

# BIRTH DEFECTS IN ALASKA

## ABOUT 1 IN EVERY 33 BABIES IS BORN WITH A BIRTH DEFECT IN ALASKA.

Birth defects are health conditions that are present at birth that change the shape or function of one or more parts of the body. Common birth defects include heart defects, cleft lip and cleft palate, and spina bifida. Birth defects can affect a baby's overall health, how the body develops, and how the body works. Birth defects can greatly impact the lives of babies and their families.

### EACH YEAR IN ALASKA

More than

# 11,200

babies are born.

About

# 330

babies will be born with a birth defect.

About

# 1 in 4

infant deaths is due to a birth defect.

## WE NEED INFORMATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND BIRTH DEFECTS.

The [Alaska Birth Defects Registry](#) is a tracking system that collects information on babies born with defects in Alaska (AK). Tracking birth defects is crucial for understanding ways to prevent birth defects and supporting Alaska children and families impacted by birth defects.

A strong birth defects tracking system is needed to:



### IDENTIFY CAUSES

We don't know what causes most birth defects.



### HELP FAMILIES CONNECT TO SERVICES

Children with birth defects and their families need services and care.

*“Only when we support birth defects tracking programs will we have data to understand why birth defects happen, how to treat them, and what families need to thrive.”*

**JANE C.**



### FIGHT NEW THREATS

Threats like Zika and opioid exposure put AK children at risk for birth defects.



### EDUCATE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

Families and communities in AK need information and resources to prevent birth defects.

### LEARN MORE

To explore birth defects data, visit PeriStats at <http://bit.ly/PeristatsAKBirthDefects>

To learn more about birth defects, visit [marchofdimes.org](http://marchofdimes.org) and [nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org)

### AK'S PROGRAM

Alaska Birth Defects Registry

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

<http://bit.ly/ABDRBirthDefects>

### BIRTH DEFECTS TRACKING

National Birth Defects Prevention Network  
[nbdpn.org](http://nbdpn.org)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/states/](http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/states/)



This profile was developed in partnership with the National Birth Defects Prevention Network.

Data source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2016 natality and 2013 period linked birth/infant death data.