

Newborn Screening: Current Landscape & Future Directions

National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine



Annie Kennedy
*Chief of Policy, Advocacy
& Patient Engagement*

January 26, 2024

Newborn Screening Modernization Roundtable Series *(Late 2022 – Early 2023)*



Study Support Provided By:

-  **3** Roundtables held
-  **108** Attendees at public meeting
-  **40+** Experts identified actionable policy solutions
-  **4** Key themes identified



**Pioneering the New Era of Newborn Screening:
Collaborative Insights & Recommendations for Modernizing NBS Systems (Sept 2023)**
<https://everylifefoundation.org/nbs-white-paper/>

Four Key Themes/Opportunities for Modernization that Yielded from Roundtables



THEME 1: Increase federal leadership, accountability, and transparency within federal newborn screening programs



THEME 2: Establish a regional lab network that provides state NBS programs with the opportunity to work together to ensure efficient and faster addition of newborn screening conditions



THEME 3: Increase access to population-level data both before and after newborn screening to facilitate the development and adoption of newborn screening conditions to federal and state panels



THEME 4: Integrate next-generation, evidence-based neonatal sequencing into newborn screening in a manner that can be broadly implemented in all state newborn screening programs

<https://everylifefoundation.org/nbs-white-paper/>

For Today – 2 Critical Challenges in NBS for our Rare Disease Community



- **Rare Diseases are Disadvantaged by Our Existing Processes & RUSP Evidence Review Criteria**
- **Disparities Across State Lines**

****Limited State and Federal Funding***

Rare Diseases are Disadvantaged by Our Existing Processes & RUSP Evidence Review Criteria

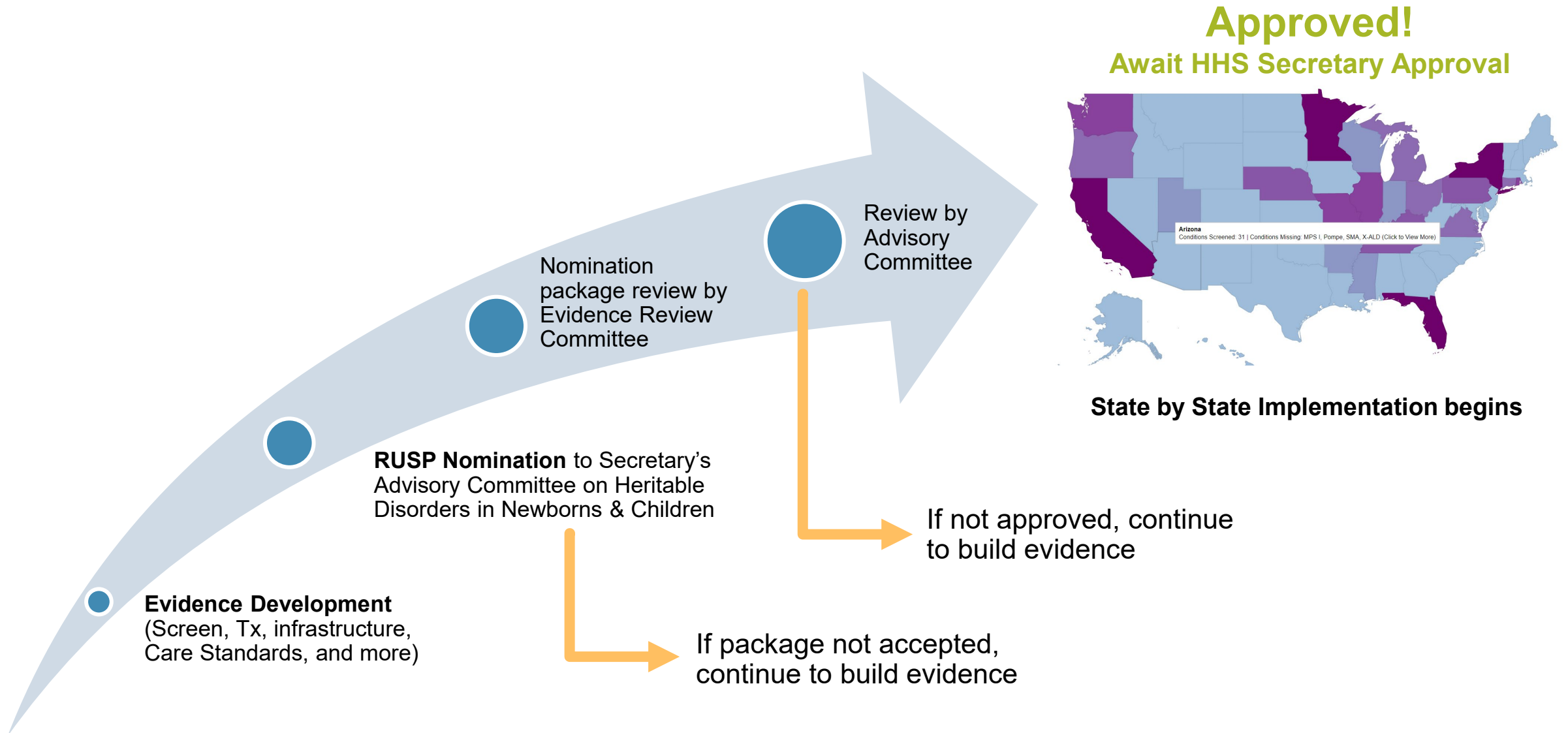


NBS Evidence & Infrastructure Building

- Validated screen (FDA approved)
- Collaboration with federal agencies
- Collaboration with state labs
- State Pilot(s)
- Clinical Care Guidelines
- Parent resources
- Provider decision tools
- Peer-reviewed publications with clinical outcome data re: timely ID & intervention
- Sibling studies
- Longitudinal data collection
- Collaboration with provider groups (Pediatric, genetic & specialty)
- Health economic data
- Patient preference data
- ICD code
- Surveillance data/ epidemiology
- Action Sheets
- And more...



FEDERAL NOMINATION & IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY



Key considerations for adding conditions to the recommended universal screening panel (RUSP)

1. Screening is needed to identify all babies who may need treatment
2. There is a significant risk of illness, disability, or death if babies are not treated promptly,
3. Effective treatment is available
4. Treatment is more beneficial in the newborn period than later
5. Resources and access to treatment and counseling are widely available
6. The benefits to babies and to society outweigh the risks and burdens of screening and treatment

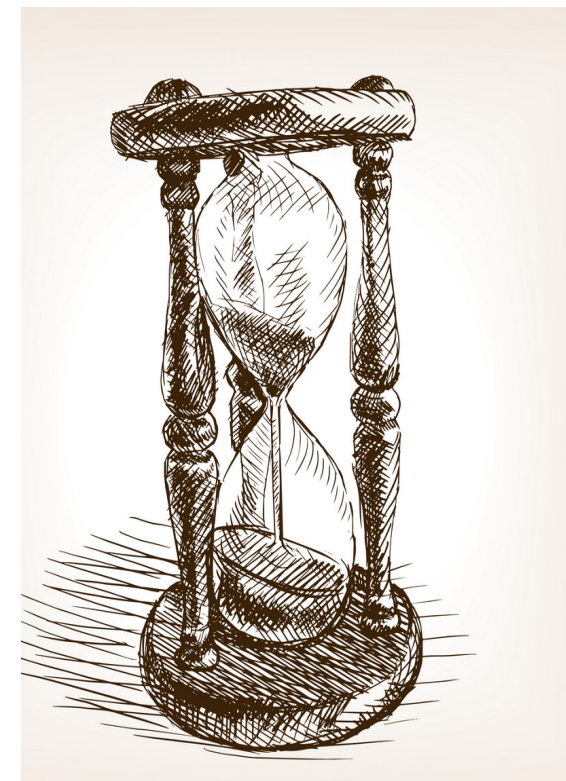


Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (not currently screened for federally)

