

Early Intervention Specialty Programs in the United States for Children with Hearing Loss and Co-Occurring Disabilities

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Background

- Part C of IDEA is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities.
- Part C begins at 0 through 3 years of age with the help of early identification of disorders through newborn screenings.
- Newborn screenings are an essential, preventive public health program for early identification of disorders in newborns that can affect their long term health (National Newborn Screening and Global Resource Center, 2012).
- Newborn hearing screening are helpful to identify children with a hearing loss.



Background

- 2-3 out of 1000 children in the United States are born with a hearing loss (NIDCD, 2016).
- Hearing loss is currently the most common congenital condition in the country (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018).
- An estimated of 40% of children that have a hearing loss also have a co-occurring disability (Gallaudet Research Institute, 2013).
- There is a trend for one diagnosis to lead to a delay in children who have hearing loss and autism spectrum disorder (Beers et al. 2013).



Purpose

- To learn more information about the early intervention programs for children with hearing loss with and without co-occurring disabilities.
- How does each state in the United States implement early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss with and without co-occurring disabilities and the challenges they face?



Methods:

- Survey created with UCEDD Staff and the Executive Director of the IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ICTA)
- Survey Monkey sent to all Part C coordinators in the United States
- Survey contained 9 questions
 - Completed in under 10 minutes
 - Yes/No format for most questions
 - Participants were not required to answer all questions if they chose not to

Survey Questions:

Q1: Name of your state

Q2: What is your state's eligibility criteria for hearing loss?

Q3: What is the number of decibel loss required for eligibility?

Q4: Does your state implement a specialized early intervention program specifically for infants and toddlers with hearing loss?

Q5: If no, are infants and toddlers with hearing loss enrolled in the state's Part C system?

Q6: Does your state implement a specialized early intervention program specifically for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and co-occurring disabilities?

Q7: If you have a specialized early intervention program for hearing loss, is there a formal enrollment process for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and co-occurring disabilities?

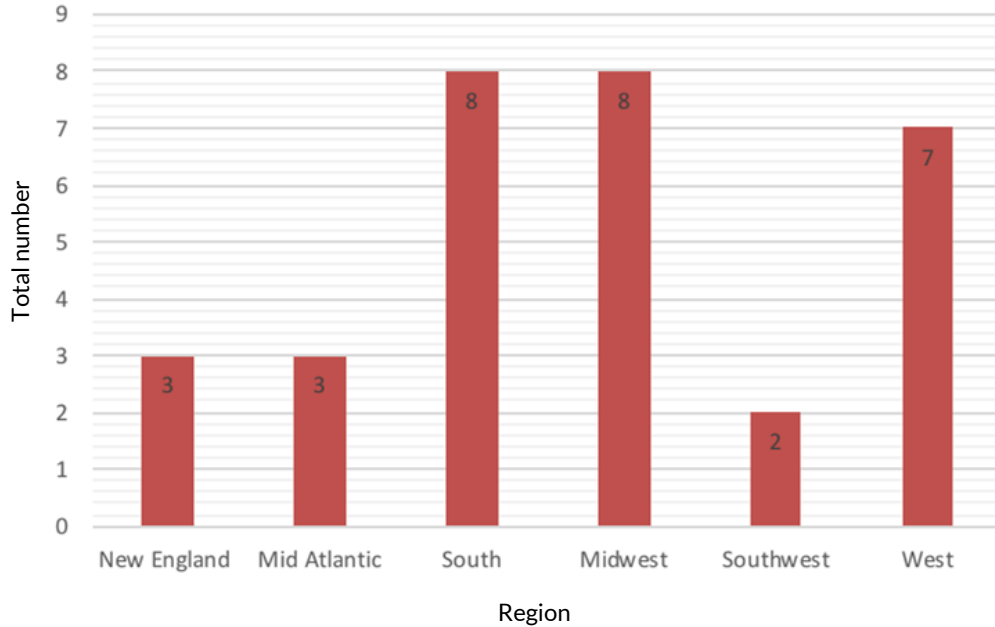
Q8: If yes, please describe:_____

Q9: What are the current challenges your state faces when providing services to children who have hearing loss with and without co-occurring disabilities?

