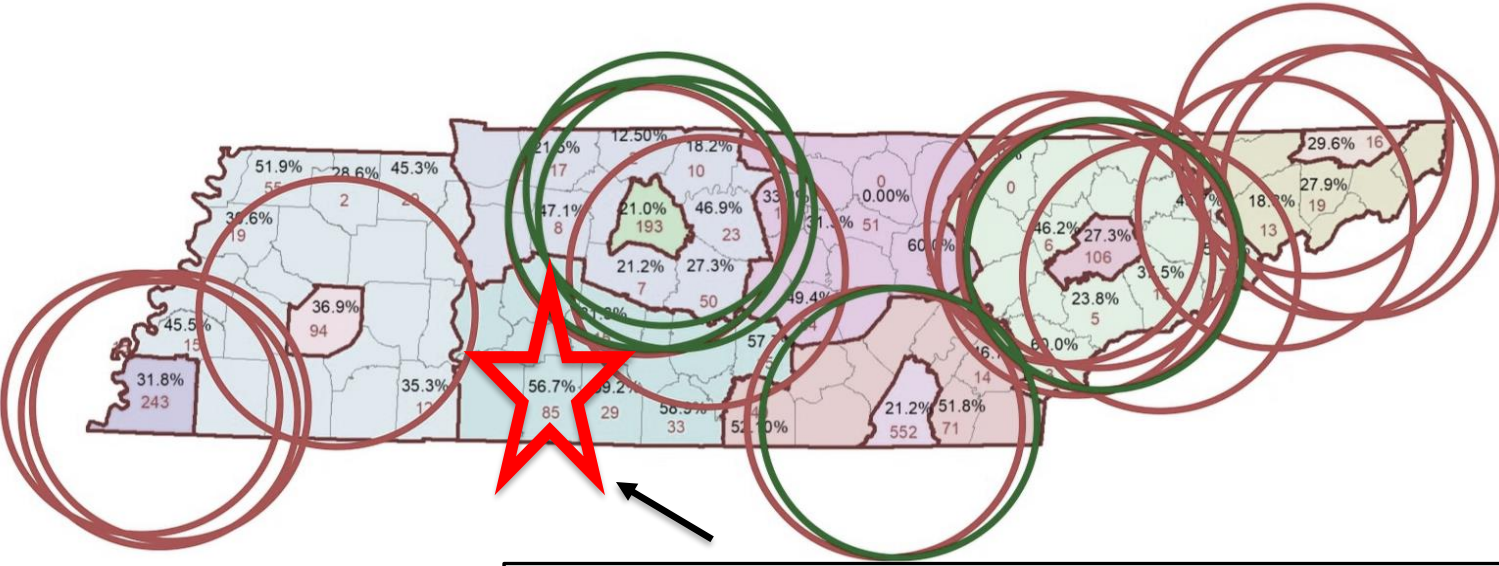
Background and Purpose

Ninety-eight percent of newborns are screened for hearing in the U.S. However, some infants are lost-to-follow-up (LTFU) after a failed screening. In Tennessee, the current LTFU rate is 34%, which might be attributed to a lack of access to services in this rural state.

The purpose of this project was to:

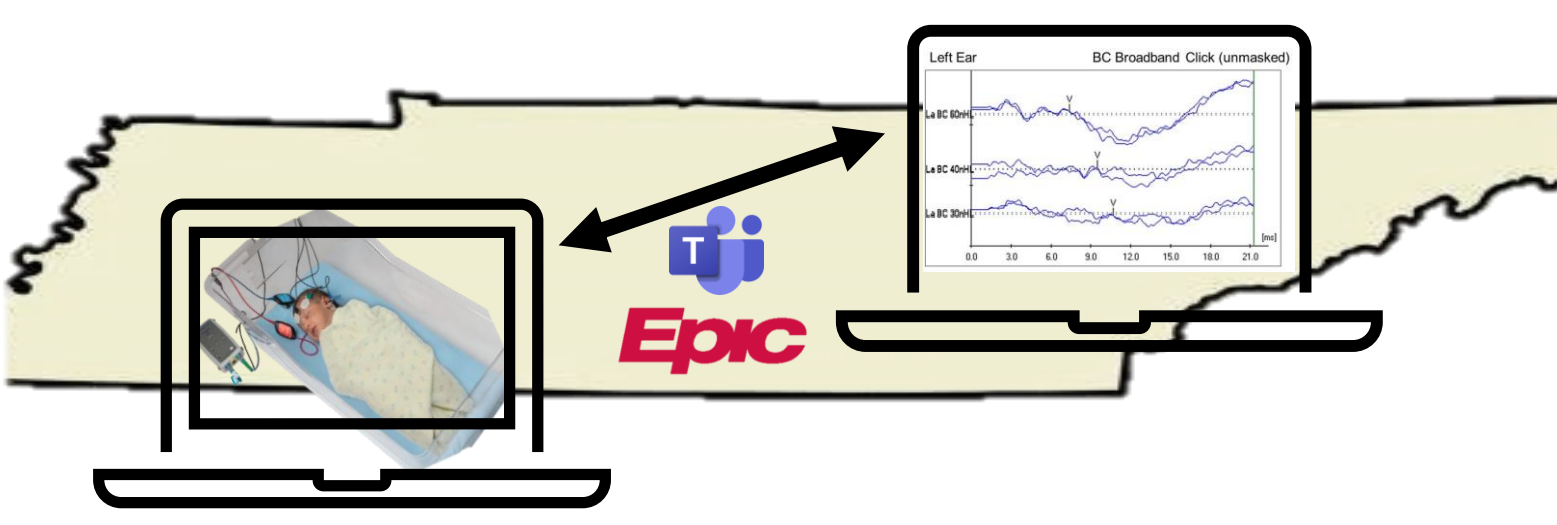
- 1) identify a county in Tennessee that could benefit from teleaudiology by reducing distance between screening hospital and diagnostic services;
- 2) set up a remote spoke-and-hub newborn hearing screening (NBHS) program in a community that does not have audiologic services within a 50-mile radius;
- 3) pilot the remote NBHS program.

