**BIRTH DEFECTS IN CALIFORNIA**

**ABOUT 1 IN EVERY 33 BABIES IS BORN WITH A BIRTH DEFECT IN CALIFORNIA.**

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 CALIFORNIA**

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<th>More than 488,800 babies are born.</th>
<th>About 14,810 babies will be born with a birth defect.</th>
<th>About 1 in 4 infant deaths is due to a birth defect.</th>
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**WE NEED INFORMATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND BIRTH DEFECTS.**

The California Birth Defects Monitoring Program is a tracking system that collects information on babies born with defects in California (CA). Tracking birth defects is crucial for understanding ways to prevent birth defects and supporting California 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.

**FIGHT NEW THREATS**

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

**EDUCATE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITIES**

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

“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.

**LEARN MORE**

To explore birth defects data, visit PeriStats at http://bit.ly/PeriStatsCABirthDefects

To learn more about birth defects, visit marchofdimes.org and nacersano.org

**CA’S PROGRAM**

California Birth Defects Monitoring Program
California Department of Public Health

**BIRTH DEFECTS TRACKING**

National Birth Defects Prevention Network
nbdpn.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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.