Results

Q1:

Region by State



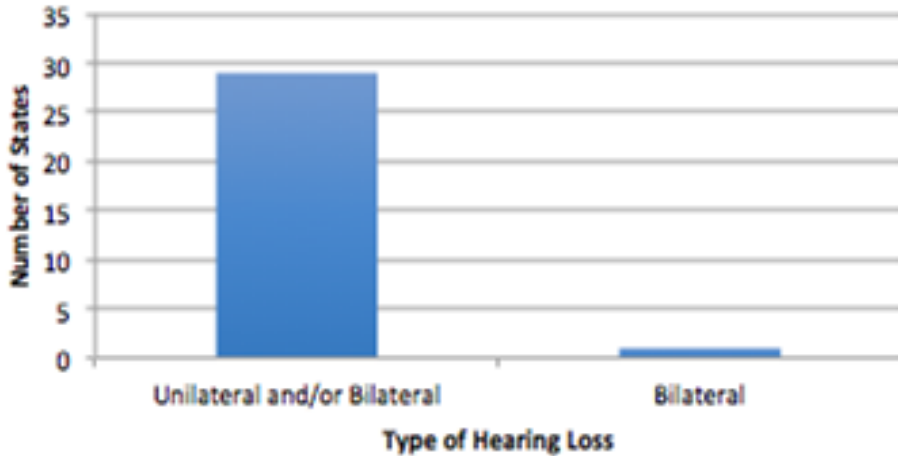
N= 31

Survey Response Rate: 60%

Q1 Response Rate: 100%

Q2 & Q3:

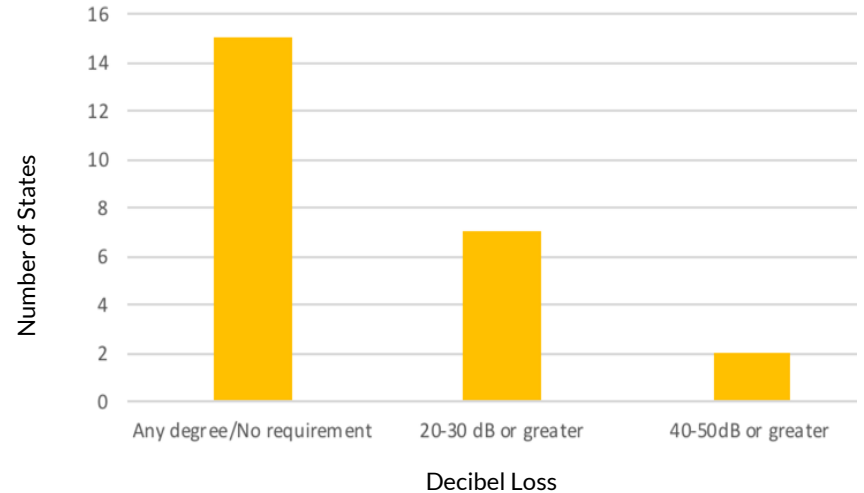
Eligibility Criteria for Hearing Loss



N=30
Response Rate: 97%

Loss

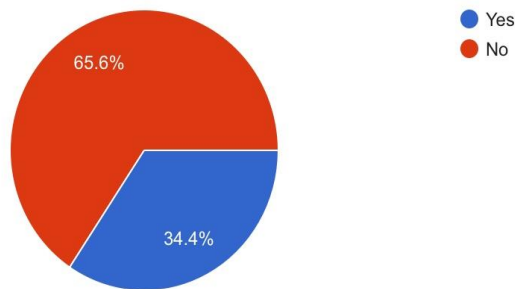
Decibel Loss Requirement for Eligibility



N= 26
Response Rate: 84%

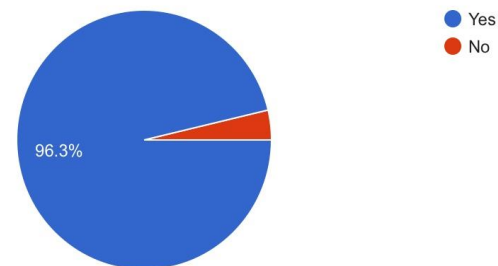
Q4 & Q5:

Does your state implement a specialized early intervention program specifically for infants and toddlers with hearing loss?



N= 31
Response Rate: 100%

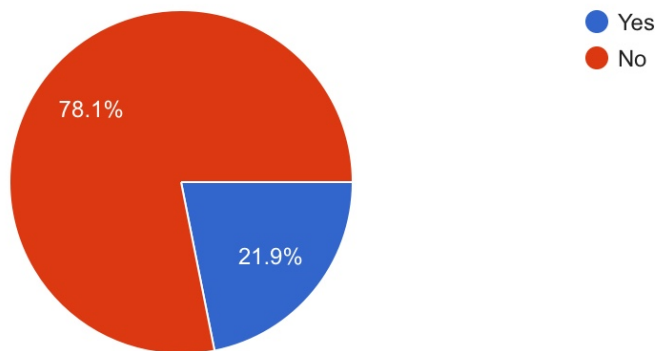
If you do not have a specialized program, are infants and toddlers with hearing loss enrolled in the state's Part C system?



