

Celebrating
50
years of

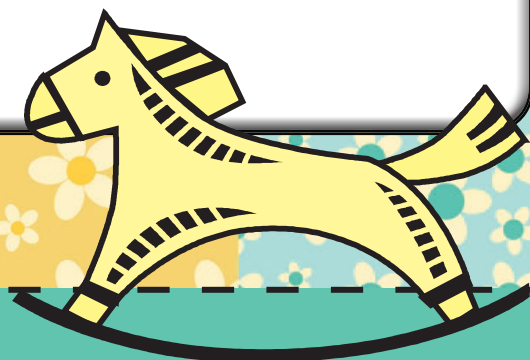
Newborn Screening in Missouri

Fact #1: Newborn screening touches nearly every baby born in the United States

Almost everyone born in Missouri since 1965 has probably had a newborn screen. The few drops of blood collected on a bloodspot specimen card was sent to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory for testing. Trained scientists tested the blood for potentially devastating heritable and congenital conditions that are treatable, but difficult or impossible to detect without deliberate testing.

In 2013, there were 75,390 babies born in Missouri and 224 babies were confirmed positive for one of the disorders for which Missouri screens. This equates to approximately 11 classrooms of children each year.

Without the early interventions enabled by newborn screening, many of these babies would suffer lifelong disabilities or early death. In addition, their families would be forced to undergo costly diagnostic odysseys to figure out why their babies are failing to thrive or why they died so young.



Parent stories...

“Our son’s diagnosis of a rare metabolic condition called very long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (VLCAD) at four days old was in a sense a blessing. However, it came as a shock with no family history of any health concerns and a baby that appeared perfectly healthy. While no parent wants to hear that their child has a life threatening disorder, by finding it as early as we did via his newborn screening, we were able to save his life. The early diagnosis allowed us to educate ourselves and care for our son in a way that not only saved his life, but has kept him a perfectly healthy, happy child.

I strongly urge all parents to take the opportunity to potentially save your child’s life by taking part in newborn screenings.”

A grateful mother in Missouri

