

Hearing Aid Loaner Bank – PRELIMINARY RESULTS –

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In collaboration with the Oregon EHDI program

Introduction

- Our goals:
 1. To assess if HALB would help increase the number of children receiving intervention, and decrease the delay between identification and intervention.
 - *Parent Survey*
 - *Audiologist Survey*
 2. Develop HALB model by comparing other state's and manufacturer's programs.
 - *NCHAM state loaner bank comparisons*
 - *Manufacturer program comparisons*

Introduction

- Bridging the gap between Early Identification and Early Intervention
 - In OR, 20% loss to follow-up with Early Intervention enrollment once diagnosed. [Oregon HiTrack EHDI data 2007-2009].
 - 30% loss to follow-up with E.I. nationwide [2005/2006 CDC Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey].
 - 38% of identified infants are not enrolled in E.I. services by 6 months. [2005/2006 CDC Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey].
- 2006 Children's Audiology Financing Workgroup
 - Developed recommendations for public and private funding of hearing aids for children 0-3 years.
 - Recommendations included establishing hearing aid loaner bank in every state.

Part 1a: Parent Survey [Sharon Coryell, EHDI Intern]

- 44 parents responded to survey via email
- Two hearing aid related questions
 1. How old was your child when he/she was first fitted with hearing aids?
 2. Have there been any problems with your health insurance not paying for services or equipment that your child needed? (For example audiology services, hearing aids, ear molds, cochlear implants, speech pathology, etc.)

Parent Survey: Question 1

- How old was your child when he/she was first fitted with hearing aids?

Results:

- 26% 3 months old or younger
- 33% Between 4-6 months old
- 14% Older than 6 months
- 23% N/A: Hearing aids were not recommended for my child
- 5% N/A: I chose not to have my child fitted with hearing aids.

Of the children for whom amplification was recommended, 25% were not fit within the targeted time

Parent Survey: Question 2

- Have there been many problems with your health insurance not paying for services or equipment that your child needed?

Results:

- 24% Yes
- 76% No

Parent Comments:

- “Ear molds + hearing aids have been ***difficult to order*** at times of need but issues were resolved. ***It took long periods of time...***”
- “They ***wouldn't cover the cost*** of hearing aids but through the hearing and speech center we went to they ***were able to give us loaner hearing aids*** to see if they benefited her. Which was great because then all we had to pay for was the hearing aid molds.”

