

# REPORT CARD ON EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION

Canada's Grade: **INSUFFICIENT**



Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force

Groupe de travail canadien sur l'audition des nourrissons



SAC

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada

www.sac-oac.ca

CAA Canadian Academy of Audiology  
Heard. Understood.



www.canadianaudiology.ca

This report card has been developed by Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) and the Canadian Academy of Audiology (CAA), which collectively form the Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force (CIHTF).

PROVINCE/TERRITORY (RANKED IN ORDER OF PROGRAM GRADE)	GRADE	DESCRIPTORS FOR REPORT CARD
1. British Columbia	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>97%+ babies screened</li> <li>province-wide</li> <li>carefully designed program with clear standards, follow-up, tracking of births and outcomes</li> </ul>
2. Ontario	<b>GOOD</b> (coverage needs improvement but excellent program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90%+ babies screened</li> <li>province-wide</li> <li>carefully designed program with clear standards, follow-up, tracking of births and outcomes</li> </ul>
3. Nova Scotia	<b>GOOD</b> (excellent coverage but some program limitations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95%+ babies screened</li> <li>province-wide</li> <li>program with clear standards and follow-up and tracking of births and outcomes</li> <li>some limitations in reporting</li> </ul>
4. Prince Edward Island	<b>GOOD</b> (excellent coverage but significant program shortfalls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95%+ babies screened</li> <li>screening only by request outside of main hospital</li> <li>program with standards and follow-up</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>
5. New Brunswick	<b>GOOD</b> (excellent coverage but significant program shortfalls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95%+ babies screened</li> <li>province-wide</li> <li>program with standards and follow-up</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>
6. Newfoundland and Labrador	<b>INSUFFICIENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90%+ babies screened</li> <li>not province-wide</li> <li>program with clear standards but variable across province</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>
7. Yukon	<b>INSUFFICIENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90%+ babies screened at main hospital</li> <li>not territory-wide</li> <li>program with clear standards but informal follow-up</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>

PROVINCE/TERRITORY (RANKED IN ORDER OF PROGRAM GRADE)	GRADE	DESCRIPTORS FOR REPORT CARD
8. Alberta	INSUFFICIENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>majority of babies remain unscreened</li> <li>not province-wide</li> <li>tracking of births and outcomes vary</li> <li>government announced intention of province wide program in March 2013 with no further action since that time</li> </ul>
9. Quebec	INSUFFICIENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20-25% babies screened</li> <li>not province-wide</li> <li>program standards not in place</li> <li>delayed program implementation (government announced intention in 2009)</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>
10. Manitoba	INSUFFICIENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10-15% babies screened</li> <li>not province-wide</li> <li>legislation recently introduced to develop program</li> <li>program standards not in place</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>
11. Nunavut	INSUFFICIENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unknown coverage</li> <li>not territory-wide</li> <li>program standards not in place</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>
12. Saskatchewan	INSUFFICIENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unknown coverage</li> <li>not province-wide</li> <li>program standards not in place</li> <li>program does not fully track births or outcomes</li> </ul>
13. Northwest Territories	UNDER REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under review</li> </ul>

Grades were assigned on the basis of program quality and coverage at the provincial/territorial level, and not on the basis of smaller regional or hospital-based screening and intervention programs, which have varying standards, program characteristics and coverage rates.

An excellent provincial or territorial program must include standardized procedures to detect hearing loss and ensure timely intervention, with thorough monitoring of births, screening, diagnoses, and intervention outcomes. Coverage was graded on the basis of the estimated percentage of babies screened, with a grade of 'Excellent' requiring at least 95%, and a grade of 'Good' requiring at least 90%.

Only five provinces in Canada have programs that can be considered excellent or good (British Columbia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI). The remaining provinces and territories have only localized programs with poor or unknown coverage and were graded as insufficient.

All children in Canada deserve access to proper hearing screening and timely intervention to reach their full potential. It's time for action from Canada's federal and provincial/territorial governments to commit to excellence in early hearing detection and intervention.

This report card has been endorsed by:

The Elks & Royal Purple of Canada



Canadian Paediatric Society



VOICE For Hearing Impaired Children

