

Annual Report Newborn Screening 2007

Executive Summary

In 2007 there were 85,867 infants born in Washington (an additional 3,077 born at military facilities in our state; military hospitals do not participate in this program). The Department of Health's Newborn Screening Program tested these infants for ten preventable, but potentially deadly or disabling disorders that the Washington State Board of Health has specified in chapter 246-650 Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Among these infants, 70 were affected with a severe form of one of the disorders and were quickly enrolled in appropriate preventive care systems before they suffered irreversible damage from their conditions. In addition, 39 infants were identified with a mild form of one of the disorders that required treatment or close monitoring, and 1,403 infants were identified with abnormalities of hemoglobin that, while not directly harmful, can have important implications for future reproduction choices for the infants and their parents. In these cases the infants' health care providers were notified of the findings, their implications, and were provided a list of resources to help families understand how the findings might impact them.

The department's cost to operate the program, including follow-up, education, and evaluation as well as the laboratory testing, is covered through a fee charged for each infant through the hospital of birth. In 2007 this charge was \$60.90 for each child. This modest investment is typically covered by insurance and other third party payers. In return, the state's health care system realizes significant savings by avoiding the costs of lifetime treatment for disabling conditions.

The full report is available on the Newborn Screening Web site: www.doh.wa.gov/NBS
Click on NBS Annual Report in the site directory box on the left of the screen.