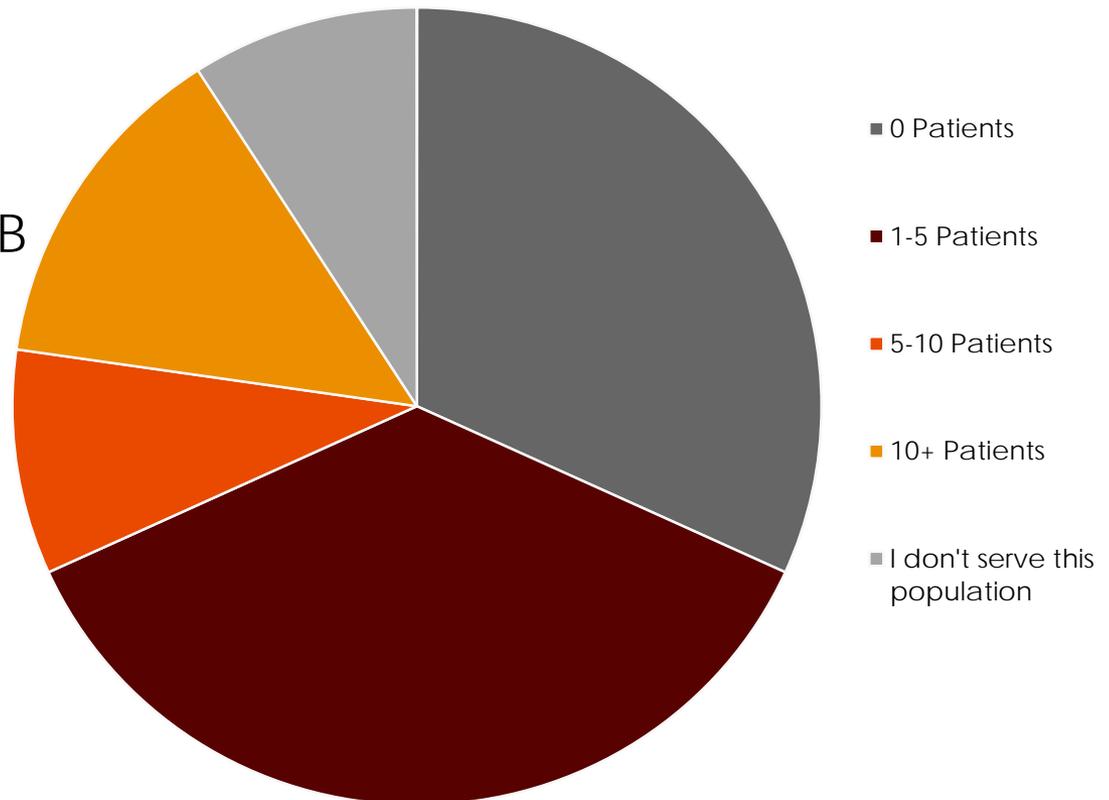
Part 1b: EHDI Audiologist Survey

- A survey of Oregon audiologists was conducted in the Fall of 2013 with the help of Oregon's EHDI program.
- Surveys were sent out to all audiology facilities and 22 audiologists responded.
- The survey queried the following three questions.
 1. Over the past two years, how many of your patients, ages birth to 3 years, could have utilized a hearing aid loaner bank service?
 2. Does your facility already have or utilize a hearing aid loaner program?
 3. In the future, if EHDI provided a hearing aid loaner bank program, would you utilize it?

EHDI Audiologist Survey: Question 1

Over the past two years, how many of your patients, ages birth to 3 years, could have utilized a hearing aid loaner bank service?

- 59% Would use HALB
- 41% Would not use HALB



EHDI Audiologist Survey: Question 2

Does your facility already have or utilize a hearing aid loaner program?

- Of the 22 audiologists who responded 73% (16) indicated that they regularly use loaner hearing aids for the population that they serve.
- Of those 16 respondents that provided HALB services...
 - 44% offered HA's from an in-clinic supply
 - 19% Utilized HA's from the Oticon Program
 - 12% Utilized Both
 - 25% Did not specify

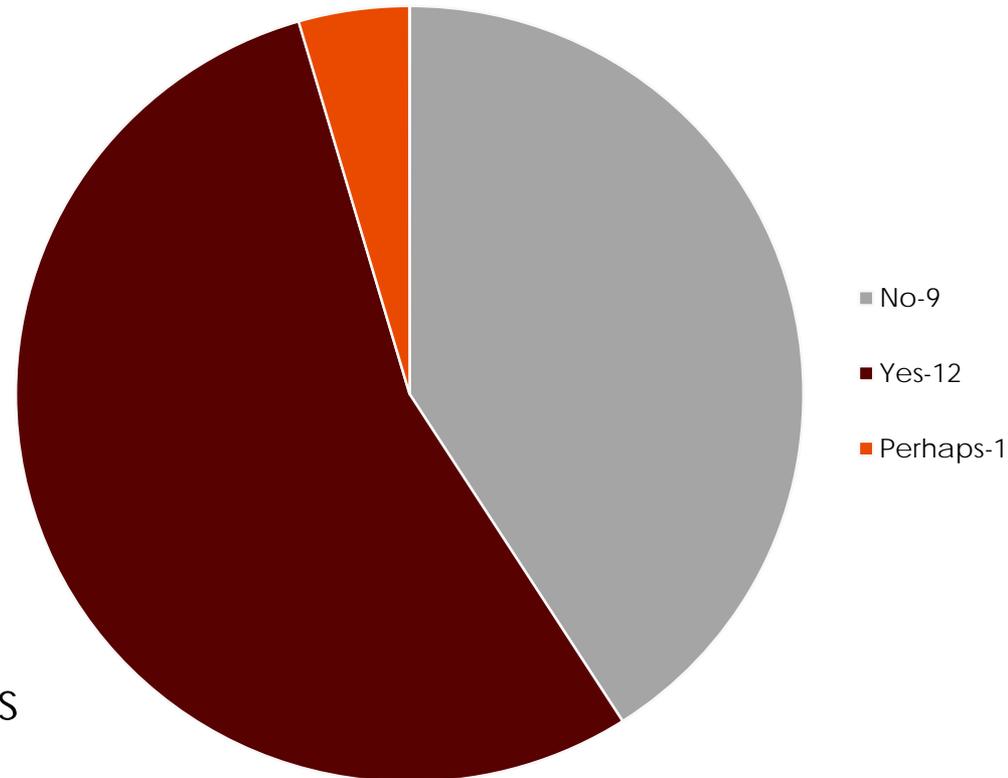
EHDI Audiologist Survey: Question 3

In the future, if EHDI provided a hearing aid loaner bank program, would you utilize it?

