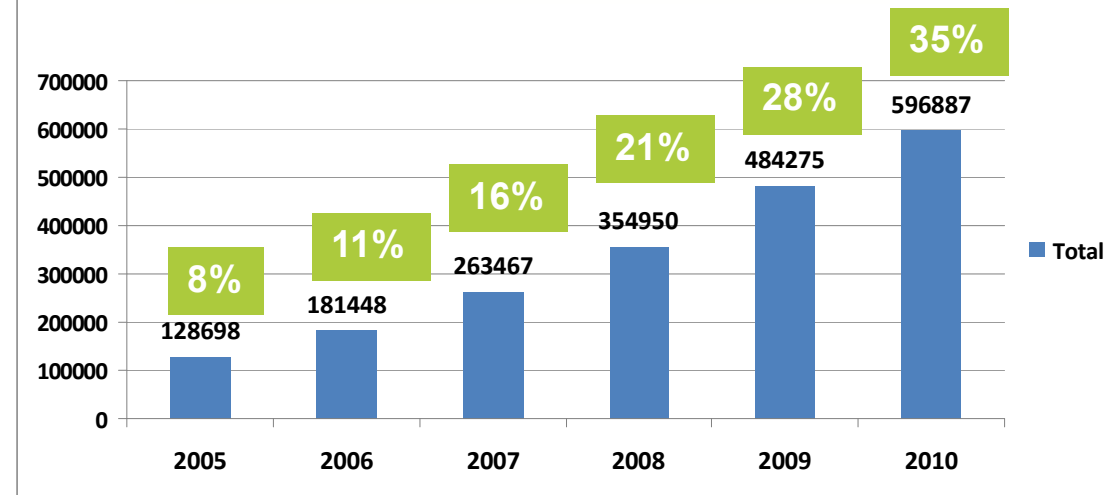
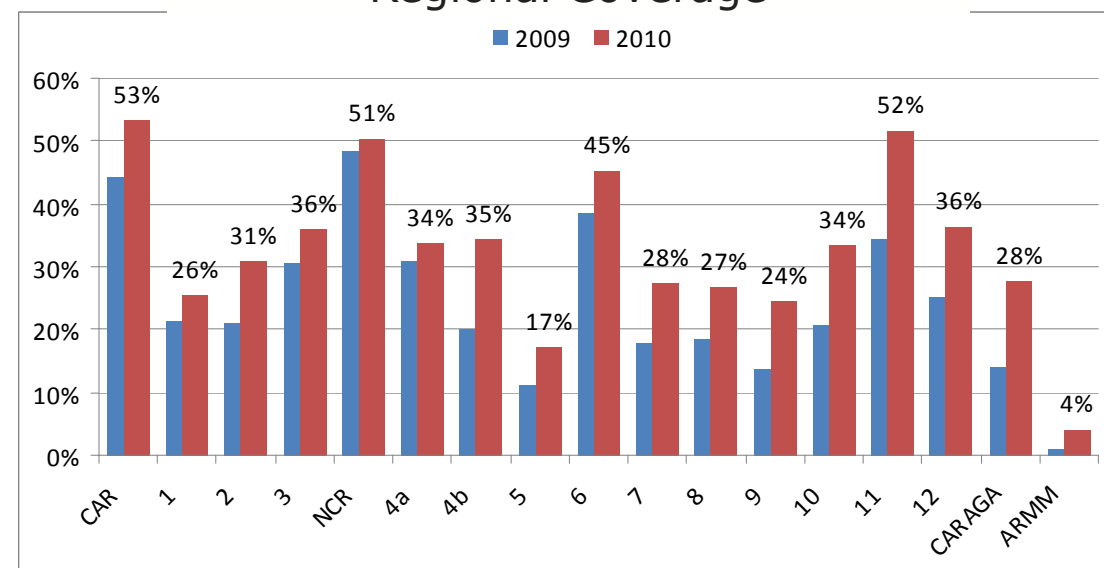


National Coverage Total Screened 2005 – 2010



From 28% in 2009, the national coverage for 2010 increased to 35% using the population base of 1.7M. This increase was a result of continuous effort of the newborn stakeholders to educate the health professionals and general public of the importance of program.

Regional Coverage



All 17 regions showed a remarkable increase in the percentage of newborns screened. The Cordillera Administrative Region has the highest NBS coverage. CAR is followed by Davao Region and National Capital Region with high percentage of newborns screened over the regions' total live births.