Time to diagnosis of Duchenne muscular dystrophy remains unchanged: Findings from the Muscular Dystrophy Surveillance, Tracking, and Research Network, 2000–2015 (*Muscle and Nerve*, 2022)

- Family/primary caregivers were most commonly the first to note concerns
- Mean age at first signs and symptoms reported by the caregiver was 2.7 years, followed by first CK at 4.6 years and confirmatory testing at 4.9 years.
- The average time from first report of symptoms to diagnostic confirmation was 2.2 years.
- The ages at first concern, and subsequent testing and initial visit to a specialist, were significantly later among non-Hispanic black individuals compared with non-Hispanic white individuals. In addition, the age at CK testing was significantly later among Hispanics compared with non-Hispanic whites.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/mus.27532>



Life Altering Therapies Available – Babies Go Undetected

Meanwhile...

- 7 FDA approved therapies for Duchenne
- All with safety & efficacy established prior to mean age of diagnosis
- Mean age of diagnosis is outside of optimal therapeutic window for timely intervention

NBS Status –

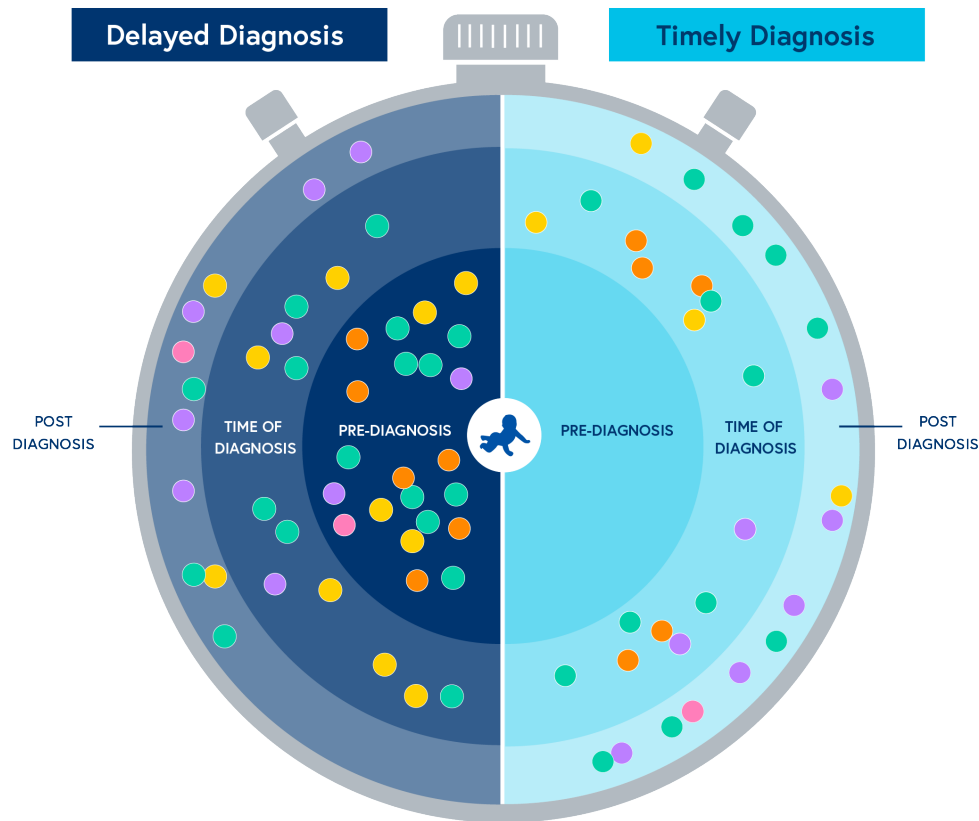
- US Pilots conducted in OH and New York State
- Nomination to RUSP, accepted to evidence review after 2nd vote
- So far - Ohio and New York state-wide screening



The Impact of Delayed Diagnosis in Duchenne

Navigating a rare disease diagnosis can require more than 6 years and 17 medical interventions, on average, after symptoms begin, including emergency room visits and out-of-state specialist appointments.¹ We took a detailed look into Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a rare neuromuscular condition, to illustrate the significant economic impact of this diagnostic odyssey.

Every Minute Matters



- **TYPICAL ACCOMPANYING DIAGNOSIS:**
Gait issues and muscle weakness
- **TESTING & PROCEDURES:**
Genetic testing, liver biopsy
- **SPECIALISTS:**
Orthopedist, Hepatologist, Gastroenterologist
- **TREATMENTS & SUPPORTING THERAPIES:**
Ankle-foot orthotics (AFO)
- **EVENTS:**
Unexpected hospitalizations

Examples are not exhaustive

ACTION IS KEY TO SECURING TIMELY DIAGNOSIS

The EveryLife Foundation and leading partners, including Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD), are working to develop state and federal policies to eliminate the diagnostic odyssey in Duchenne. For more information on how you can get involved and support this effort, please visit everylifefoundation.org and parentprojectmd.org.

DELAYED DIAGNOSIS DRAMATICALLY INCREASES COSTS FOR FAMILIES*

- \$211,229** Total medical cost and productivity loss per family
- 20** Lost days of work for caregivers each year
- 17** Out-of-state trips for medical care across the 7 communities studied

*Across the diagnostic odyssey

How Did We Collect These Data?

- * Medicare and Commercial insurance claims data, including patients with Duchenne
- * Results from The Rare Disease Financial and Social Impact Survey, completed by 1,409 community members

BENEFITS OF TIMELY DIAGNOSIS

Timely diagnosis, defined as before five years old for children with Duchenne^{2,3}, can improve health outcomes by:

- Providing earlier access to supportive therapies and treatment
- Delaying disease complications and physical disabilities
- Lowering costs for patients and families by reducing or eliminating costly and unnecessary services or procedures

