

Newborn Bloodspot Screening in Maine, 2024

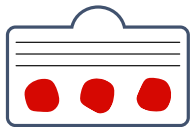
A data brief for providers



Newborn bloodspot screening can detect rare but serious medical conditions. Infants who are diagnosed and treated early can avoid serious complications.



All newborns delivered in Maine (about 11,500 per year) are required to be tested for certain congenital genetic disorders that can cause intellectual and developmental disability, serious illness, or death if left untreated. The newborn bloodspot screening test helps identify infants in need of follow-up testing.



Maine currently tests for 33 core conditions, although additional conditions may be identified when screening for a core condition. Types of conditions include endocrine, metabolic, hematologic, pulmonary, neuromuscular, and immune system disorders.

Maine Screening Data

98.5%

of babies born in Maine in 2024 received a newborn bloodspot screening.

Home births accounted for approximately 66% of the babies who did not receive a screen.



94% of screened babies had results in the normal range

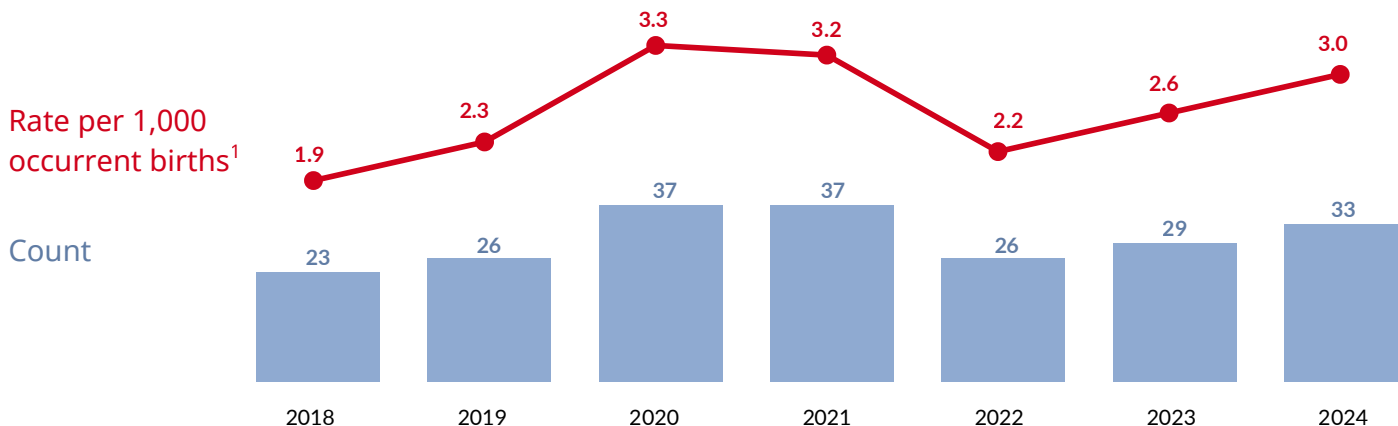


6% of screened babies required repeat screens or additional diagnostic testing



0.3% of screened babies in Maine had a confirmed condition

Confirmed Conditions, Maine, 2018-2024



Data by Condition

The most frequent conditions identified are:

- Endocrine Disorders that disrupt the release of specific hormones necessary for important energy and growth functions. Maine averaged **14.5** confirmed cases per year from 2021-2024.
- Cystic Fibrosis in which the body produces thick and sticky mucus that can clog the lungs and obstruct the pancreas. Maine averaged **2.3** confirmed cases per year from 2021-2024.
- Inborn Errors of Metabolism in which the body cannot properly turn food into energy. Maine averaged **4.5** confirmed cases per year from 2021-2024.
- Sickling Diseases are a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. Maine averaged **5.8** confirmed cases per year from 2021-2024.

Bloodspot Collection and Use

Maine providers are a vital link between parents and test results.

Providers help ensure initial testing takes place and conduct follow-up testing if necessary.



Birth attendants help ensure initial bloodspot collection takes place.



The Newborn Bloodspot Program monitors lab results and notifies primary care providers.



Pediatricians and pediatric specialty care providers perform follow-up testing and care.

Maine CDC Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program

To learn more, call us at (207) 287-5357 or visit:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/maternal-and-child-health/newborn-screenings/newborn-bloodspot-screening

1. Occurrent births are those occurring in Maine, regardless of whether the mother is a Maine resident.

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