BIRTH DEFECTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

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 MASSACHUSETTS

More than 71,300 babies are born.

About 2,160 babies will be born with a birth defect.

About 1 in 5 infant deaths is due to a birth defect.

WE NEED INFORMATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND BIRTH DEFECTS.

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

EDUCATE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITIES
Families and communities in MA 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/PeriStatsMABirthDefects
To learn more about birth defects, visit marchofdimes.org and nacersano.org

MA’S PROGRAM
Massachusetts Birth Defects Monitoring Program
Massachusetts 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.