

*Monday, February 11, 3:30PM-5:00PM  
Concurrent Breakout Session B*

***Data Linkage Tools: Survey Results and Discussion***

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

**Peter Langlois**, Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Austin, TX

**Ying Wang**, Congenital Malformations Registry, Center for Environmental Health, New York State Department of Health, Troy, NY

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

**Lisa Marengo**, Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Austin, TX

This session will examine strategies and tools used for electronically linking birth defects data with other state or health data systems. Discussion will focus on the practical and applied aspects of data linkage. As part of this presentation, a brief overview of different linkage methods will be presented. In addition, the findings of a recent survey on data linkage approaches used by birth defects programs will be reviewed. This includes a summary of specific tools and techniques being used by respondents. The application of some of these techniques, along with challenges and barriers, will be illustrated through state examples.