N=26
Response Rate: 84%

Q6:

Does your state implement a specialized early intervention program specifically for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and co-occurring disabilities?

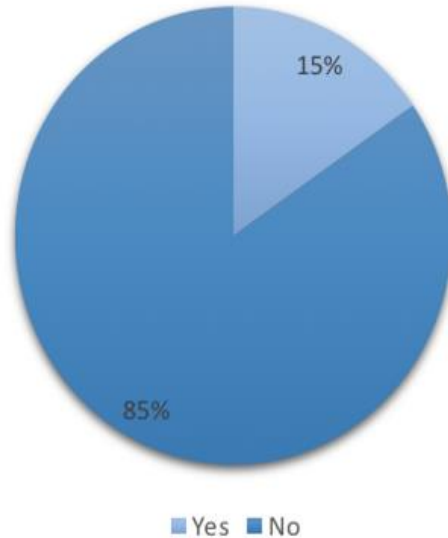


N=31

Response Rate: 100%

Q7 & Q8:

If you have a specialized early intervention program for hearing loss, is there a formal enrollment process for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and co-occurring disabilities?



N=26

Response Rate: 84%

Four states specified:

“Referral packet for Dual-sensory services”

“Two specialized service coordinators”

“No "specialized program" but do have Designated Service Coordinators with extra training

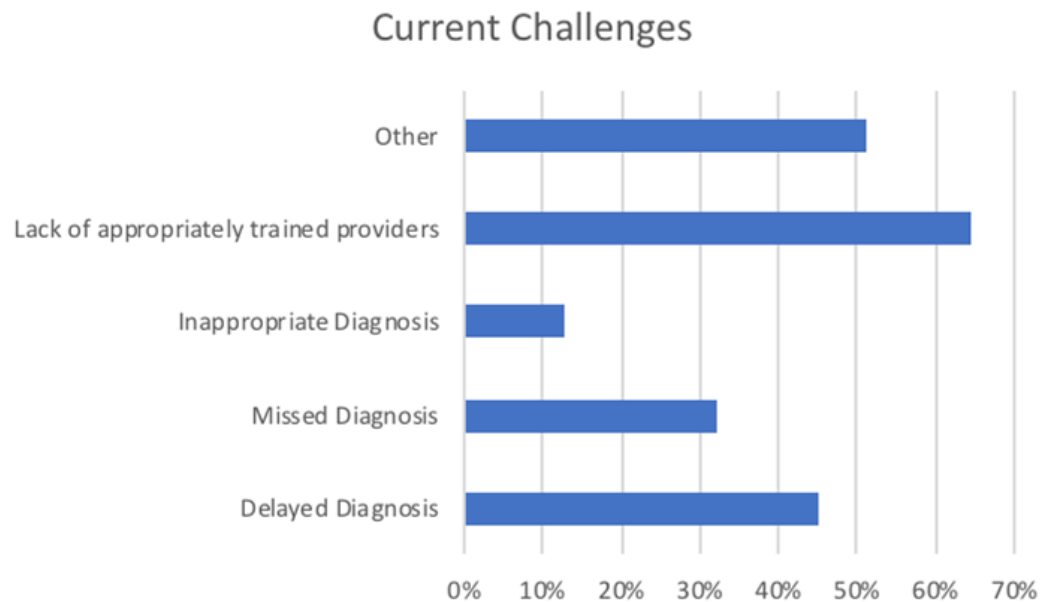
“Children are eligible for Deaf and Blind School and will receive a Teacher of the Deaf”

N=4

Response Rate: 13%

Q9:

What are current challenges your state faces when providing services to infants and toddlers who have a hearing loss with and without co-occurring disabilities?



N= 31

Response Rate: 100%

Discussion:

- The need to train early intervention providers in general programs about children with hearing loss with and without co-occurring disabilities.
- Lack of training = lack of confidence/competence = lack of appropriate service
- States without hearing speciality programs need training in all areas including hearing loss to ensure interdisciplinary care and family centered practices.
- Difficulty finding information online about these services.



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Questions?