Site Selection and Setup



Vanderbilt Center for Women's Health – Lawrence County, TN

RED- 50-mile radius around diagnostic ABR center
GREEN- 50-mile radius around screening ABR center

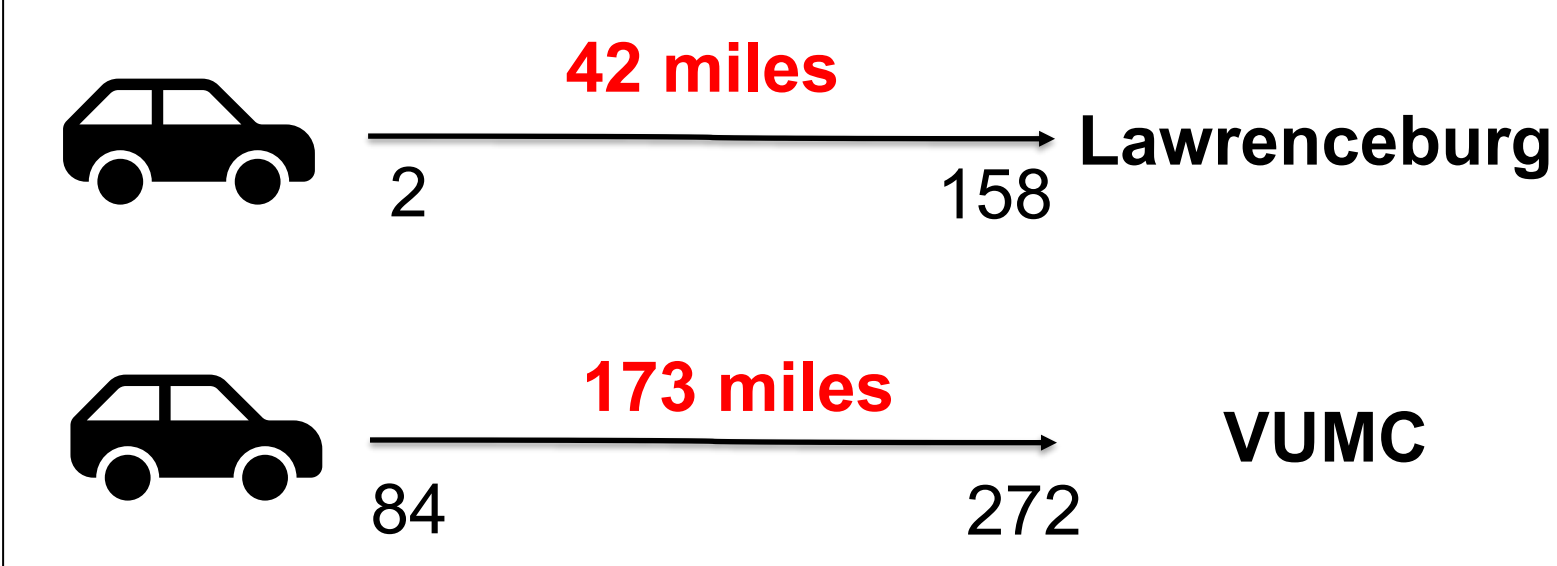


Teleaudiology offers a feasible and valuable method for NBHS follow-up in rural Tennessee.

