

*Monday, February 5, 1:30PM-3:00PM
Concurrent Breakout Session A*

Birth Defects Surveillance: User-Friendly Spatial Analysis Techniques

Moderator: Craig A. Mason, University of Maine, Orono, ME

Matthew Strickland, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Russell Kirby, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Geographic information systems provide an analytical framework and environment for the examination of spatial patterns and associations between health outcomes, health facilities and services, and aspects of the physical or social environment. In this session we will explore the application of GIS to birth defects surveillance data. Examples based on both individual-level and ecologically aggregated data will be presented, and we will demonstrate the use of several freely available software tools for exploratory spatial data analysis, identification of spatial trends in the distribution of specific birth defects, and some approaches to spatial modeling with these data.

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Moving from Guidelines to Standards: A panel discussion

Moderator: Bradley McDowell, Iowa Registry for Congenital and Inherited Disorders, Iowa City, IA

Framework and background on core standards – Brad McDowell (IA)

Panel Discussion: Lowell Sever (WA), Norma Ryan (OH), Myron Falken (MN), Linda Jackson (AR), and Brad McDowell (IA)

The NBDPN Guidelines for Conducting Birth Defects Surveillance manual is a resource that provides recommendations designed to improve the quality and utility of surveillance data. The Surveillance Guidelines and Standards Committee, charged with the evaluation, maintenance, and expansion of the manual, has been discussing whether to move from recommendations that programs "should" follow to standards that programs "must" follow. The breakout session will provide background information and potential directions along with a panel discussion of issues surrounding this transition.

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A Primer on Medical Procedures: What they tell you and what they don't

Moderator: Barbara Warmerdam, California Birth Defects Monitoring Program, Berkeley, CA

Angela Scheuerle, Tesserae Genetics, Dallas, TX

Medical procedures are performed on patients as part of both routine and specialized medical care. Many patients get multiple procedures. The first part of the presentation will review the general idea of the medical procedures of physical exam, ultrasound, xray, CT and MRI. It will demonstrate the limits and benefits of each general type of procedure and will discuss the situations in which some procedures are used. The second part of the presentation will discuss major parts of the body and the diagnostic procedures that may be used to examine them. The goal is to demonstrate why patients may be tested using multiple modalities when there is only one ultimate diagnosis. This is an interactive presentation and the audience should be prepared to participate and to take notes. Because of the nature of the presentation, copies of it cannot be made available.