



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Genomics & Newborn Screening Newsletter

September 2022

Spotlight



Family story

Newborn screening and birth defects surveillance are critical public health programs. Newborn screening ensures all infants are screened for more than 50 conditions. This includes inherited conditions, critical congenital heart defects and congenital hearing loss. Surveillance of birth defects allows for continuous monitoring of birth defects across the state as well as prevention efforts.

Madison was diagnosed shortly after birth with two birth defects - pulmonary stenosis and atrial septal defect. These were identified after critical congenital heart disease screening through pulse oximetry indicated low oxygen saturation levels and an echocardiogram was performed for confirmation. Additionally, through genetic testing after birth, Madison was diagnosed with two rare genetic variants. **We highlight their story to raise awareness, and we thank Jennifer and Madison for sharing it.**

[CLICK THIS LINK TO READ THE ENTIRE STORY](#)

Updates

Indiana Folic Acid Awareness Campaign

The Indiana Folic Acid Awareness Campaign (INFAAC) launch is only a few weeks away and the [Indiana Birth Defects and Problems Registry \(IBDPR\)](#) team is excited to get this important message out to the public. The primary campaign goal is to increase Hoosiers' folic acid intake to prevent neural tube defects in pregnancy. Be on the lookout for social media posts, educational resources, and community events.



Folic acid in foods helps prevent approximately

1,300

neural tube defects annually in the U.S.

Statistic from CDC

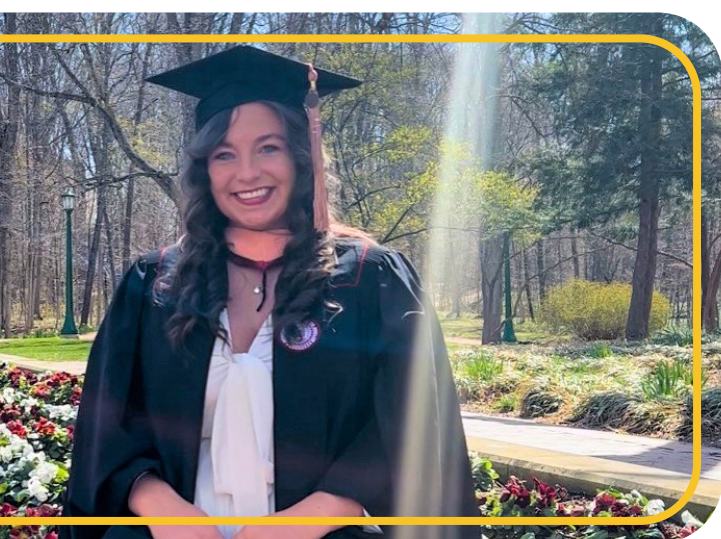
Hospital visits

The Newborn Screening Program manager and the Genomics and Newborn Screening director are conducting hospital visits across the state. During these visits, we will review the quality indicator information reported to your facility monthly and offer guidance and tips to improve the quality of heel stick specimens. Additionally, we ask to see the newborn screening log and tour the facility to understand the newborn screening processes in place. Resources and training opportunities will be provided to staff during these visits. We are excited to visit hospitals across the state! If you would like specific information or guidance during your visit, [please reach out to us](#), and we will be happy to ensure that the information or resource is provided during the visit.



Meet Meegan Voss!

Meegan Voss has recently taken on the role of the Newborn Screening coordinator. In addition to this role, she has helped create educational documents for facility use regarding newborn screening and reporting, which includes a [Monthly Summary Report Guide](#). This guide addresses common reporting issues and emphasizes additional resources facilities can access. Voss received both her bachelor's and master's in Public Health through Indiana University while working for non-profits in women's health, mental health, and substance use prevention. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking with her fiancé, and spending relaxing days with her dogs.



Health awareness

Folic Acid Awareness Week includes tips, webinar

Throughout the week of Sept. 11-17, the IBDPR team will be posting tips to improve your folic acid intake and prevention methods to reduce neural tube defects on our IDOH social media pages (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). Also, the CDC is hosting a webinar for healthcare providers titled "Folic Acid: The Best Tool to Prevent Neural Tube Defects" from 3-4 p.m. EST Wednesday, Sept. 14.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Newborn Screening Awareness Month

September 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of universal newborn screening across the United States. Indiana began screening newborns for a metabolic condition called phenylketonuria (PKU) in 1965. Indiana later expanded to screen for a wide range of metabolic conditions, as well different types of conditions like critical congenital heart disease and congenital hearing loss. Today, Indiana screens every newborn for **over 50 rare genetic conditions**. We encourage everyone to celebrate with us as we reflect on the lives that newborn screening has touched. Visit [Baby's First Test](#) for more information!

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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