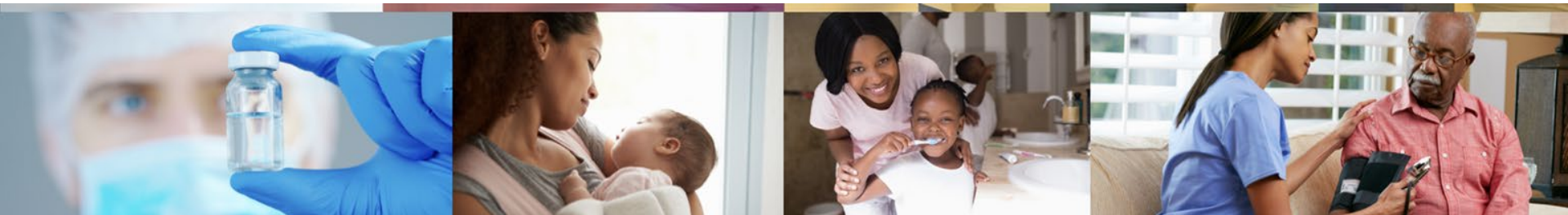
Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Increasing Access to Hearing Screenings: A State and Local Health Department Collaboration

Yasmine Price, MS, CHES®
EHDI Program Manager, Maryland Department of Health

March 17, 2026



Mission and Vision

Mission

The mission of the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Marylanders.

Vision

The Prevention and Health Promotion Administration envisions a future in which all Marylanders have equitable opportunities to live, thrive, and be healthy.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to identify key factors to establish a hearing screening collaboration between the state EHDI Program and local health departments.
- Participants will be able to identify benefits of a hearing screening collaboration between the state EHDI program and local health departments.
- Participants will be able to understand the loaner hearing screening equipment program from the local health department perspective.

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MD EHDI Program

The Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (MD EHDI) Program seeks to achieve optimal language and communication outcomes for all Maryland newborns through universal newborn hearing screening, with identification of hearing status by 3 months of age, and enrollment in early intervention by 6 months of age for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Statute and Regulations

- Maryland Annotated Code, Health–General Article §§13-601 — 13-605
  - Establishes a program for the universal hearing screening of newborns and early identification and follow–up of newborns and infants who have, or who are at risk for developing, a permanent hearing status that affects speech–language skills.
  - Establishes the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Council
  - Requires hospitals to submit results of the hearing screening to the Department of Health

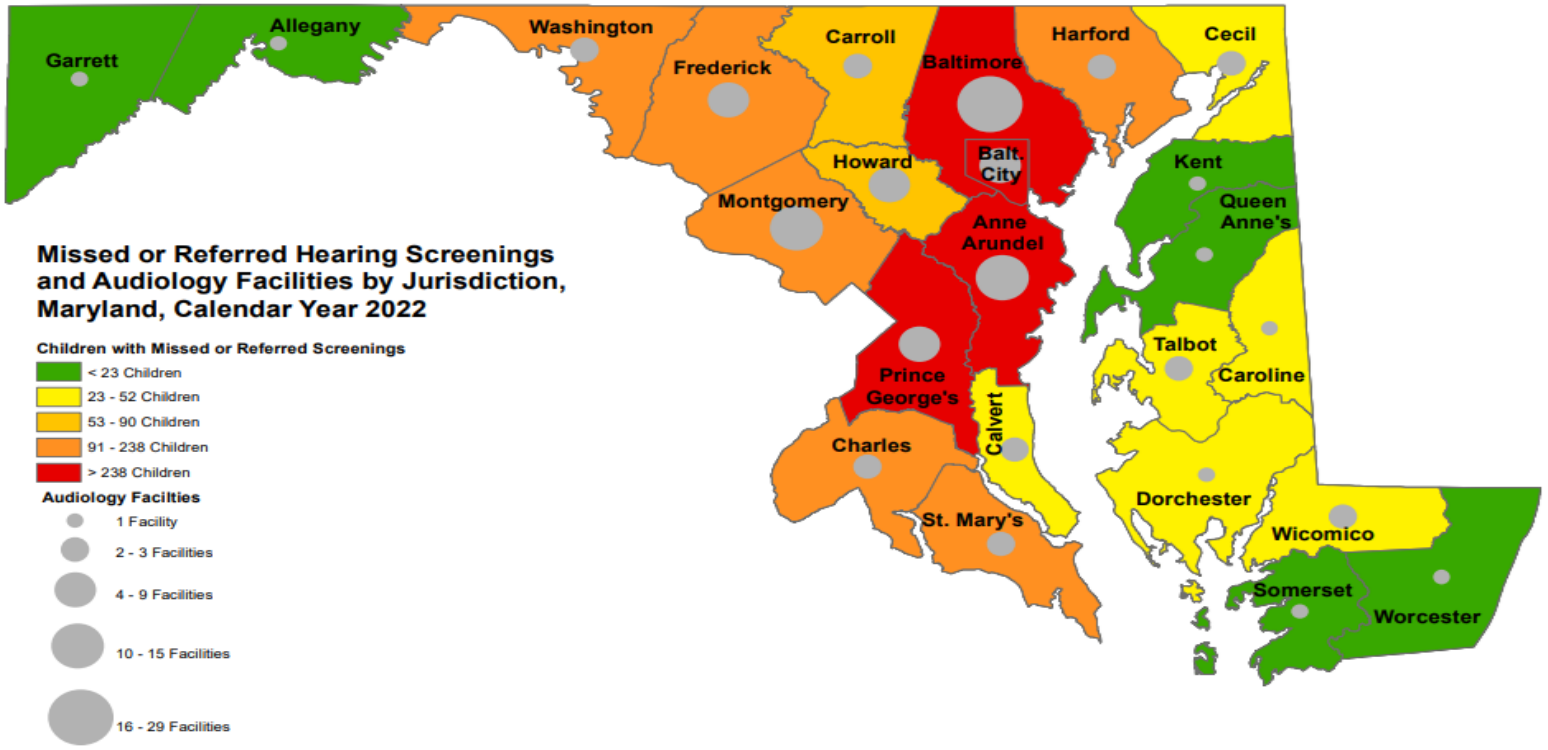
- Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) §§10.11.02.00-.09