Prevalence as of December 2010

	CONFIRMED	SCREENED	PREVALENCE
CAH	253	2389959	1: 9446
CH	719	2389959	1: 3324
G6PD	44273	2312144	1: 52
GAL	22	2389959	1: 108635
PKU	16	2389959	1: 149372

This table shows the frequency a specific confirmed genetic disorder from the Newborn Screening Panel of Disorders was observed throughout the population screened. The highest prevalence was recorded in G6PD with a positive patient in every fifty-two newborns.

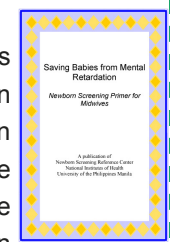
New Publications Available Online

New materials have been made available online for different groups of health workers.



Facilitators Guidebook – The *Facilitators Guidebook on Newborn Screening* was prepared to keep newborn screening facilitators abreast with new information on newborn screening. This book is intended to support newborn screening facilitators organize and run orientations on newborn screening. It aims to standardize the information relayed to all health workers. This guidebook includes slide presentations, scripts and additional notes that may aid speakers in delivering their presentations.

Primer for midwives – This primer aims to guide the midwives in advocating and performing newborn screening in the communities. The midwives act as frontliners in the newborn screening implementation at the level of the barangays and rural areas. This primer has been developed in response to the need for additional information for midwives.



FAQ for Chiefs of Hospitals – This primer highlights the basic information and the flow of newborn screening implementation in a health facility that Chiefs of Hospital need to know.

Basic Information for Physicians – This material aims to aid physicians in understanding the five disorders included in the Newborn Screening Panel of Disorders, their management and prognosis, and provides helpful and practical management tips and information for parents.

To download these materials, visit www.newbornscreening.ph. - V Mendoza

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Creation of the Committee on Use, Retention and Storage of Residual Dried Blood Spots

The introduction of Newborn Screening (NBS) in the Philippines in 1996 and the enactment of the Newborn Screening Act in 2004 are significant milestones in Philippine health. Since then, the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System has been developed and in the course of its implementation, has collected over 2.5 million filter cards containing residual dried blood spots (DBS) currently in storage at the various Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs). Issues on the maintenance cost and space requirements of these residual DBS are now being raised.

Overseas, residual DBS are often retained for reconfirmation of newborn screening analytical results, legal accountability, and evaluation and comparison of new methods or analytical reagents. However, in the Philippines, guidelines have yet to be made.

To resolve the growing problem of accumulated DBS in each NSC, it was agreed during the January 6, 2011 meeting of the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) on Newborn Screening that the NSRC shall develop the policy for storage, use, and disposal of the residual DBS. It was further recommended that a committee be created to propose guidelines on the use, retention, and storage of residual dried blood spots.

Convened on February 8, 2011, the Committee is chaired by Dr. Marita V. T. Reyes, co-chairperson of the Philippine Research Ethics Board (PHREB) of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. It is expected to come up with a brief report to the Newborn Screening National Technical Working Group by April, 2011. Members are Dr. Eva Maria Cutiongco-de la Paz (Geneticist; Director, Institute of Human Genetics, NIH); Prof. Peter A. Sy (Ethicist; Director, Diliman Interactive Learning Center); Atty Florin T. Hilbay (Lawyer; UP College of Law); Mrs. Cynthia K. Magdaraog (Parent; President, Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders); Dr. Ma. Virginia G. Ala (Director, Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau, Dept. of Health); Dr. Honorata L. Catibog (Director, Family Health Office, DOH); and Fr. J. Cesar R. Marin, S.J. (Parish Priest; Mary the Queen Parish). - R Suarez



The DBS Committee Members with Dr. Carmencita Padilla, Resource Person, during the first Committee Meeting held on February 9, 2011 at Diliman Interactive Learning Center, UP Diliman

Call for Nomination for the Newborn Screening Special Awards

The Department of Health and the National Institutes of Health now accept nominations for Newborn Screening Special Awards.

The award recognizes the efforts of an individual or group who have made exemplary contribution to the Newborn Screening Program in the form of the following initiatives/innovations: 1) NBS education in the community 2) NBS advocacy in the community 3) NBS financing scheme 4) Community Support 5) LGU Support 6) Linkage/s with other agencies/ organizations 7) Other initiatives.