Results

16 babies evaluated (>20 referred)
8 re-screens
8 initial screens
15 babies passed their screening
1 baby was newly identified with hearing loss via diagnostic ABR

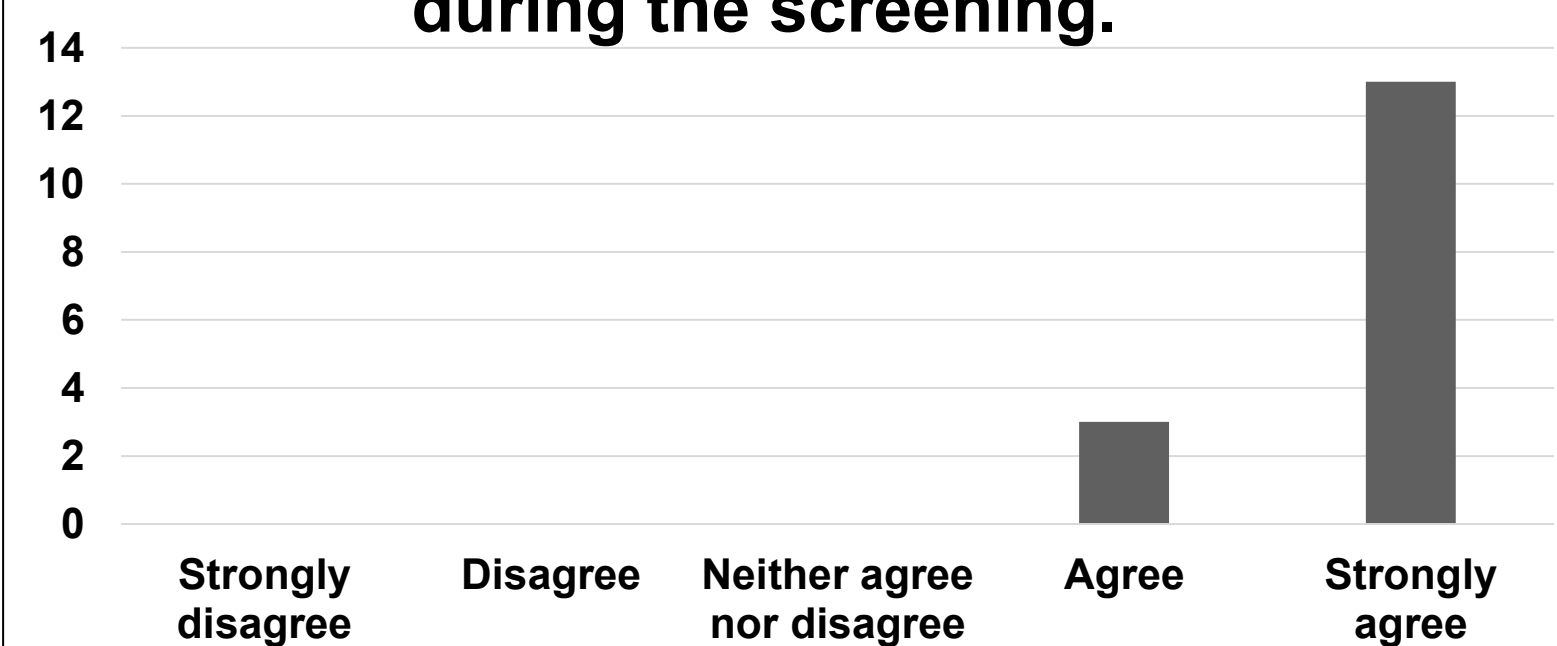
Distance Traveled to Lawrenceburg (Remote Site) vs. Vanderbilt Medical Center (VUMC)



It was my impression that the hearing test my child received remotely was just as good as having it done in person.



I had an overall good experience during the screening.



Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the team at Lawrenceburg, the VUMC Telehealth Department, Dr. Ronnie Alvarez, and the Vanderbilt Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences.



Hearing is an important part of your baby's speech and social development. If your baby did not receive or did not pass a newborn hearing screening in the hospital, we can help!

- As part of a quality assurance project, Vanderbilt Medical Center hearing specialists are now providing hearing testing at no charge for babies 0-6 months old at Women's Health in Lawrenceburg.
- Tests will be performed remotely through a computer connection to Vanderbilt. The testing is simple and painless; most babies sleep through it.
- If the test shows that your baby might have a hearing problem, you will be given a list of hearing specialists near you who can provide further testing and treatment.

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Contact Jennifer Hoffman at Jennifer.a.hoffman@vanderbilt.edu to schedule your appointment or get more information.