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Newborn Hearing Screening

- In Maryland, 80-100 babies are born deaf or hard of hearing each year
- Access to a follow-up hearing screening is essential to ensure babies who are deaf or hard of hearing are identified and referred to early intervention

Challenge Identified



Missed screenings are determined by the number of children who did not receive an initial hearing screening. Referred screenings are determined by the number of children who did not pass the initial hearing screening and are referred for further evaluation to determine if they are deaf or hard of hearing.

Source: Maryland Department of Health Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Prepared by Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) Epidemiology, January 2024

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Collaboration Implementation

Challenge Identified

- Analysis of 2022 data highlighted missed hearing screenings due to the following factors: limited number of outpatient providers, transportation, and insurance
- MD EHDI identified local health departments (LHDs) as critical access points for the communities identified

Goal

- Address barriers to scheduling and completing follow-up hearing screenings
- Recruit 5 LHDs per year for 5 years to include hearing screening into clinical practice

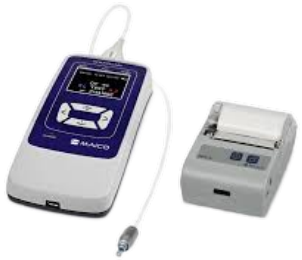
Implementation

- Purchase hearing screening equipment to loan to LHDs
  - Funding: HRSA
- Establish a protocol for updating the EHDI database with relevant screening data
- Establish a protocol for monthly data tracking of scheduled and completed screenings

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Components of the Collaboration

What MD EHDI Provides



- **Purchase and loan of equipment**
  - ERO•SCAN
- **Initial equipment calibration**
  - Annual calibration can be supported with billing reimbursements (families do not get charged)
    - CPT code 92558 - evoked otoacoustic emissions (OAE) screening
  - If available, MD EHDI Program carryover funds
- **Initial training**
  - National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) Newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum (NHSTC) https://www.infanthearing.org/nhstc.
  - $50.00 per person

