



February 2023

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## 2023 NBDPN National Conference

### Join Top Leaders & Thinkers at NBDPN

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) will hold its National Conference from August 14-16, 2023, in Atlanta, GA with a pre-conference training to be held on August 13.

As the only national conference for population-based birth defects surveillance programs in the United States, participants are given an opportunity to learn about current advances and opportunities for birth defects surveillance, research, intervention, and prevention through sharing of best practices at state, local and national levels.

Visit the [website](#) to learn about the conference, the upcoming Call for Proposals (opening January 2023), and information regarding registration, hotel, and much more.

### 2023 NBDPN Conference is Now Accepting Proposals!

The 2023 NBDPN Conference call for proposals has been extended and will now close on March 3, 2023, with acceptance notifications to be sent beginning in April 2023.

The theme of the 2023 NBDPN Conference is "*Connect. Share. Collaborate.*" The theme represents the event as a platform for the NBDPN community to leverage each other's expertise and partner for better birth defects surveillance, research, prevention, and health promotion. As the only national conference for population-based birth defects surveillance programs, this theme underscores the opportunity to experience community and inspiration, and to gain knowledge, tools, and skills.

The tracks for the 2023 NBDPN Conference are:

- **Surveillance Operations:** Case ascertainment; continuous quality improvement (CQI); data linkages; data modernization/data systems/interoperability; program management
- **Partnerships and Family Engagement:** Collaborations with other public health programs; leadership engagement; program visibility
- **Epidemiology/Data:** Birth defect rates, trends, risk factors; Birth Defects Study To Evaluate Pregnancy exposureS (BD-STEPS); statistical methods/analyses
- **Prevention, Intervention, and Public Policy:** Birth Defects Awareness Month (BDAM) activities; lifespan surveillance; neural tube defects (NTD)

prevention/folic acid promotion activities; referrals

- **Emerging, Evolving, and Novel Topics:** Data systems; infectious disease; new birth defects testing; new disorders; newborn screening (NBS); prenatal diagnosis

For more information, visit the [NBDPN Conference Proposal Submission page](#).

## Announcements and Updates

### NBDPN Data Quality Assessment Report Summary

The NBDPN Standards Workgroup is excited to announce the distribution of the latest Data Quality Assessment Reports, which will be distributed to State surveillance program contacts in *March 2023*. The program-specific reports for each state contain self-reported performance along with the overall performance across programs in the US who completed the self-assessment tool.

The NBDPN Standards Workgroup hopes that this customized report will enable programs to identify areas in which they are currently below recommended national standards and to develop strategies to improve in those areas. The NBDPN Standards Workgroup also thanks both NBDPN and CDC for their help in providing the reports. A copy of the overall summary results NBDPN Data Quality Assessment Report Summary will be available on the [NBDPN website](#) March 2023.

### February 28th is Rare Disease Day

Raising awareness and generating change for the 300+ million people worldwide living with a rare disease, their families, and care providers. Many of these 7,000+ rare diseases can fall into the same category as congenital birth defects, including several chromosome syndromes, and should be supported and promoted by all in this field. To learn more about this important day, visit the [Rare Disease Day website](#).



### March 3rd is World Birth Defects Day

On March 3, 2023, the National Birth Defect Prevention Network (NBDPN) will join the world to celebrate World Birth Defects Day (#WorldBDDDay) with the theme **"Many Birth Defects, One Voice"** as this day recognizes our collective voice in raising awareness for all birth defects.

#WorldBDDDay unites people and organizations working in the field of birth defects, also known as congenital anomalies, congenital disorders, or congenital conditions.

#WorldBDDay also aims to mobilize resources and commitment to improve birth defects surveillance, research, prevention, and care.

The WBDD 2023 Toolkit available [here](#) provides many options in joining the movement, including the "Birth defects matter in \_\_\_ because..." signs. (Download, print, and fill it out with your reason why birth defects matter to you; then post a picture holding your sign on March 3rd). Be sure to use the hashtags #WorldBDDay and #ManyBirthDefects1Voice to be part of the conversation. To learn more, visit the [WBDD website](#).

