
VERMONT SENSORY ACCESS PROJECT

Vermont Census for Children and Young Adults with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Vermont Sensory Access Project?

The Vermont Sensory Access Project is a federally-funded, statewide service designed to improve the quality of services available to Vermont's children and youth with combined vision and hearing losses.

What is the purpose of the Vermont Census for Children and Young Adults with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss?

The Vermont Sensory Access Project is responsible for collecting a variety of information on the children and young adults within the state who have combined vision and hearing losses and forwarding it to the federal registry. The National Registry represents the first, longest running, and most comprehensive registry of infants, toddlers, children, and young adults who have combined vision and hearing loss.

Why should a child be added to the Vermont Census?

By reporting a child to the Vermont Sensory Access Project Census, the service providers, the child, and his or her family are eligible for services from the project free of charge.

Who should be reported to the Vermont Census?

Any child or young adult, birth through 22 years of age, who has a combined vision and hearing loss, including those with additional disabilities, should be reported.

My child or student has a documented combined vision and hearing loss, but both are mild and cause few concerns at this time. Should he/she be reported?

Yes. Any combination of documented hearing and vision losses, ranging from mild to severe and low vision to totally blind, should be reported.

My child or student does not have a medical diagnosis for hearing and/or vision losses, but he/she functions as if there are losses of both vision and hearing. Should he/she be reported?

Yes. If a child or young adult functions as if he or she has both vision and hearing losses based upon inconsistent responses to auditory and visual stimuli in the environment or

inconclusive responses during hearing and vision evaluations, he or she should be reported.

My child or student is diagnosed with a degenerative condition, which will affect vision and hearing. Should he or she be reported?

Yes. A student with a degenerative condition or progressive loss should be reported to the registry. A good example of this would be a student with Usher Syndrome. This student is typically born profoundly deaf and then experiences a progressive loss of vision due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. This student at 10 years may have little or no difficulty with vision, but by the age of 17 may be experiencing considerable difficulties with night and peripheral vision. They should be reported at any age.

My child or student has multiple disabilities including vision and hearing losses or has responded inconclusively during evaluations. Should he/she be reported?

Yes. A child with multiple disabilities who also has vision and hearing losses or functions as if he or she has combined vision and hearing losses should be reported.

I have an infant or toddler who is “at risk” for vision and hearing losses. Should she or he be reported?

Yes. The child should be reported so that he or she qualifies for services. He or she can be removed from the Census if it is determined to be no longer appropriate at a later time.

How can we receive project services?

The family, school and other educators working with a child who has combined vision and hearing losses may receive services from the project by contacting the project and reporting their student to the Census.

How can I get more information about the Vermont Sensory Access Project?

You can visit the Vermont Sensory Access Project website at <http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/db/> or contact the Project Coordinator, Emma Nelson, at emma.nelson.1@uvm.edu or 802-656-1120.