

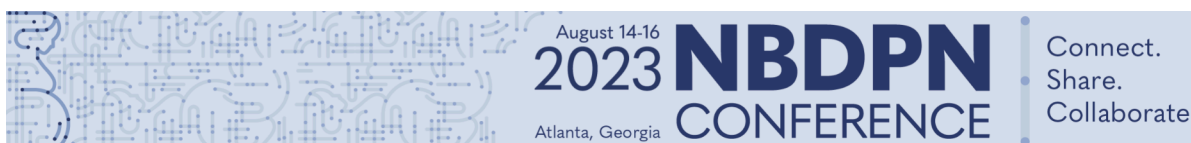


April 2023

## In this issue...

- [2023 NBDPN National Conference](#)
- [Announcements and Updates](#)
- [Important Dates to Remember](#)
- [Partner Corner](#)
- [New Tools and Resources](#)
- [Connections](#)

## 2023 NBDPN National Conference



Registration for the **National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) Conference** (August 14-16, 2023 in Atlanta, GA) is now open!! Please visit this [link to register!](#)

[Visit the website](#) to learn about the conference and information regarding registration, hotel, and much more. For questions about this event, please contact [NBDPNmeetings@conferencemanagers.com](mailto:NBDPNmeetings@conferencemanagers.com). We hope to see you there!

### **Reminder for 2023 NBDPN Awards Nominations - Forms close May 12th, 2023**

At every in-person NBDPN annual meeting, the Network acknowledges achievements of individuals, programs, and agencies. The Awards Presentation is always a shining moment for NBDPN members and others working in the field of birth defects.

The nomination period for the 2023 NBDPN Conference Awards will close on May 12th, 2023. Please visit each of the nominations forms for more information and to submit your nominations:

1. [The Godfrey P. Oakley, Jr. Award](#)
2. [The State Leadership Award](#)
3. [The Birth Defects Education & Prevention Award](#)

## Announcements and Updates

### **The National Birth Defects Prevention Network Needs Your Input!**

Please join us for the NBDPN Listening Session about updating Birth Defects Surveillance Guidelines.

### **Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM EST**

In an effort to better understand the [Birth Defects Surveillance Guidelines](#) needs of our membership, we invite you to participate in this moderated conversation. We will share a summary of responses to the NBDPN Guidelines Revision Workgroup Survey that was completed earlier this year. The survey asked respondents about themselves, chapter specific questions

(e.g., usefulness, recommendations, additional resources to include, etc.), suggestions for increasing utility of the guidelines, and more. We want your feedback as we move forward in this process!

We look forward to seeing you there.

If you did not receive an invite to the Listening Session please reach out to [nbdpn@amchp.org](mailto:nbdpn@amchp.org) and one will be sent to you.

### **NBDPN Data Quality Assessment Report Summary**

The NBDPN Standards Workgroup is excited to announce the distribution of the latest Data Quality Assessment Reports, which has been distributed to State surveillance program contacts. 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 is available on the NBDPN website <https://www.nbdpn.org/guidelines.php> or [see a copy of the report here](#).

Please email [standards@nbdpn.org](mailto:standards@nbdpn.org) if you have any questions or your State contact did not receive a copy of the report.



### **2024 Call for Manuscripts**

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) will publish its annual special issue on birth defects surveillance and prevention in the **January 1, 2024**, issue of BDR. This annual issue now consists of a series of articles relating to various topics in surveillance, epidemiology, and the application of surveillance data to birth defects prevention and public health programs, together with an editorial and a spotlight article on a specific defect or group of defects collaboratively developed by the NBDPN Data Committee. Prepare to submit your manuscript for review by **Friday July 7, 2023**. Find details in the attached document or visit:

[https://www.nbdpn.org/bdr\\_cfm.php](https://www.nbdpn.org/bdr_cfm.php)

Please contact Dr. Marilyn Browne (518-402-7974, [marilyn.browne@health.ny.gov](mailto:marilyn.browne@health.ny.gov)) or Dr. Wendy Nembhard (501-614-2145, [wnnembhard@uams.edu](mailto:wnnembhard@uams.edu)) for more information or for a consultation on topics under consideration. Even if your idea falls outside the topical areas listed above, we would still like to discuss it with you.

