

CHILDREN with SPECIAL NEEDS

High Risk Infant Follow-Up (HRIFU)



What is the purpose of HRIFU?

HRIFU services are designed to assure that families with high risk infants:

- Receive appropriate health and/or medical screenings, assessments, interventions, and follow-up;
- Have the knowledge, skill, and abilities to provide care and to access the services required for the infants' health; and
- Receive appropriate, timely, family centered and culturally sensitive services.

What does the HRIFU program do?

Services may include voluntary in-home (home visiting) or clinic based nursing assessment, intervention, and follow-up, (care coordination) in collaboration with a primary health care provider and other providers involved with the family. Services are designed to provide family support and education, link with a medical home and community resources to improve health and developmental outcomes and enhance parenting skills.

How many people are helped by the HRIFU program?

During 2004, approximately 1,100 families of infants with special health care needs received HRIFU services.

Who is eligible?

Infants who, because of a diagnosed health or medical condition, may be at increased risk for morbidity or mortality. Children with other categorical risk factors or conditions, that impact the parent's ability to provide or meet the health and/or medical needs of the infant may also be eligible.

Why is the HRIFU program important?

The number of births in Georgia in 2003 was 135,831. Over 12,000 (approximately 9%) of these births were low birth weight (less than five and a half pounds) and over 2,000 (almost 2%) were very low birth weight (approximately three pounds). Many of these low birth weight infants, plus infants born with congenital anomalies, genetic syndromes and other health/medical conditions are at increased risk for health and developmental problems during the first few years of life. There is also an increased rate of re-hospitalization and/or emergency room visits during the first year of life for these infants.

Where are services located?

Statewide.

Outcome measures.

- Increase the number of eligible families with infants with health or medical conditions who receive HRIFU services.
- The number and percent of low and very low birth weight infants in each Health District who receive HRIFU services.

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<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/specialneeds/>

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