



# National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)

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A network of individuals working at the local, state, and national level in birth defects surveillance, research, and prevention.

The Network serves as a forum for exchanging ideas about the prevention of birth defects, developing uniform methods of birth defect surveillance and research, and providing technical support to state and local programs. There are over 200 members representing the 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and several countries.

## Mission:

The Network's mission is to establish and maintain a national network of state and population-based programs for birth defects surveillance and research to assess the impact of birth defects upon children, families, and health care; to identify factors that can be used to develop primary prevention strategies; and to assist families and their providers in secondary disabilities prevention.

## Committees:

Network members can participate in any of the eight working committees.

- & **Annual Meeting** - plans and arranges the content and structure of the annual meeting of state and national programs working in birth defects surveillance, research, and prevention.
- & **Data** - oversees the collection of the state data for the Annual Report, develops definitions, and coordinates data use and other data-related activities.
- & **Education and Outreach** - establishes guidelines and develops educational materials that states may use to assist families and their children with birth defects.
- & **Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (ELSI)** - examines the regulations that impact birth defects surveillance and the consequences of using birth defects registries.
- & **Membership, Bylaws, and Nominations** - establishes guidelines and policies concerning NBDPN membership, develops and maintains the bylaws, and oversees officer nominations and elections.
- & **NTD Surveillance/Folic Acid Education** - addresses strategies for improving state capacity for surveillance of neural tube defects and for promoting folic acid use.
- & **Publications and Communications** - oversees the publication of the NBDPN Annual Report, a periodic newsletter, and the web site. The purpose of this committee is to improve the dissemination of information from the Network to its members and other individuals (e.g., advocates, MCH/CSHCN directors).
- & **Surveillance Guidelines and Standards** - develops surveillance standards and addresses data quality issues and uniform data definitions.

## Membership and Contact Information:

Visit the Network on the Internet at [www.nbdpn.org/NBDPN](http://www.nbdpn.org/NBDPN) or e-mail [nbdpn@cdc.gov](mailto:nbdpn@cdc.gov).