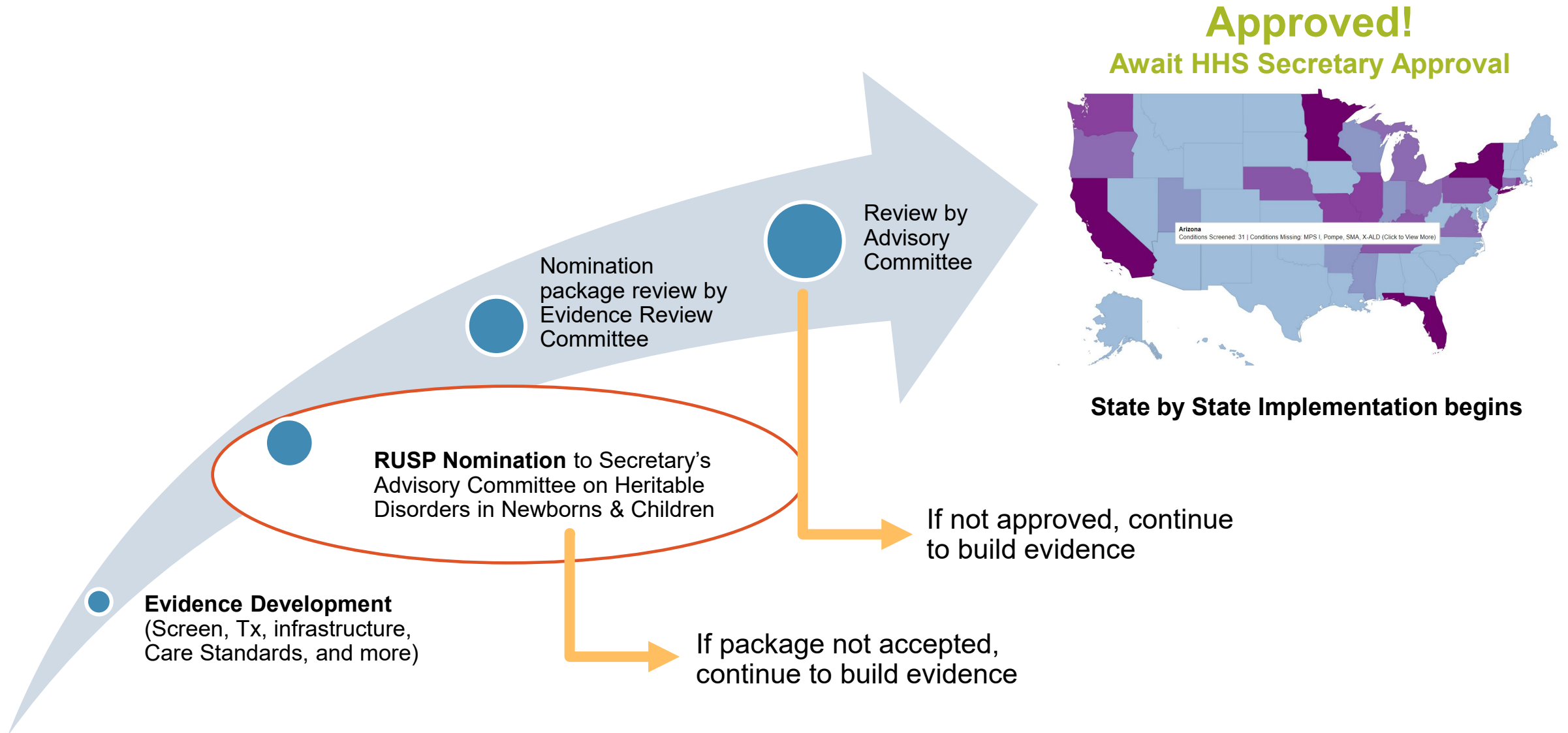
The Cost of Delayed Diagnosis in
Rare Disease: A Health Economic Study

**Parent
Project
Muscular
Dystrophy**

Reference:

1. Yang G, Cintina I, Zhou M, et al. The National Economic Burden of Rare Disease Study. The EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases. https://everylifefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/The_National_Economic_Burden_of_Rare_Disease_Study_Summary_Report_February_2021.pdf. Published February 25, 2021. 2. Ciafaloni E, Fox D, Pandya S. Muscular Dystrophy Surveillance, Tracking, and Research Network (MD STARnet). J Pediatr. 2009;155(3):380-385. 3. Families Continue to Experience Delay in Getting a Diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/muscardystrophy/features/delay-in-diagnosis-of-duchenne-muscular-dystrophy.html>

FEDERAL NOMINATION & IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY



Life Altering Therapy Available in ASMD – Babies Are Going Undetected

- Disease Progression
 - Type A: unlikely to live beyond 4yrs.
 - Type B: may live until late childhood or early adulthood with many complications.
 - Type C: Varies based on age of presentation, but ~20 years.
- ASMD Treatments:
 - Bone Marrow transplant
 - **Enzyme replacement therapy FDA approved for ASMD in 2022**
 - Statins to manage cholesterol
 - Physical and occupational therapy



Life Altering Therapy (Soon) Available –

Disease Progression:

Infantile: ~ death by age 5

Juvenile: progressive symptoms with death ~10-20 years following onset.

Adult: progressive symptoms with death ~6-14 years following onset

Treatments:

Bone Marrow transplants

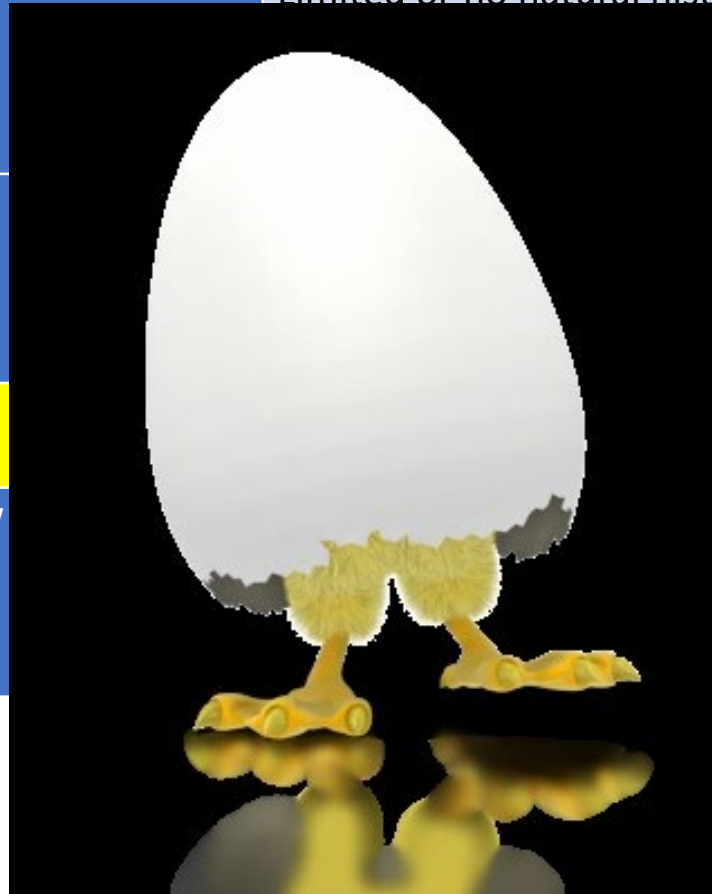
Symptomatic and supportive

BLA submitted in September for gene therapy, already authorized in EU



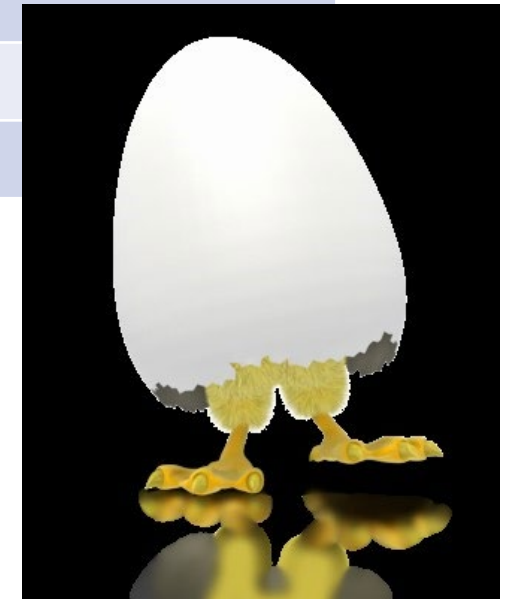
Rare Disease Therapy Development Challenges

