Working to Assure a Better Future for All of America’s Children

Who we are:
Looking to a healthier future for babies everywhere, the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) was founded in 1997 as a membership organization of public health officials, epidemiologists, academics, parents, and others sharing a commitment to understanding factors that may lead to birth defects, identifying strategies for reducing birth defects, working to prevent potential secondary disabilities through early intervention, and serving the needs of children and families affected by birth defects.

The collaborative mission of NBDPN is to establish and maintain a national network of state and population-based programs for birth defects surveillance and research.

To fulfill its mission, the Network pursues the following goals:

- Improve access to, and application of information about the prevalence and trends of birth defects
- Increase collaboration among members within the birth defects community
- Advance science through birth defects surveillance and its application to public health efforts and resource allocation

What we do:
Although current knowledge does not allow us to prevent or understand the cause of all birth defects, NBDPN is helping to reduce the risk for specific birth defects and improve the lives of those living with birth defects. To fight against birth defects, we:

- Collect, analyze, and disseminate state and population-based birth defect surveillance data
- Improve the quality of birth defect surveillance data
- Promote scientific collaboration for the prevention of birth defects by providing technical assistance for the development of uniform methods of data collection
- Encourage the use of birth defect data for decisions regarding health services planning, including the prevention of secondary disabilities
- Conduct birth defects surveillance and research to assess the impact of birth defects upon children, families, and health care
- Identify factors that can be used to develop primary prevention strategies
- Assist families and their providers in the prevention of secondary disabilities
- Create and disseminate information related to birth defects
The difference we make:

- Collaboration through NBDPN has led to better data availability to support birth defects research and prevention.
- NBDPN’s Birth Defects Surveillance Guidelines serves as a guide to agencies tracking birth defects in the U.S. and abroad.
- NBDPN’s Annual Report on Birth Defects Prevalence within the United States makes data available to researchers, public health agencies and advocates.
- Each year, NBDPN creates a Birth Defects Prevention Month Packet that provides focused and informative materials on a different specific birth defects prevention topic.
- NBDPN provides professional educational opportunities and resources to its members and to others.

How you can help:

We encourage individuals and groups to join the National Birth Defects Prevention Network as we strive to improve birth defects surveillance, research, prevention and treatment, provide support for families, and reduce secondary disabilities and health consequences.

Both professionals and the lay public can help our efforts through contributions and memberships. Membership entitles you to full access to our web resources, including regularly updated information and training opportunities. Professionals and parents can contribute expertise as active members. Find complete membership information at: http://www.nbdpn.org/join_nbdpn.php.

The future we see:

NBDPN’s future plans include:
- Expanding of our national network of programs to gather even more data from as many states as possible
- Increasing our efforts to support research to assess the impact of birth defects upon children, families, and healthcare systems
- Increasing our ability to help children with birth defects and their families lead better, healthier lives

National Birth Defects Prevention Network
Suite 1561, 1321 Upland Drive,
Houston, TX 77043

Email: nbdpn@nbdpn.org
Website: www.nbdpn.org