
California Birth Defects Monitoring Program

General Description

The California Birth Defects Monitoring Program (CBDMP) collects and analyzes data to identify opportunities for preventing birth defects and improving the health of babies. The Program strives to increase the quality and quantity of California-based birth defect data available for purposes of public health monitoring and investigator led research, increase communication of birth defects information, and monitor public health and safety concerns relating to birth defects. Data collection focuses on structural malformations including major heart defects, oral clefts, neural tube defects, hypospadias, abdominal wall defects, Down syndrome and other chromosomal defects. The data are used for ongoing surveillance to monitor rates and trends of select birth defects and to provide outcome data for the pregnancy blood samples included in the California Biobank Program.

Background

The California Birth Defects Monitoring Program was mandated by the California State Legislature in 1982 to find causes of birth defects. The Program is located within the California Department of Public Health's Center for Family Health – Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division. The Program provides data for public health reports, needs assessments and program evaluation. The Program also works to communicate relevant information and identify appropriate resources specifically for California families concerned about birth defects.

Data Collection

The Program sets procedures for identifying children with birth defects, reviewing medical records and abstract data, and linking cases with state and national agencies through the use of vital statistics (live birth or fetal death certificates) to provide demographic data.

Data Coverage

Data are currently collected from 10 counties in California: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Orange, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare. The Program currently monitors over 150,000 births, accounting for California's geographic, environmental and racial/ethnic diversity. The database has information amassed from surveillance of over 25 years and 6.25 million births. More information can be found at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/GDSP/Pages/MoreAboutTheCBP.aspx>

Accessibility

The Program responds to data inquiries from the public, research and medical communities.

Data Link

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CBDMP/Pages/default.aspx>

Funding

The Program receives funding from the California Birth Defects Monitoring Fund.

Contact

California Department of Public Health
Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Program
MS 8305
P.O. Box 997420
Sacramento, CA 95899-7420
1-866-241-0305
mchinet@cdph.ca.gov