## Important Dates to Remember

- February 28, 2023      Rare Disease Day
- March 3, 2023      World Birth Defects Day
- August 14-16, 2023      2023 NBDPN Conference (Atlanta, GA)

## Partner Corner

**CDC NOFO - Pregnant People–Infant Linked Longitudinal Surveillance**  
NCBDDD will host an [informational call](#) for this NOFO on **February 22, 2023, from 2pm - 3pm ET**.

Please see the NOFO information about a new [CDC funding opportunity](#) to advance surveillance for exposures and outcomes impacting pregnant people and their infants (CDC-RFA-DD-23-0003). Priority exposures and outcomes of public health interest may include, but are not limited to,

- medication for opioid use disorder,
- neonatal abstinence syndrome,
- cytomegalovirus,
- stillbirths, and
- other conditions that may have serious public health impacts on pregnant people and infants.

### **AMCHP Webinar – Tracking Progress Towards Your Goals: Utilizing Key Performance Indicators**

AMCHP is excited to announce the launch of the Innovation Hub Learning Community (IHLC). The IHLC is the latest evolution of the programmatic support and learning opportunities offered through Innovation Hub and is an expansion of the previous Cutting-Edge Learning Community (CELC). Throughout the year, AMCHP will be hosting four webinars on topics related to programmatic best practices that all MCH professionals and advocates are welcome to attend!

This IHLC webinar series will focus on skills and strategies that you can apply to your work to improve your organizational processes, expand the scope and impact of your practice, and plan for program sustainability. Our first event will help you learn more about how to utilize key performance indicators to assess success and track progress towards your programmatic goals. This webinar is scheduled for February 23, 2023. For more information, visit the [AMCHP Events page](#).

### **AMCHP Innovation Hub Spring Applications**

Do you know of practices, programs, or strategies from the field that are having a meaningful impact on MCH populations and their communities? Encourage them to explore the [Minimum Criteria Checklist](#) and [submit](#) their practice to the [MCH](#)

[Innovations Database](#). Submissions will be accepted to [evidence@amchp.org](mailto:evidence@amchp.org) until COB **Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. For any questions or additional information contact [evidence@amchp.org](mailto:evidence@amchp.org).

We are also accepting policies on a rolling basis. You can access our submission forms [HERE](#) under the "How do I Submit a Policy?" tab and learn more about how you can submit your policy for the Spring review! All submissions should be sent to [evidence@amchp.org](mailto:evidence@amchp.org) and please remember that they are accepted year-round on a rolling basis.

### **Get Ready for AMCHP 2023!**

The 2023 AMCHP Annual Conference will be held from May 6 - 9, 2023, at the New Orleans Marriot in New Orleans, LA, and virtually through our virtual conference platform with the theme "*Cultivating Diverse Leaders in Maternal and Child Health.*"

We look forward to having participants discuss strategies to grow leaders in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) who reflect the diversity of experiences, cultures, and abilities of the people we serve. Our goal is to nurture innovative, creative, and resilient leaders who use their talents to support healthy communities. For more information, visit [AMCHP's Conference website](#).

### **Society for Birth Defects Research & Prevention 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting June 24-28, 2023**

The 63rd Annual Meeting and Education Courses will take place in-person at the Charleston Marriott, in Charleston, SC, a destination ranked #1 by Travel + Leisure's Best Cities in America for the past ten years! Register early to take advantage of special discounted rates. For more information, visit the [SBDPR 2023 Annual Meeting website](#).

### [Publications](#)

## **Connections**

The NBDPN Social Media Workgroup develops content for the NBDPN social media feeds Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Most of our posts include information for the maternal and child health population, but most of our followers are YOU. Please bookmark our social media pages and **share** our posts, which cover all topics related to birth defects/anomalies.



Connect with your local partners on social media (eg. county health departments, federally qualified health centers, culturally specific community-based organizations, and more) to get the messages out further. Follow and share the NBDPN pages listed below:

NBDPN SOCIAL MEDIA WORKGROUP INVITES YOU TO:

# SHARE OUR POSTS TO REACH LOCAL COMMUNITIES!

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS ARE YOU, BUT OUR MESSAGES ARE FOR THE PUBLIC. HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!



**Connect With Us**



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