

*Monday, February 5, 8:30AM-9:45AM
Plenary Session*

Costs of Birth Defects

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

Cost of Birth Defects: 2005 Update

Norman Waitzman, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

This presentation will review the methods used to calculate lifetime economic costs of 17 birth defects for California infants born in 1988 that were published in 1996 in the book, *The Cost of Birth Defects*. Dr. Waitzman has updated those cost estimates to 2005 dollars and will present the updated estimates for the first time in this presentation. He will discuss the methods used to adjust for inflation and the limitations, including the inability to control for changes in technology. He will also present new estimates of the medical costs for children born in Utah in recent years with cleft lip and/or cleft palate.

Economic and Psychosocial Impacts of Birth Defects: Beyond Direct Costs of Care

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

This presentation will cover the methods used to value outcomes and impacts of birth defects beyond the costs of delivering medical and other care and special education to children with birth defects. These include the value of lost earnings due to mortality and morbidity, which were included in the Waitzman et al. study. They also include the value of lost earnings of parental caregivers. Non-monetary costs include the impact of birth defects on the health-related quality of life of affected children and family caregivers, and other psychosocial impacts. Data to illustrate these concepts will be provided for spina bifida as an example. Methods for collecting data to assess these impacts for other conditions will be discussed.