The nominee should be instrumental in the attainment of a screening rate of at least 50% in a newborn screening facility. Guidelines and nomination forms are downloadable from www.newbornscreening.ph

Deadline for nominations is 31 May 2011.

Continued from page 1

Mendoza of NSRC served as the main training facilitators with the following as resource speakers:

- Ms. Ma. Elouisa Reyes (NSC-NIH) – *Learning from Pioneer NSCs*
- Dr. Conchita Abarquez (NSC-Mindanao) – *Accomplishments for the Past Year*
- Dr. J Edgar Winston Posecion (NSC-Visayas) – *Challenges in Organization and Management*
- Dr. Florencio Dizon (NSC-Central Luzon) – *Effective Habits and Practices for NSCs*
- Dr. Carmencita Padilla (NSRC) – *Ways Forward, Visioning for the Next Three Years*

The training used a combination of lectures and workshops based on the principles of adult learning. Facilitation techniques included interactive discussions, group processes, games and structured learning exercises. Discussions from each group were subsequently presented in plenary sessions.

At the end of the training workshop, it was noted that all set objectives were met. In addition, the officers and staff from the four NSCs were able acquire knowledge and information necessary for the efficient and effective performance of their functions. - A Balisi

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The newborn screening family poses after 3 days of learning through fun activities that allow display of camaraderie among officers and staff of Newborn Screening Centers. The training needs workshop was held on March 18-20, 2011 at the Fontana Leisure Park, Clarkfield, Pampanga. More photos on page 5.

Developing Key Strategies to Meet One Goal: First Newborn Screening Center General Assembly

Developing efficient strategies to meet ONE GOAL – increasing coverage while maintaining high quality service and efficient newborn screening services – was the collective call of the recently-concluded Training Needs Workshop for Capacity Building among Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs). This was held on 18-20 March 2011 at the Fontana Leisure Park and Casino, CFZ, Pampanga.

The workshop was a joint activity of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) to build the capacity of the four Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs) and strengthen coordination and networking among them. It provided NSC personnel with information and analysis to further improve their efficiency and effectiveness and discuss further strategic directional plans.

The strategies were hoped to further increase appreciation of the importance of transforming the organization and meet that one goal set by the newborn screening stakeholders.

Training Design
 The course was attended by 86 officers and staff of four NSCs, including laboratory and administrative staff. It provided a comprehensive understanding of the background, processes, and operations of a newborn screening center. Fourteen DOH-NCDCP and NSRC personnel served as facilitators of this activity.

Mr. Anthony John Balisi and Ms. Vina

To maintain precision and accuracy in analyses;



Parents attentively listening to the speakers during the 1st G6PD Deficiency Seminar for 2011 held on February 18 at UP Manila College of Pharmacy Auditorium.

Rotary Club Charters Continue NBS Support

Through the years, various chapters of the Rotary Club of the Philippines have supported the Newborn Screening Program. One such chapter is the Rotary Club of Lucena.

On March 7, 2011, the Rotary Club of Lucena procured 2,000 newborn screening kits from the Newborn Screening Center-NIH amounting to PHP 1.1M. The charter handed over the kits to the Quezon Medical Center (QMC) in Lucena City, Quezon. Through this generous donation, 2,000 indigent babies born at QMC will be given a chance to live normal and healthy lives.

Similarly, the Rotary Club of Marikina purchased 500 newborn screening kits on March 29, 2011 amounting to PHP 275,000.00. The kits were distributed to two newborn screening facilities (NSFs). One hundred fifty (150) kits were granted to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, a DOH-retained tertiary hospital in Marikina City. The remaining 350 kits were given to the Marikina Diagnostic and Specialty Clinic, a local government diagnostic facility in the same city.

- I Fortugaleza

1st G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2011

The Newborn Screening Center-NIH held its first G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2011 at the UP Manila College of Pharmacy Auditorium on February 18. Around 250 parents and guardians participated in the said event. Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, Molecular Genetics Program Coordinator, Institute of Human Genetics, spoke on the genetic nature of the disorder. Dr. Beatriz Gepte, Hematology-Oncology Consultant, Philippine Children's Medical Center, discussed the clinical manifestations, drugs, and chemicals to be avoided by a G6PD-deficient. NSC-NIH hopes to conduct at least three seminars every year. The next parents' seminar is tentatively set on May 2011. For inquiries, please call (02) 526-1725 or text 09285060960. - JA Terrado

Meeting among Center for Health Development Coordinators held to Formulate Strategies

