

Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) is the provincial program responsible for coordinating blood-based and point-of-care screening for all newborns in Ontario.

In 2025, NSO conducted a survey to assess parent satisfaction, evaluate the impact of screening services, and identify future opportunities, with a focus on awareness of NSO overall and experiences with the recently introduced Biliary Atresia screening initiative.

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NEWBORN
SCREENING
ONTARIO

HOW DO PARENTS FEEL ABOUT NSO?

Overall, parents expressed a **positive impression** and **strong trust in NSO**

HOW DO PARENTS FEEL ABOUT NEWBORN SCREENING?

97% of parents felt that newborn screening is **important for babies' health**



OVER 80% of parents **felt positively** about the newborn screening process

How can we improve Newborn Screening?

Parents told us they want to **learn more** about the newborn screening process **before their baby is born.**

HOW DO PARENTS FEEL ABOUT THE NEW BILIARY ATRESIA SCREENING PROGRAM?

In January 2023, NSO started providing parents with an Infant Stool Colour Card (ISCC) at birth to help parents screen for biliary atresia, a rare but serious liver condition that often presents as pale stool during the first four weeks of life.

Over 80% of parents of children born since January 2023 **report receiving an ISCC**



Prior to receiving the ISCC, **only 30%** of parents **were aware that monitoring for pale stool in their infant could identify biliary atresia**



Because of the ISCC, **at least 75%** of parents felt:



- **less worried** about their baby's health
- **more confident** in caring for their baby
- **more knowledgeable** about what to do if their baby had pale stool

95% of parents **found the stool images on the ISCC helpful** and the majority had no difficulties using the card



100% of parents who contacted NSO with concerns about their baby's stool **reported that their concerns were fully addressed**



How can we improve the Biliary Atresia Screening Program?

Parents indicated it would be helpful to have **more guidance about other normal stool colours** that are not currently on the ISCC.

Impact Assessment by:



The
Evidence
Network



www.theevidencenetwork.com

The Evidence Network & Amplify Engagement conducted the survey of parents from May to October 2025. A representative sample of 1,197 parents from across Ontario completed the survey. Parents were reached through community organizations, parent groups, and social media. The respondent sample reflects Ontario's population, offering strong insights to inform decisions about the province's newborn screening program.