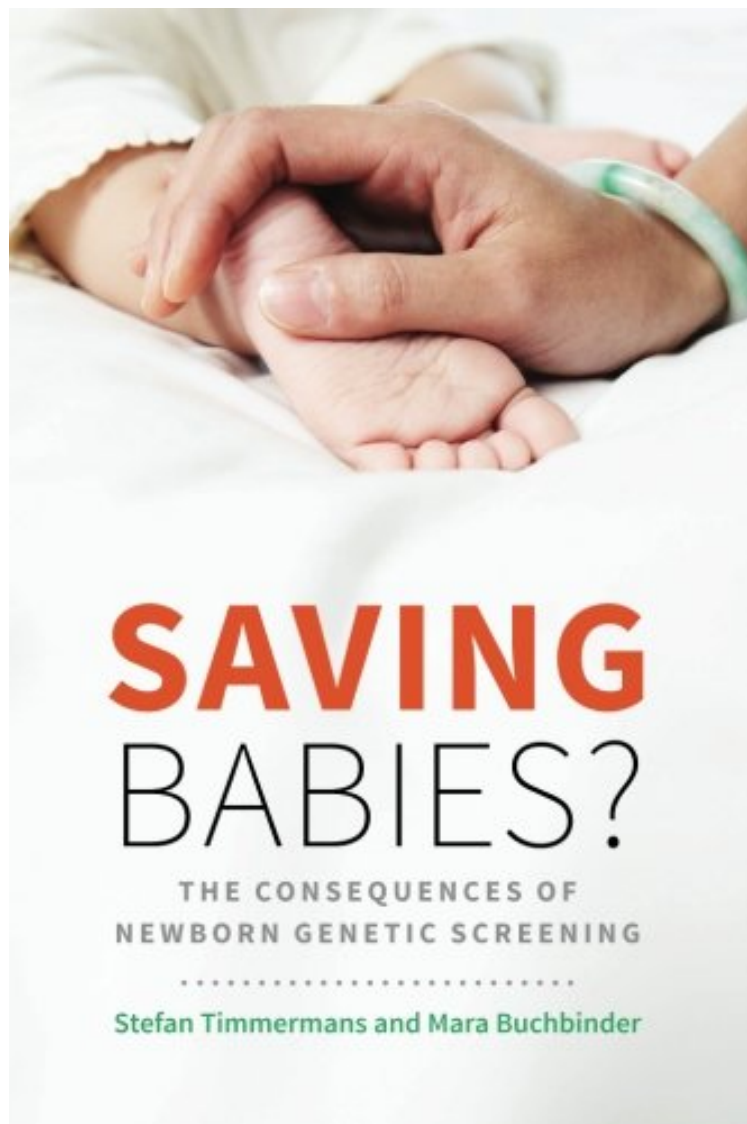


(Mobile pdf) Saving Babies?: The Consequences of Newborn Genetic Screening (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries)

Saving Babies?: The Consequences of Newborn Genetic Screening (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries)

Stefan Timmermans, Mara Buchbinder
DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



#870972 in Books Timmermans Stefan 2015-05-06 2012-12-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022627361X320 pagesSaving Babies The Consequences of Newborn Genetic Screening | File size: 20.Mb

Stefan Timmermans, Mara Buchbinder : Saving Babies?: The Consequences of Newborn Genetic Screening (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saving Babies?: The Consequences of Newborn Genetic Screening (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Very Important Contribution
By Greg
This is an excellent, fascinating work in the sociology of medicine. Timmermans has studied the unforeseen consequences of the massive expansion of mandatory genetic screening for newborns. While well-intentioned, the policy was not driven by medical imperative but by parent-advocates and the politicians representing them. In many cases, the consequences of screening do not appear to justify the policy. One particularly telling consequence is creating what Timmermans calls the patient-in-waiting. Diagnosed at birth with what seemed like a terrible genetic disease, many plan a lifetime around a disease that simply never manifests into anything. Indeed, the very practice has transformed our understanding of some genetic diseases from rare but deadly into something many doctors no longer even consider to be a disease. In closing, Timmermans notes the irony of universal genetic screening in a society without the universal healthcare that would be needed to save many of these babies. It should be noted that Timmermans does not oppose genetic screening. Rather, he and his colleagues offer important insight into what can go wrong and how we might better guide future efforts.

It has been close to six decades since Watson and Crick discovered the structure of DNA and more than ten years since the human genome was decoded. Today, through the collection and analysis of a small blood sample, every baby born in the United States is screened for more than fifty genetic disorders. Though the early detection of these abnormalities can potentially save lives, the test also has a high percentage of false positives/inaccurate results that can take a brutal emotional toll on parents before they are corrected. Now some doctors are questioning whether the benefits of these screenings outweigh the stress and pain they sometimes produce. In *Saving Babies?*, Stefan Timmermans and Mara Buchbinder evaluate the consequences and benefits of state-mandated newborn screening and the larger policy questions they raise about the inherent inequalities in American medical care that limit the effectiveness of this potentially lifesaving technology.

"Smart, humane, and beautifully written, *Saving Babies?* is respectful but critical of clinicians, parents, and policymakers as it vividly connects the reader to the human tragedies on the page. Without being maudlin, Stefan Timmermans and Mara Buchbinder show us how newborn screening really works. Despite the grim subjects, this profound book is a real treat to read."