The Newborn Screening Center-NIH met with the NBS Coordinators from Regions 4A, 4B, NCR and 5 on January 27, 2011 at the NIH Conference Room. Ms. Hermes Pascua and Ms. Mariz Ebuena of CHD-NCR, Ms. Ma. Teresa Du of CHD-4B and Ms. Jenica S. Querido of CHD-4A attended the meeting. Mr. Glorioso Velasco of CHD-5 joined the meeting via online video conference. Data were presented during the meeting particularly the regional coverage and quality of samples coming from the newborn screening facilities within the region. Follow-up concerns, such as patients for recall, were also part of the agenda. Strategies were formulated to improve the quality of samples and increase the coverage. A media plan was also presented as part of the advocacy of the said regions. The next meeting is set tentatively on April 1, 2011. - JA Terrado



5 Years of Unconditional Service to Filipino Newborns

The Newborn Screening Center-Visayas (NSC-V) started operation five years ago with only five staff members – the Unit Head, Laboratory Manager, two Medical Technologists, and a Nurse Coordinator. At that time, NSC-V was responsible for screening all newborns from the Visayas and Mindanao regions. This was not an easy task but the dedication of these people made it possible for NSC-V to stand on its own.

February 27, 2011 marked another milestone in its history, being NSC-V's fifth anniversary. To make the celebration meaningful, the center gave free newborn screening services to walk-in patients. Patients for G6PD confirmatory tests were also provided with special discounts. Freebies were given to clients, such as T-shirts, infant's wear, and sweet treats. A mass was offered as a thanksgiving for the guidance and blessings received by the Center.

Now one of the established NSCs in the country, composed of 22 committed staff members who welcome ideas for improvement and advancement, it is thinking way beyond newborn screening. The Newborn Screening Center will not stop in its mission to save the lives of children with inborn metabolic disorders. It is committed to maintain a standard that will ensure screening of all newborns in the future and provide a way to build a brighter future for them. - R Barrios/D Buensalido



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Capiz Performing Newborn Screening Commendably

The province of Capiz is popular for its sumptuous seafood. Apart from its gastronomic delights, the province is setting a good record in newborn screening. Behind the laidback and serene ambiance, Capiz is at par with other big provinces in the Visayas region when it comes to newborn screening program implementation.

Capiz houses a total of 30 Newborn Screening Facilities, ninety-seven percent (97%) of which are active as of December 2010. Most of these facilities achieved their target coverage of 85% for 2010 and this was made possible by the hard work and commitment of all the newborn screening team members.

The Rural Health Unit-Dumalag, one of the towns in Capiz, has a commendable achievement in newborn screening. Since it started the program in April 2007, the facility has been consistently posting 100% coverage of all newborns delivered here.

According to Dr. Ana Mae Belasoto, Municipal Health Officer, starting the program was a challenge at first. Their passion and dedication to save babies enabled them to stabilize the program using their own resources. Maximum utilization of Philhealth benefits and coordination with the local government were some of the factors which helped in increasing coverage. The facility also provides comprehensive health education and intensive information dissemination on the advantages of newborn screening and facility-based deliveries.

NSC-V acknowledges the efforts of the Capiz Provincial Health Office, headed by Dr. Samuel Delfin, for its unwavering support to the newborn screening program. Various activities were planned by the office to help improve the NBS coverage and the referral and management of all positive patients. - AL Millares/ D Buensalido

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NSC Mindanao

NSC-M held Cluster Meeting of NSFs in Zamboanga City



In photo: Participants with Drs. Conchita Abarquez (center) and Eleanor Du (center right)

The Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao conducted a Cluster Meeting for newborn screening facilities (NSFs) in the Zamboanga Peninsula Region on January 20, 2011 at the Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC).

The meeting discussed the target coverage set by DOH for 2011 and clarified issues and problems on newborn screening in the region. Present at the meeting were representatives of non-government and privately-run NSFs in Region 9,

CHD-Zamboanga Peninsula representatives Dr. Cheryl Rebollos, Child Program Medical Coordinator, and Ms. Nerissa Gutierrez, NBS Regional Nurse Coordinator.

