

*Monday, February 28, 3:30PM-5:00PM
Concurrent Breakout Session B*

Referral to Services: Role of State Birth Defects Surveillance and Impact

Moderator: Cara Mai, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

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State birth defects surveillance programs monitor birth defects trends and conduct epidemiologic studies. Additionally, registries play an important role in the identification of children with birth defects and assisting families with timely referrals to specialized services. This breakout session will address how state programs are referring children with birth defects and their families to services. A discussion of the current NBDPN activity to address data quality and standards for referral to services as well as a presentation of the findings from a recently completed survey of state birth defects programs on their referral activities will be covered. Finally, a state example, Colorado Responds to Children with Special Needs (CRCSN), will be highlighted to better understand state referral activities. CRCSN has been referring children to services since the inception of its program in 1990; the initial referral system began as a paper driven process, and by 2006, evolved into an electronic notification system. The Colorado experience will focus on the current electronic notification system and the new steps they are taking to enhance and improve the program.