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

What MD EHDI Provides

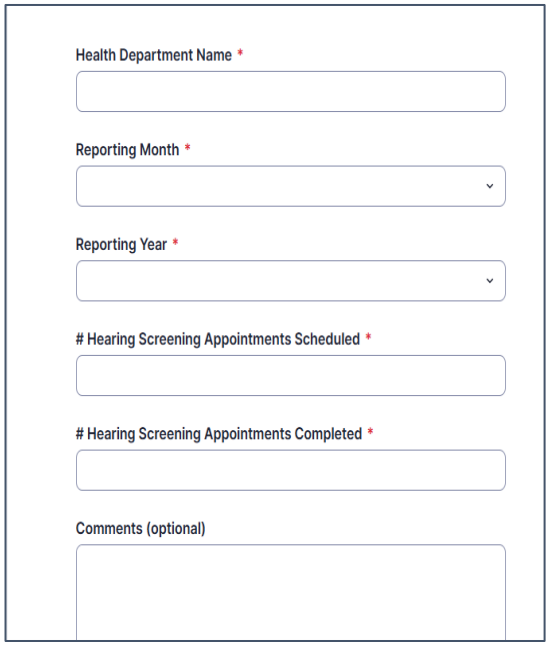
- Guidance on hearing screening steps and suggested workflow
- Scripts for talking to families about results
- Results template for written results
- Access to and training on MD EHDI Database
- List of Audiology Clinics/Diagnostic (Dx) Centers
- FAQs guidance document

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Components of the Collaboration

Reporting

- EHDI Database (OZ)
- Monthly Screening Tracker
- Biannual Collaboration Meeting
  - Successes/Lessons Learned
  - TA



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Collaboration Status

- **7** participating LHDs
- **9** LHDs recruited since implementation
  - recruitments are on going
- **37** scheduled hearing screenings from January 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025
- **29** completed hearing screenings from January 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025
- **23** hearing results reported to MD EHDI database within 48hrs from January 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Contact Information

Yasmine Price, MS, CHES®
EHDI Program Manager
Maryland Department of Health
yasmine.price1@maryland.gov

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Increasing Access to Hearing Screenings: A State and Local Health Department Collaboration

Local Perspective

Tuesday March 17, 2026

Ashley Milcetic, BSN, RN

Director of Maternal, Child, and Elder Health

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Where is St. Mary's County?

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SMC Snapshot

- Population 116, 469 (2024 estimate)
- Demographics
    i. 71.4% White
    ii. 16.1% Black
    iii. 6.3% Hispanic
- 4.5% Foreign Born
- Households living below poverty level: 8.7%
- 16.5% Medicaid Insured
- Food Insecurity Rate: 12.5%

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Why St. Mary's County?

- Rural
- Significant Populations
  - Amish & Mennonite
  - Uninsured/underinsured families
- Transportation and access challenges
- Strong alignment with MCH mission

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Implementation at SMCHD

- Began: April 2025
- Clinic Schedule: 3rd Tuesday of each month
- Referral Sources
  - MDH EHDI Program
  - Hospitals
  - Self-referrals
- Target Population
  - Infants under 6 months who were deemed "refer" at newborn hearing screening at birth
  - Missing/incomplete hospital screenings
  - Amish and Mennonite

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

What It Takes: SOP Snapshot

- Staff Training
  - OAE equipment
  - NCHAM Curriculum
  - OZ database entry
- Clear referral Criteria
- Standardized workflow
  - Scheduling
  - Screening
  - Documentation
- Quiet Clinic Room
- Machine Calibration

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Early Outcomes

April 2025- October- 2026

- ✓8 infants screened
- ✓4 infants referred for additional follow-up
- ✓ 1 Mennonite infant screened
- ✓75% of results entered into OZ database within required time frame

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Family Impact

Reaching Families Where They Are

- Amish/Mennonite families
  - Preferred local, trusted setting
  - Avoided long-distance travel
- Hospital-referred infants
  - Reduced risk of loss to follow up
- Uninsured families
  - Access without financial barriers

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Why this Works

For Families

✓Convenient

✓Trusted

✓ Accessible

For the State

✓Reduce loss to follow up

✓Easy access

✓Addressed a community need

For SMCHD

✓Expanded Prevention Role

✓Community Partnerships

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Lessons Learned

✓Ongoing Communication with MDH partners matters

✓Strong SOPs are essential

✓ Start Small

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Looking Ahead: Future Goals

- Expand Outreach to
  - Additional Families
  - Pediatric Providers
  - Community Partners
- Increase screening volume
  - Additional clinic dates
  - Funding/Staffing
- Billing

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CONNECT WITH US!

Ashley Milcetic
Director of Maternal, Child, and Elder Health
ashley.milcetic@maryland.gov
301-475-6772

EXPLORE MORE AT SMCHD.ORG

SMCHealthDepartment

smchd_gov

St. Mary's County Health Department

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH