

# Creating Follow-up Strategies Tailored to the Community Served

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# Conflict of Interest

Annette Callies-No conflicts of interest

Rose M. Dockery-No conflicts of interest



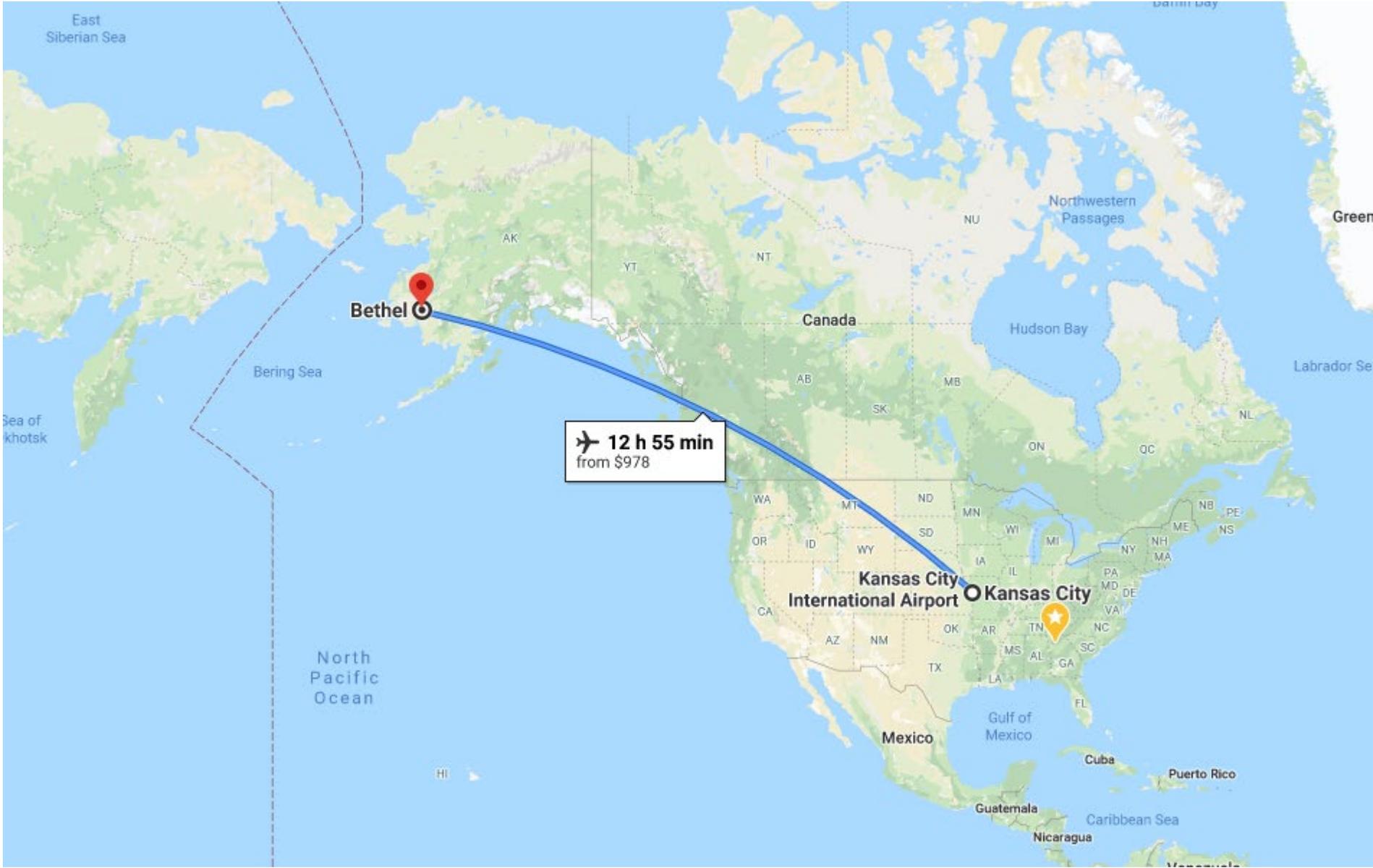
# Creating Newborn Hearing Follow-up Strategies Tailored to the Community Served

Goals: Reduce loss to follow-up

Reduce number of days to follow-up

Plan: Create a personalized follow-up strategy based on the region's challenging situation

Assess-Did our strategy help us attain our goal?



**Gas-\$4.99/gallon**

**Gallon of milk-\$8.99**

**Gallon of water-\$4.99**

**Canned vegetable-\$4.99**

**Gallon of Clorox-\$23.99**

**Velveeta-18.99**

**Ocean Spray Juice-\$11.89**

**Dozen of Eggs-\$6.99**

**Pineapple-\$12.99**

**3 lb. bag of Halos-\$11.99**

**Apples-\$4.99/lb**



# Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Population: ~23,000      ~7,000 (Bethel)

American Indian & **Alaska** Native  
Alone residents **(60.7%)**

White Alone residents **(23%)**

Two or More Races residents  
**(7.74%)**

Hispanic or Latino residents  
**(4.57%)**

Asian Alone residents **(2.2%)**

Black or African American Alone  
residents **(1.81%)**



# Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital



The YKHC is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Primary facility in Bethel and five sub-regional clinics.

## **Bethel YKHC:**

15 bed inpatient

E.R.

Primary care

Specialty services

Pediatric care

Behavioral health counseling and treatment services,

Dental

Optometry

Audiology

Home care services

# Audiology Services

2 ENT Exam Rooms

- Audiometry
- Cerumen management
- Tympanometry and Reflexes
- Screening and Natural Sleep ABR and OAEs
- Hearing aid fitting and repair

2 audiologists, 1 scheduler, 1 audiology tech

2 Booths

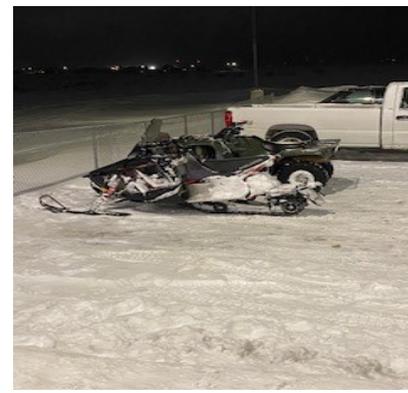


## Primary Challenges-Transportation & Weather



85% of Alaskan communities are not connected to the highway system. Traveling to the audiology clinic often means taking a snow machine, boarding on a plane, then taking a car to the clinic.

# Modes of Transportation



Reasons why planes don't fly:

Wind

Dusty Wind

White out

Icy Fog

Low Ceiling

YKHC and Alaska Native Medical Center are birth hospitals that have tested having children who reside in remote locations. The aim is for each newborn to receive an outpatient screening at the audiology clinic and if necessary diagnostic exam before they return home.

**Each facility created a different protocol to implement this immediate follow up process.**



Yukon-Kuskokwim  
HEALTH CORPORATION

# **YKHC Newborn Hearing Screening Protocol Following Referred Hearing Screening at Birth**

# 2019 YKHC Births

2019	Total Births
January	26
February	30
March	37
April	29
May	38
June	34
July	37
August	33
September	41
October	32
November	34
December	30
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>401</b>

# YKHC Pre-Maternal and Birth

Expectant mothers must travel to Bethel, one month prior to their due date, to await arrival of their baby.

Baby is born

48 hours-inpatient

Baby & family  
returns  
to village

# Previous Protocol

Refer at birth

Audiology Queue

Audiology Appointment is scheduled

Medicaid Clearance to travel

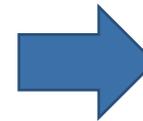
Travel Itinerary Created

Audiology  
Appointment in  
Bethel

Pass>Great

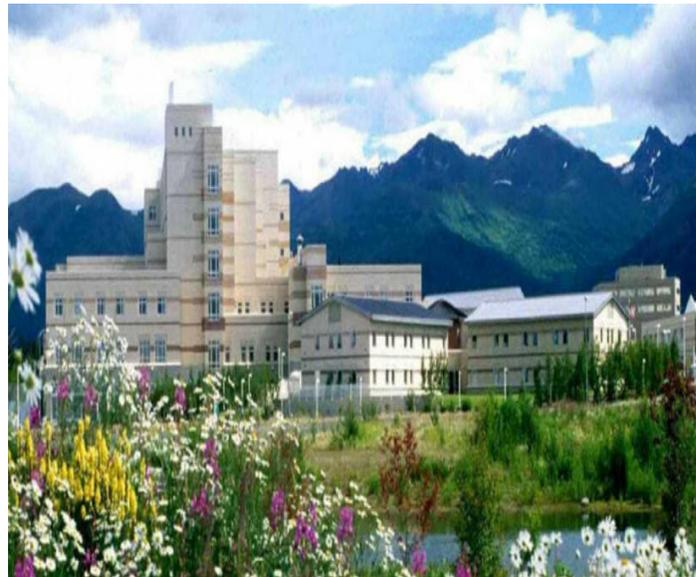
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Anchorage, AK



# Alaska Native Medical Center Anchorage, AK

Sedated ABR  
ENT appointment



# New Personalized Follow-up Strategy

Refer at birth

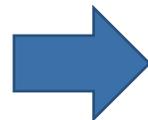
Contact on-call audiologist to put baby on radar

Repeat screener after 12 hours-Refer

On call audiologist completes natural sleep diagnostic  
ABR in OB before discharge

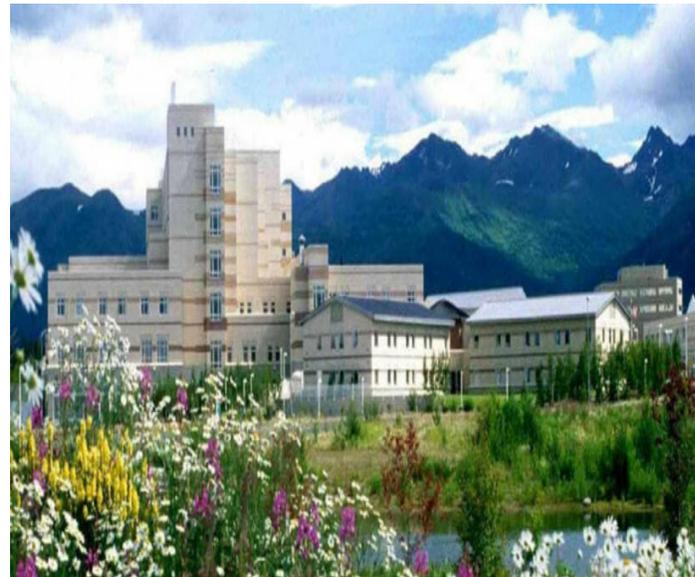
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Refer>ANMC Anchorage, AK



# Alaska Native Medical Center Anchorage, AK

Sedated ABR if needed  
ENT appointment



# Protocol Details

- Audiologist on-call availability (nights and weekends)
- Protocol training for nursing staff. Audiologist must have sufficient notice that a diagnostic ABR is needed.

# Implementation

- Willing audiologist
- Approved HR matters i.e. pay
- OB to Audiology Department open line of communication (TigerText)
- OB nurse training on how to implement protocol



# Encourage Stakeholder Interest

YKHC Pediatricians and OB department agreed with implementing protocol and expressed this support to upper administration.



# Encourage Stakeholder Interest

With the help of Annette Callies (EHDI Program Manager-AK) we clearly relayed data and expressed message that supported value of implementing personalized NBHS follow up protocol.

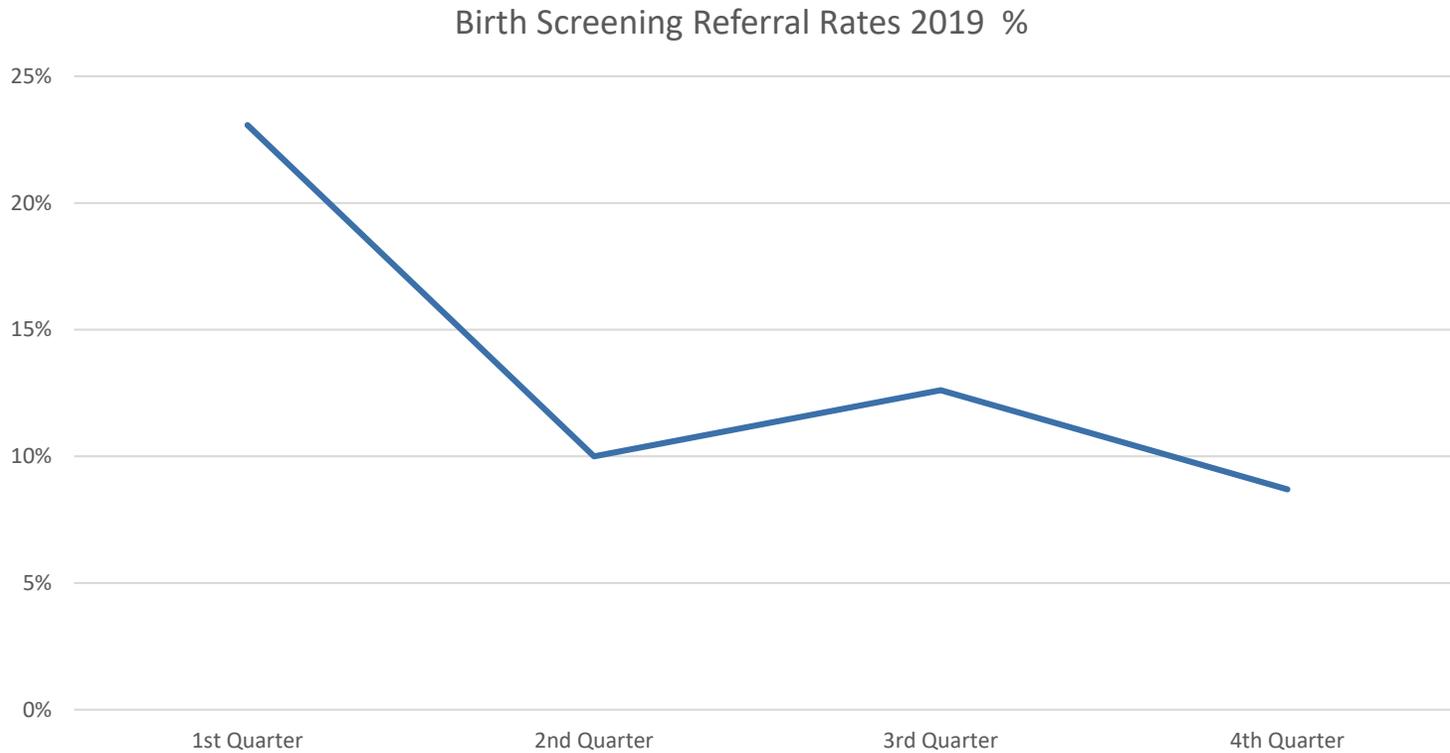
**YKHC referral rate: 24% June 2019 > 9% End of 2019**

National average NBHS referral rate: 4%

# Outcomes

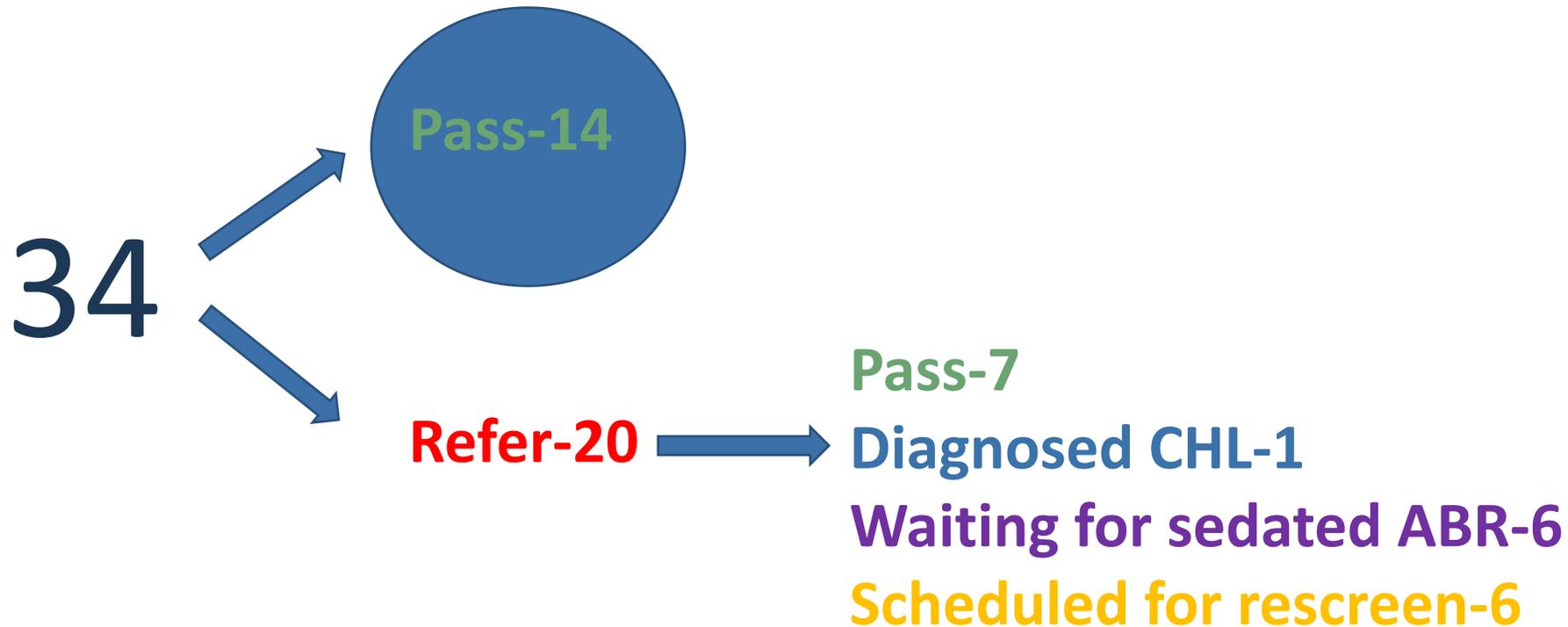
## Birth Screening Referral Rates Reduced

2019	rates
1st Quarter	23%
2nd Quarter	10%
3rd Quarter	13%
4th Quarter	9%
Year Total	13%



# Outcomes

34 babies were screened and/or received a diagnostic ABR prior to discharge between June 1, 2019 and February 1, 2020 by audiologist on-call.



# Outcomes

Reduced audiology follow-up appointments. This prevents lost to follow-up due to:

- Weather
- Travel
- DNKAs

# Deduction

YKHC region is experiencing success in reducing lost to follow up rates by implementing on call audiology protocol.

# Future

- YKHC will continue to implement on-call audiology services for newborn hearing screening protocol.
- Consider training for all audiologists in diagnostic ABR assessment.
- Continue to train travel nurses about the importance of the YKHC NBHS protocol.
- Show evidence of reduced number of days to follow-up and or diagnostic screening.





Quyana=  
Thank You

Niitessuun=  
hearing aid

Quyana  
tailuci!=Thank  
you for coming!

Waqaa!=Hello!