Yes

No

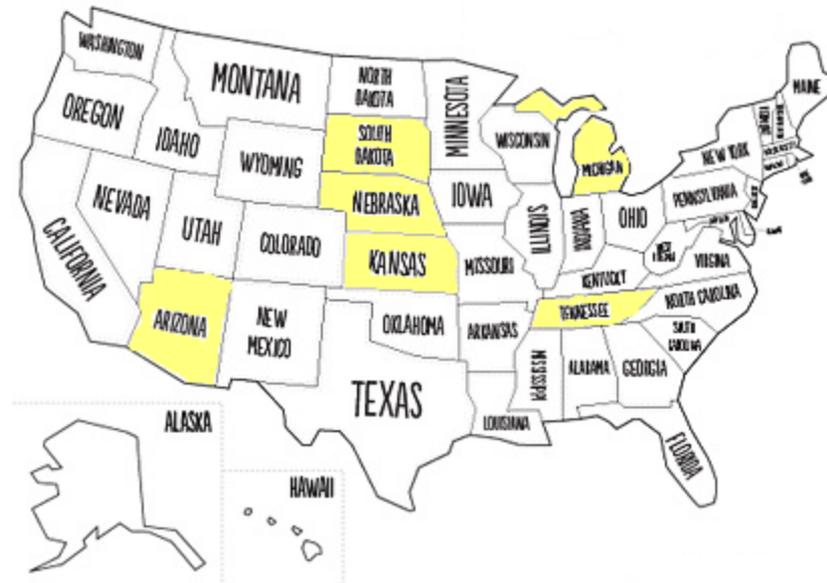
- 55% of the audiologists surveyed indicated that they would utilize a hearing aid loaner bank program through EHDI.
- Many comments indicated that they would be especially interested if it was fast and easy to use.



Part 2a: State Loaner Bank Info

Currently we have HALB responses from 7 states:

- Arizona
- Idaho
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Nebraska
- South Dakota
- Tennessee



State Loaner Bank Info

Trends:

- HALB's are operated by Audiologists, volunteers and grad students
- Funding is via **donations**, fundraisers, legislative action, non-profits
- Annual costs of HALB's varied ranging from negligible to > \$50k
- Eligibility criteria ranges from ages 0-21yrs, with an emphasis on ages 0-3 yrs and families in need
- Devices: 43% (3) only have HA's, 57% (4) included BAHA's, 14% (1) offer CI processors
- HA availability and/or circulation ranged from 30-150 aids, with a majority in the 100 range
- Duration of circulation aimed at a lenient and flexible 6+ months

Part 2b: Manufacturer Loaner Data

Oticon

- Started **8 years ago**
- Oticon's **Pediatric Program** is responsible for running it
- Children **under 3 years** of age with an immediate need for hearing aids while arrangements for permanent amplification through 3rd party reimbursement is secured
- **No limit** on number of hearing aids available
- Hearing aids remain in **circulation for 3 months** (maximum loan period)

Manufacturer Loaner Data

Starkey

- Hear Now provides hearing aids to very **low income** individuals who have no other resources to acquire hearing aids
- A **financially based program** that looks at the income and assets for everyone living in the household
- There is a non-refundable processing fee of **\$125 per hearing aid** that is to be submitted with the application
- The hearing aids provided are **Behind the Ear** models and the aids provided are new

Summary

1. To assess if HALB would help increase the number of children receiving intervention, and decrease the delay between identification and intervention.
 - a) Part 1a: 24% of parents expressed that they **had difficulty receiving hearing aids** for their child in a timely manner.
 - b) Part 1b: More than half (55%) of audiologists in Oregon who completed the survey would use a program run by EHDI if it was **quick and easy to use**.

2. Develop HALB model by comparing other state's and manufacturer's programs.
 - a) Part 2a: Majority of loaner banks are not run through state programs and **were funded by donations**.
 - b) Part 2b: Of the manufacturers that have programs, audiologists surveyed indicated satisfaction with Oticon's due to its efficiency.

Acknowledgements

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