The meeting started with a presentation of the region's accomplishments for 2010, followed by its NBS performance. At the end of the meeting, having listened to the achievements of the respective NSFs, the participants were motivated to improve and strengthen their NBS programs in their facilities. - S Guilaran

NSC-M joins CHD – Zamboanga Peninsula's Launch of Unang Yakap : Essential Newborn Care Protocol

The Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao participated in the CHD-Zamboanga's Launch of *Unang Yakap*: Essential Newborn Care Protocol held on February 2, 2011 in Zamboanga City.

Unang Yakap is a campaign to spread the use of the Essential Newborn Care Protocol in the country. The event was attended by representatives of different hospitals and birthing facilities in the region. In his keynote

speech, Dr. Julius Lecciones, Executive Director of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) shared PCMC's experiences on Essential Newborn Care and how it decreased the Center's maternal and infant mortality rates.

The two other guest speakers were Dr. Eduardo Janairo, Director of the DOH National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (NCDPC), and Dr. Anthony Calibo, Supervising Program Coordinator also from DOH-NCDPC.

Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Head of NSC-M, presented updates on the newborn screening program as well as the region's performance in terms of newborn screening coverage, active and inactive facilities, total number of samples sent, and the acceptability of the samples. - S Guilaran



In photo (seated from left to right) Dr. Nimfa Torrizo, Dr. Aristides Tan, Dr. Anthony Calibo, Dr. Julius Lecciones, Dr. Eduardo Janairo, Dr. Sheila Masangkay, Dr. Conchita Abarquez and Dr. Rodelyn Algulos.

G6PD Deficiency Poster Making Contest

The Davao G6PD Deficiency Parents Support Group held a poster making contest on February 12, 2011 at NSC-Mindanao, Davao City. Led by its President Ms. Ana Theresa Basilio, parents and friends of the Support Group showed their creative side in creating posters around the theme, "United in Managing G6PD Deficiency as a Family." Parents May Fernandez and Bernard Angeles won the first and second prize, respectively. - S Guilaran

Newborn Screening at Club 888

Dr. Conchita Abarquez was guest speaker during the Club 888 held at the Marco Polo Hotel on March 2, 2011. Topic of her talk was how newborn screening can help detect abnormalities in newborns and how these babies can be helped. Club 888 is Davao's premier media forum at Marco Polo Hotel Davao. - S. Guilaran

NSC-M Advancing NBS during a GMA Network Event at Araw ng Davao

NSC-M, in coordination with NSC-NIH, showcased newborn screening in a booth exhibit during a GMA Network show as part of the celebration of the *Araw ng Davao* on March 15, 2011. Held at SM Davao, four NBS tarpaulins were hanged at the walls of the venue, while NSC staff members distributed NBS brochures, showed NBS videos, and answered questions on newborn screening from interested guests. - S Guilaran

NBS in "OK si Dok"



Recognizing the importance of the program and to increase public awareness on Newborn Screening, the Central Luzon Broadcasting Corporation (CLTV36) will feature the NBS in "Ok si Dok," – one of its flagship broadcasts.

Ok si Dok is a one-hour program that disseminates important health information and issues which directly affect the lives of its target audience. It tackles the pressing health concerns of the society using a friendly and comprehensible approach and dispenses advice geared to promote healthier living.

To discuss the nature of the program and the panel of disorders included in newborn screening in a future episode is Dr. Wilson Cua, Pediatric Endocrinologist and Fellow of the Pediatric Society of the Philippines. The episode will be aired on April 28, 2011 at 8:30 pm, which will be replayed on April 29, 2011 at 9:30 pm. - C Monieno

NBS Expert to Revisit NSC-CL

On September 29 and 30, 2010, the Newborn Screening Center-Central Luzon was granted accreditation by a team from the Department of Health, Newborn Screening Centers and experts from the United States and Australia. During the said accreditation process, the team assessed the capability of the Center to run newborn screening tests for Regions 1, 2, 3 and CAR.



Dr. Bradford L. Therrell, Jr., Director of the U.S. National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center and laboratory certification consultant to the Department of Health since 2006., together with Ms. Charity Jomanto, Newborn Screening Reference Center Quality Assurance

Officer, is expected to revisit the NSC-CL on April 4, 2011 to see the progress made by the Center since their accreditation was granted. Dr. Therrell will review the work flow of the Center and give updates on the latest trends in newborn screening in the United States and other countries. - C Monieno

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Photos below: Each team poses for camera before they face the last challenge of the Newborn Screening Center General Assembly. The participants in the Assembly were divided into five teams. Each team tries to win every challenge in each workshop. Story on page 1



NSC NIH

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