Rare Disease-Challenges (MAGNIFIED IN 'ULTRA-RARE')	Regulatory Science-Related Challenges
Small patient populations	Limited or no natural history data; incomplete or limited understanding of phenotypic variability within a disease.
Limited measurement tools	Lack of validated biomarkers or other surrogate endpoints in rare populations
Delays in receiving a diagnosis	Limited use of companion diagnostics, no NBS without confirmatory genetic testing as first-line options
Inconsistent approaches to review disease applications	Inconsistent policies and approaches between offices, divisions and lack of regulatory flexibility



History of Therapy Approval & RUSP Addition

Disease on RUSP	Date of Addition	Date of First FDA Approval
X-ALD	2016	Stem Cell Transplant used since the 80s
Pompe Disease	2015	2006 (late onset 2021)
MPS-1	2016	2003
SMA	2018	2016
MPS-2	2022	2006



Disease Prevalence

RUSP conditions

- PKU: 1 in 12,000-20,000
- CF: 40,000 U.S. cases (~1 in 8,000)
- SCID: 1 in 60,000
- SMA: 1 in 11,000
- ALD: 1 in 17,000
- Pompe: 1 in 40,000
- MPS 1: 1 in 100,000
- MPS-2: 1 in 100,000-170,000
- GAMT: 1 in 550,000

Non-RUSP Conditions w/ Approved Therapies (US and EU):

Duchenne: 1 in 5000 males
Friedreich's Ataxia: 1 in 40,000
Fabry: 1 in 40,000-60,000 males
MLD: 1 in 40,000-100,000
Krabbe: 1 in 100,000
ASMD: 1 in 250,000

FDA Programs in Late Stage Development/ NBS programs be formed by PAGs:

Angelman: 1 in 12,000 to 20,000
Prader Willi: 1 in 10,000 to 30,000
CTX: 1 in 50,000
Sanfilippo: 1 in 70,000
MPS VII: 1 in 250,000

Key considerations for adding conditions to the recommended universal screening panel (RUSP)

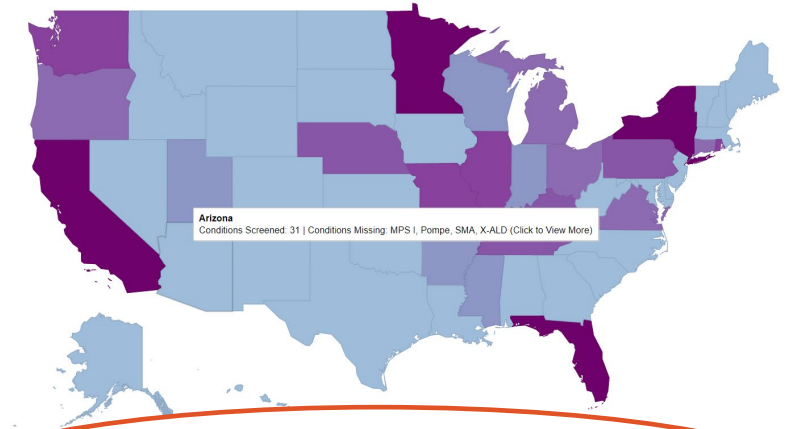
1. Screening is needed to identify all babies who may need treatment
2. There is a significant risk of illness, disability, or death if babies are not treated promptly,
3. Effective treatment is available
4. Treatment is more beneficial in the newborn period than later
5. Resources and access to treatment and counseling are widely available
6. The benefits to babies and to society outweigh the risks and burdens of screening and treatment



FEDERAL NOMINATION & IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY

Approved!

Await HHS Secretary Approval



State by State Implementation begins



Evidence Development
(Screen, Tx, infrastructure,
Care Standards, and more)

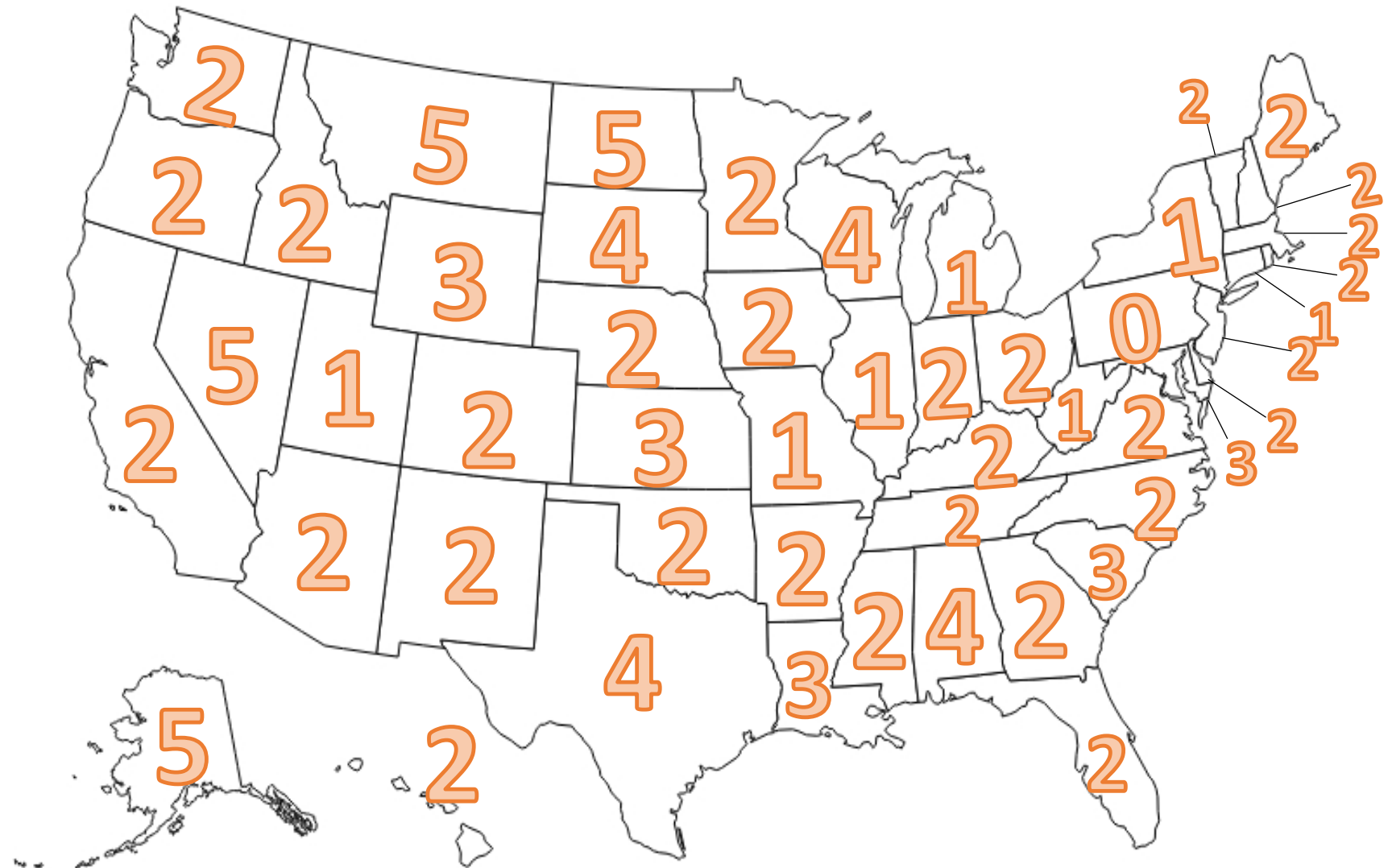
If package not accepted,
continue to build evidence

not approved, continue
build evidence

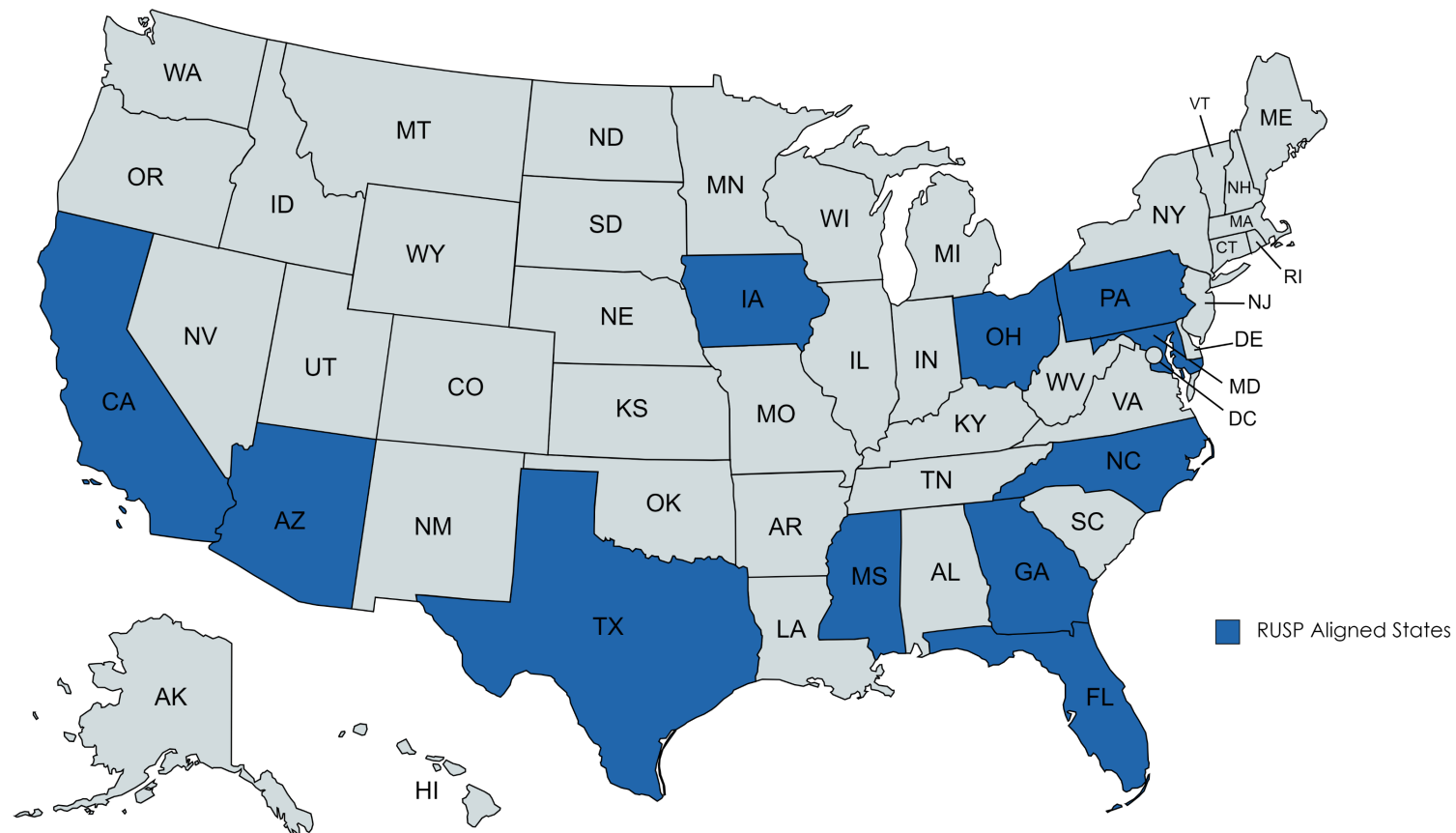
Disparities Across State Lines



Disparities Across State Lines

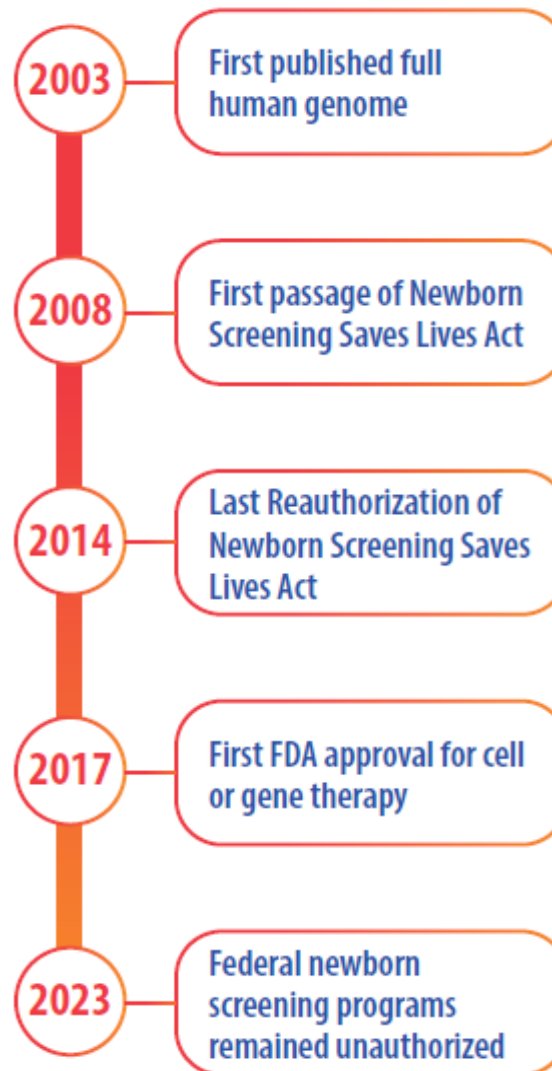


State RUSP Alignment





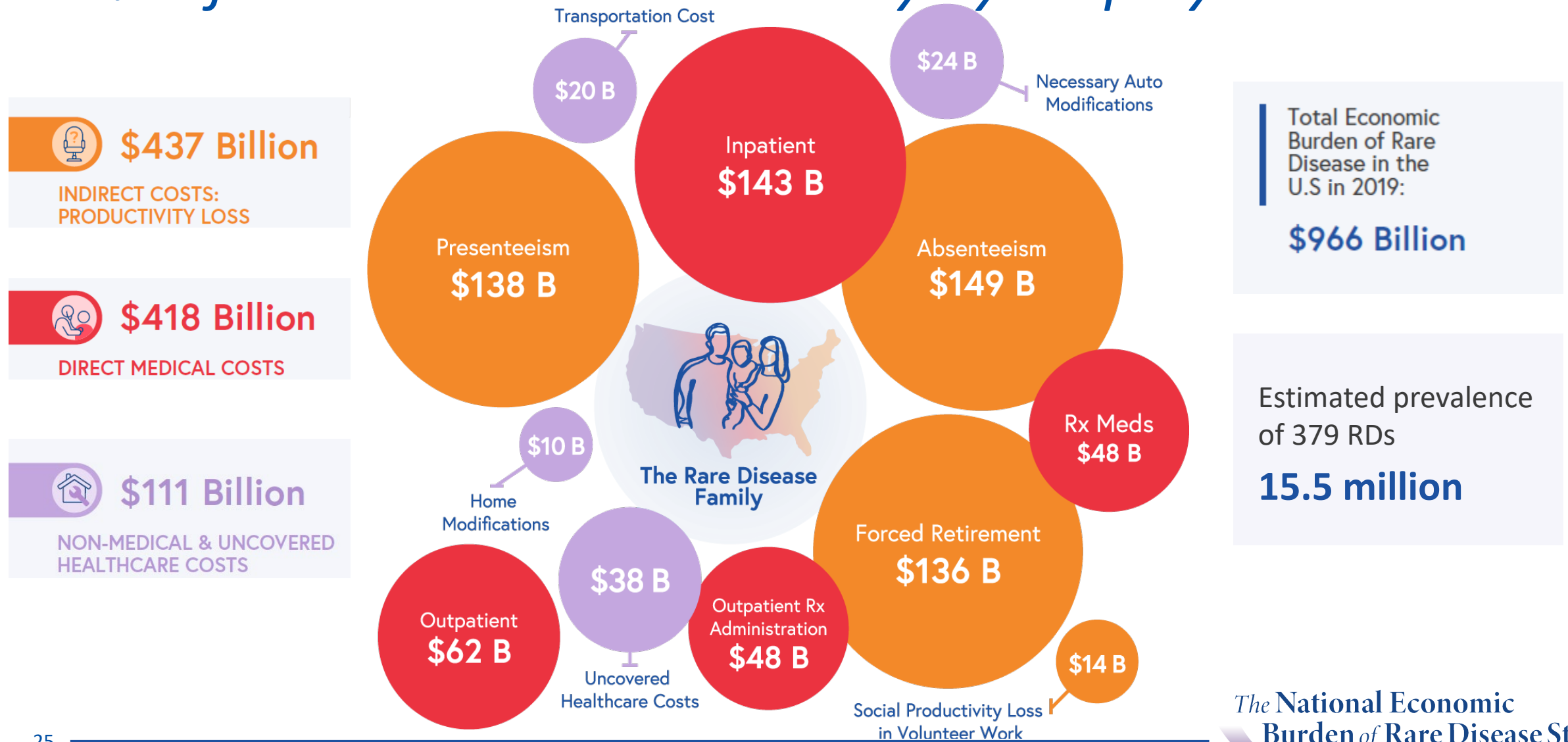
**Thank you to
NASEM and the Committee!**



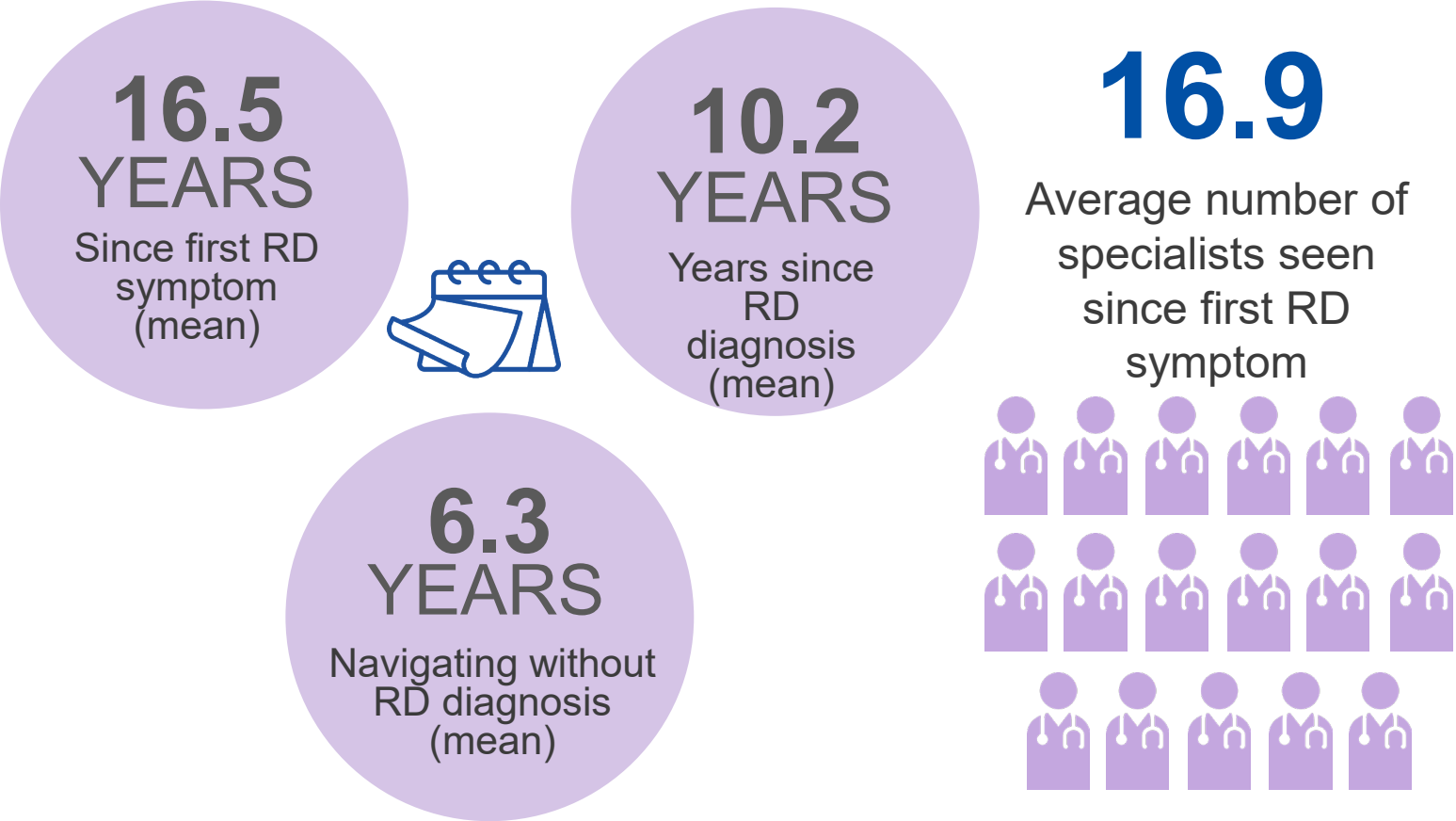
Additional Data

Public Health Urgency of Rare Disease

60% of Costs Shouldered Directly by Employers & Families



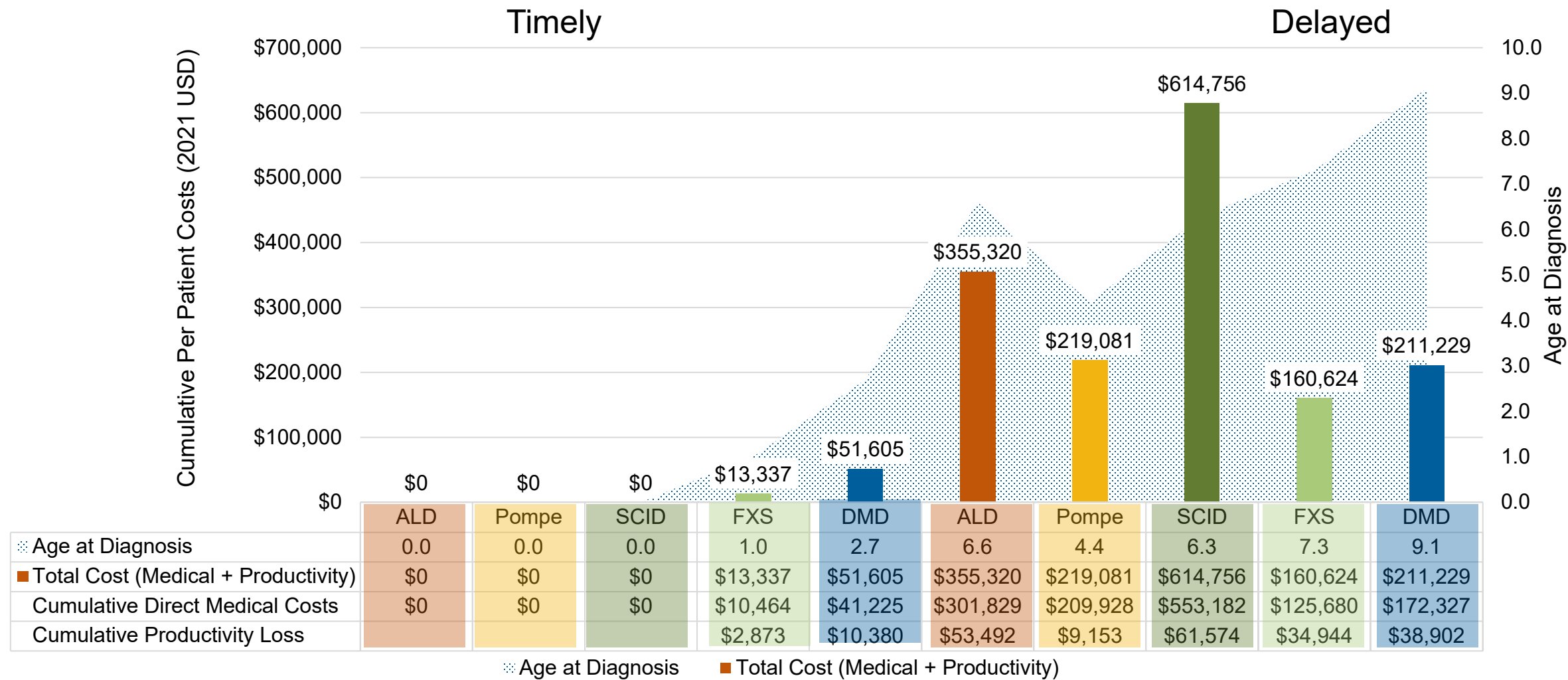
Study Results:
RD Impact Survey Captures Medical Burden, Long Diagnostic Odyssey



Based on final analysis sample of 1,360 completed responses



Economic Burden of the Diagnostic Odyssey in 5 Pediatric-Onset Rare Diseases

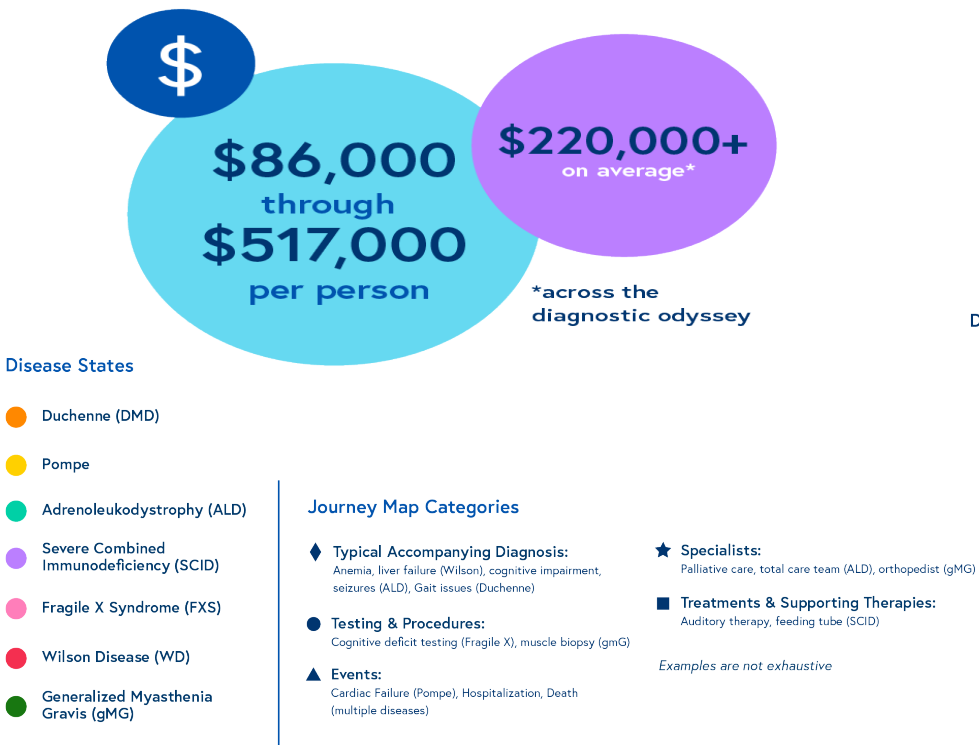


^a Total cost per patient per year is the sum of direct medical costs and productivity loss in the pre-diagnosis period.
Costs are CPI adjusted to 2021 US dollars
Productivity loss is calculated as the product of work days missed and mean annual wage in 2021 (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Missed Days' work is the weighted average of commercial and Medicaid FFS pre-diagnosis days missed work (for caregiver or patient) with delayed diagnosis; inferred using algorithm where IP day = 1 day missed work, OP and ER = 0.5 day missed work, office visits = 0.25 day missed work (Mowitz, et al., 2022).

The Impact of Delayed Diagnosis in Rare Disease

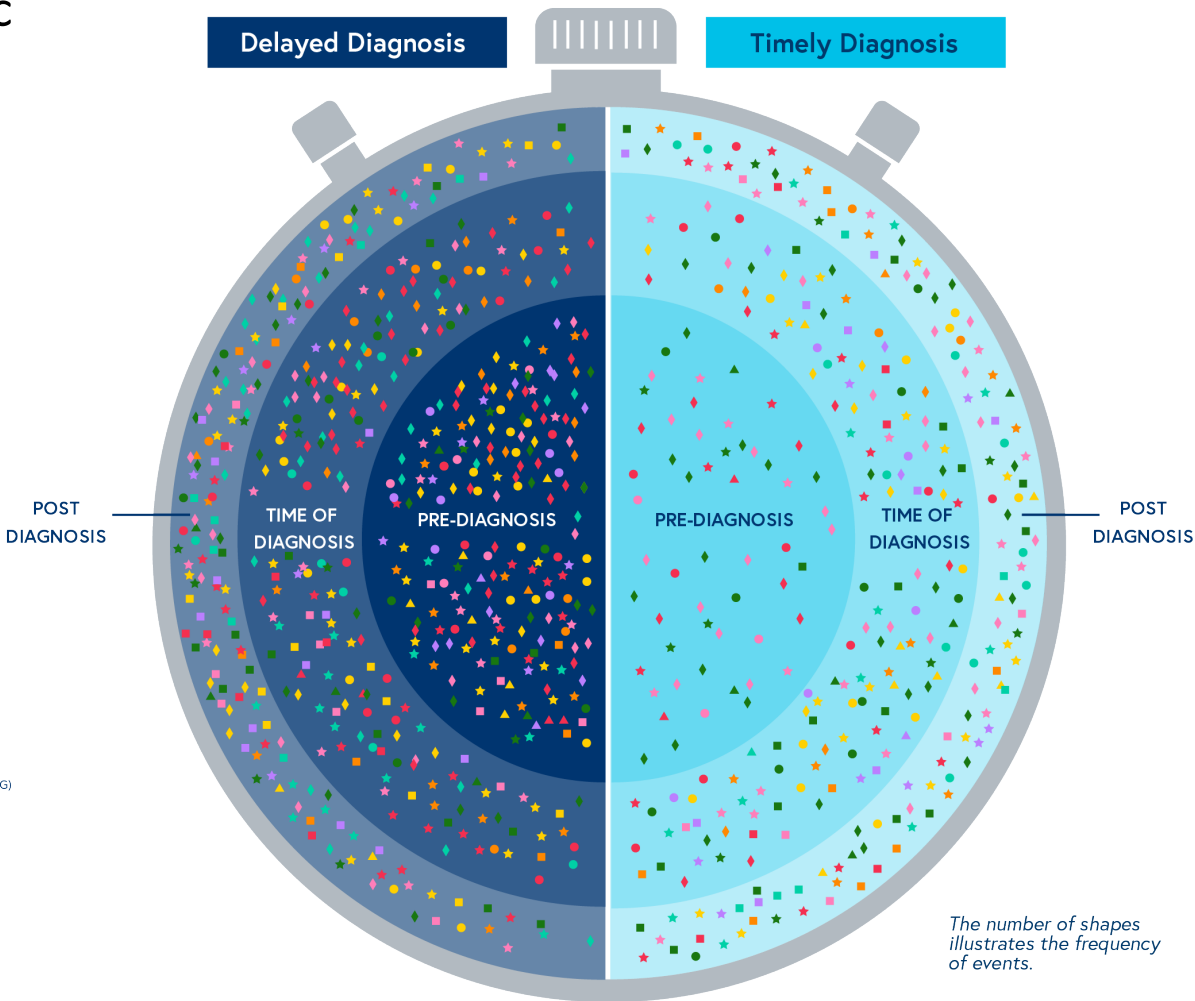
Navigating a rare disease diagnosis can require more than 6 years and 17 medical interventions, on average, after symptoms begin, including emergency room visits and out-of-state specialist appointments.¹

Our in-depth look at the diagnostic odyssey across seven rare diseases found the economic impact of medical costs and lost income for individuals and families totals:



The Cost of Delayed Diagnosis in Rare Disease: A Health Economic Study

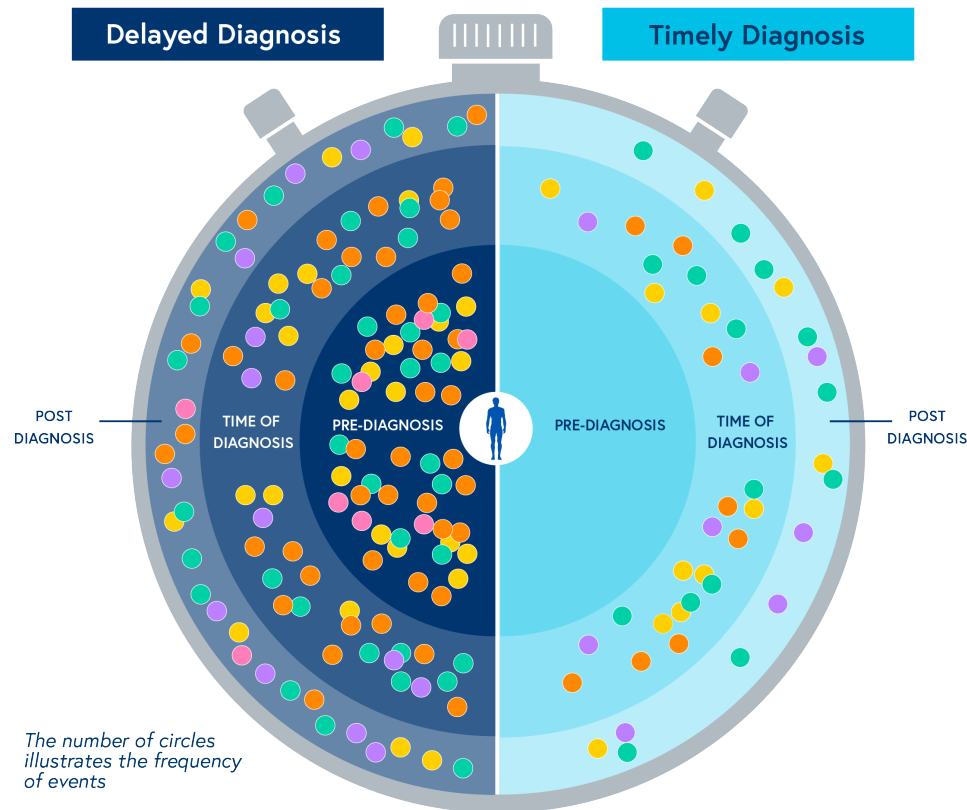
Every Minute Matters



The Impact of Delayed Diagnosis in Pompe

Navigating a rare disease diagnosis can require more than 6 years and 17 medical interventions, on average, after symptoms begin, including emergency room visits and out-of-state specialist appointments.¹ The EveryLife Foundation and our partner the Lewin Group took an in-depth look into Pompe disease, a rare neuromuscular condition, to illustrate the significant economic impact of this diagnostic odyssey.

Every Minute Matters



- **TYPICAL ACCOMPANYING DIAGNOSIS:**
Severe muscle weakness, respiratory distress
 - **TESTING & PROCEDURES:**
Biopsy (muscle, liver, skin), lumbar puncture (spinal tap)
 - **SPECIALISTS:**
Cardiologist, ophthalmologist, gastroenterologist
 - **TREATMENTS & SUPPORTING THERAPIES:**
Ventilation, movement, and developmental support
 - **EVENTS:**
Cardiac failure, death
- Examples are not exhaustive*

ACTION IS KEY TO SECURING TIMELY DIAGNOSIS

The EveryLife Foundation is working to develop policies at the state and federal levels to reduce time to diagnosis. For more information on how you can get involved and support this effort, please visit everylifefoundation.org or contact us at info@everylifefoundation.org.

DELAYED DIAGNOSIS DRAMATICALLY INCREASES COSTS FOR FAMILIES*

- \$ **\$219,081** Total medical cost and productivity loss per family
- 9+ Lost days of work for caregivers each year
- 41 Additional hospital visits, physician appointments, and other medical interventions

*Across the diagnostic odyssey

How Did We Collect These Data?

- * Medicare and Commercial insurance claims data, including patients with Pompe
- * Results from The Rare Disease Financial and Social Impact Survey, completed by 1,409 community members

BENEFITS OF TIMELY DIAGNOSIS

Timely diagnosis, defined as before age one for children with Pompe,² can improve health outcomes by:

- Providing earlier access to supportive therapies and treatment
- Delaying disease complications and physical disabilities
- Lowering costs for patients and families by reducing or eliminating costly and unnecessary services or procedures

In states where newborn screening has been implemented for Pompe, timely diagnosis eliminates the diagnostic odyssey, resulting in no costs incurred before the year of diagnosis.

The Cost of Delayed Diagnosis in Rare Disease: A Health Economic Study

References:

1. Yang G, Cintina I, Zhou M, et al. The National Economic Burden of Rare Disease Study. The EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases. https://everylifefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/The_National_Economic_Burden_of_Rare_Disease_Study_Summary_Report_February_2021.pdf. Published February 25, 2021. 2. Infantile-onset Pompe disease: Diagnosis and management. Arch Argent Pediatr. 2019;117(4). doi:10.5546/aap.2019.eng.271