



Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act (P.L. 110-204)

- Newborn screening is a public health activity used for early identification of infants affected by certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and or functional conditions.
- Screening detects disorders in newborns that, if left untreated, can cause death, disability, mental retardation and other serious illnesses.
- The March of Dimes, American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Medical Genetics recommends that, at a minimum, every baby born in the US be screened for 29 treatable conditions, regardless of the state in which he/she is born.
- While nearly all babies born in the United States undergo newborn screening for genetic birth defects, the number and quality of these tests vary from state to state.
- An estimated 1,000 of the 5,000 babies born every year in the United States with one of the 29 core conditions potentially go unscreened through newborn screening. If diagnosed early these conditions can be successfully managed.

March of Dimes Newborn Screening Activities



The March of Dimes supports comprehensive newborn screening for all babies in this country, regardless of their place of birth. We urge states to screen every baby for at least 29 conditions. For each of these conditions, screening has a documented benefit to the child, and a reliable test that enables early detection is available.

The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act (P.L. 110-204):

- Authorizes funding for grants to help states expand and improve their newborn screening programs, educate parents and health care providers about newborn screening, and improve follow-up care for infants with an illness detected through newborn screening.
- Reauthorizes and expand the role of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders and Genetic Diseases in Newborns and Children to continuously revise and update the panel of recommended tests.
- Requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure the quality of laboratories involved in newborn screening and develop a national contingency plan for newborn screening in the event of a public health emergency.

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