



National Birth Defects Prevention Network

Surveillance • Research • Prevention

Who we are: Looking to a healthier future for babies everywhere, the **National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)** was founded in 1997 as a membership organization of public health officials, epidemiologists, academics, parents, and others sharing a commitment to understanding factors that may lead to birth defects, identifying strategies for reducing birth defects, working to prevent potential secondary disabilities through early intervention, and serving the needs of children and families affected by birth defects. The collaborative mission of NBDPN is to establish and maintain a national network of state and population-based programs for birth defects surveillance and research.

To fulfill its mission, the Network pursues the following goals:

- Improve access to, and application of information about the prevalence and trends of birth defects
- Increase collaboration among members within the birth defects community
- Advance science through birth defects surveillance and its application to public health efforts and resource allocation

What we do: Any family can have a baby affected by birth defects. Despite great strides, the cause of many birth defects remains unknown. **NBDPN** makes opportunities to reduce the risk for birth defects and to improve the lives of those living with birth defects. To protect the health of all babies we:

- Collect, analyze, and disseminate state and population-based birth defects surveillance data
- Improve the quality of birth defects surveillance data
- Promote scientific collaboration for the prevention of birth defects by providing technical assistance for the development of uniform methods of data collection
- Encourage the use of birth defects data for decisions regarding health services planning, including the prevention of secondary disabilities
- Conduct birth defects surveillance and research to assess the impact of birth defects upon children, families, and health care
- Identify factors that can be used to develop primary prevention strategies
- Assist families and their providers in the prevention of secondary disabilities
- Create and disseminate information related to birth defects



National Birth Defects Prevention Network

1321 Upland Drive, Suite #1561
Houston, TX 77043

Email: nbdpn@nbdpn.org
Website: www.nbdpn.org

The difference we make:

- **Collaboration** makes better data available to enhance birth defects research and prevention efforts.
- **Birth Defects Surveillance Guidelines and Standards** inform agencies tracking birth defects in the U.S. and abroad.
- **NBDPN's Annual Report** on Birth Defects Prevalence within the U.S. makes data available to researchers, public health agencies and advocates.
- **NBDPN's Birth Defects Prevention Month Packet** provides information and health messaging for traditional and social media.
- **NBDPN** fosters professional development through educational opportunities, **mentoring** and creation of resources for its members and others.

How you can help: Become a member of the **National Birth Defects Prevention Network** and help improve birth defects surveillance, research, prevention and treatment, support families and reduce secondary disabilities and health consequences.

Both professionals and the lay public can help our efforts through contributions and membership. We look to professionals and parents to contribute expertise as active members. Members receive full access to our web resources, including information, training, and mentoring opportunities. Find complete membership information at: https://www.nbdpn.org/join_nbdpn.php.

The future we see:

NBDPN's goals include:

- Expanding our national network to include data from as many states as possible
- Increasing our efforts to support research to assess the impact of birth defects on children, families, and healthcare systems
- Improving our ability to help children with birth defects and their families live better, healthier lives.

Become a part of the NBDPN community today!

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1 in 33

For 1 out of each 33 births in the United States, a family is faced with a heart-wrenching combination of joy and sorrow due to a birth defect in their newborn.

Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality in the United States. Children who survive the more serious forms may face a myriad of medical and social challenges.

NBDPN drives progress in finding causes of and ways to prevent defects, and in reducing the long-term effects of those that do occur.

NBDPN facilitates research based on reliable data and promotes professional and lay education. Spreading effective prevention measures will continue to reduce the number and devastating effects of birth defects.