### **The CMV Public Health and Policy Conference is Happening October 8-10 in Salt Lake City**

[Abstracts are now being accepted for the CMV Public Health and Policy Conference](#). Congenital CMV is the leading infectious cause of birth defects and the most common, non-genetic, cause of childhood hearing loss. This conference will provide the latest information on CMV risk reduction, policy, screening and more! We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City October 8-10, 2023!

## Important Dates to Remember

- April 2023 Alcohol Awareness Month
- April 2023 National Autism Acceptance/Awareness Month
- April 2023 National Minority Health Month
- May 2023 - Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
- May 6, 2023 - Wishbone Day (Osteogenesis Imperfecta International Awareness Day)
- May 15, 2023 - National Anencephaly Awareness Day
- June 2023 - National Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month
- June 3, 2023 - World Clubfoot Day
- June 16-21, 2023 - Global Rare Chromosome Disorder Awareness Week
- July 2023 - National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month
- July 30, 2023 - Gastroschisis Awareness Day
- **August 14-16, 2023 - NBDPN Conference (Atlanta, GA)**
- October 8-10, 2023 - CMV Public Health and Policy Conference (Salt Lake City, UT)

## Partner Corner



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

### **CDC's Division of Birth Defects and Infant Disorders has two new Notice of Funding Opportunities**

[CDC-RFA-DD-23-0003, \*Pregnant People–Infant Linked Longitudinal Surveillance\*](#) aims to fund multiple surveillance programs under a single mechanism to sustain, improve, and expand existing pregnant people–infant linked longitudinal surveillance efforts. Clinical and population-based approaches will be used to collect linked health data on key exposures and outcomes including medication for opioid use disorder, neonatal abstinence syndrome, cytomegalovirus, and stillbirths. Awards are expected to be announced in the fall.

[CDC-RFA-DD-23-0004, \*Enhancing partnerships to address birth defects, infant disorders and related conditions, and the health of pregnant and postpartum people\*](#) aims to fund organizations and institutions with experience supporting populations and parents directly, reaching clinicians and other professionals who are responsible for patient care, community-level organizations, and public health professionals. Applications are due May 15, 2023.

### **CDC Publications of Potential Interest**

#### **[Zika virus in Pregnancy in a Honduran cohort: neurodevelopmental assessment of normocephalic children born to Zika virus exposed and non-exposed pregnant people](#)**

In this study, researchers from CDC, Honduras, Argentina, and Tulane University looked at children around 2 years of age who were born with a normal head circumference to people with and without Zika infection during pregnancy. Data were collected in Honduras between July and December 2016, during the peak of the Zika epidemic in Honduras. Researchers found no significant difference in cognitive, motor, language, or social-emotional functioning; however, children exposed to Zika during pregnancy did have lower cognitive and language scores overall. Given the small sample size, the exploration of cognitive and language differences in Zika exposed vs. non-exposed children could be informed by additional research in larger samples. CDC is continuing efforts to learn more about any other brain or developmental problems that children who were exposed to Zika virus during pregnancy might

experience.

### **The Postpartum Period: An Opportunity for Alcohol Screening and Counseling to Reduce Adverse Health Impacts**

In a new study published in the Journal of Addiction Medicine, CDC scientists analyzed data from the 2019 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey to examine the prevalence of alcohol consumption up to 10 months postpartum among people with a recent live birth in six states and if they reported receiving alcohol screening and brief intervention (SBI) or counseling by their providers. Over half of the 1,790 respondents reported alcohol use in the postpartum period. About two in three respondents who drank alcohol postpartum reported they were asked about alcohol use by a healthcare provider at any point up to 9 to 10 months postpartum. However, only about one in four were advised about excessive alcohol levels. The postpartum period presents an opportunity to identify excessive alcohol use and intervene to reduce associated health risks, support people in managing postpartum difficulties without harmful use of alcohol or other substances and reduce the potential for alcohol consumption during a future pregnancy. Additional health promotion efforts and improved coordination of care could enhance postpartum alcohol SBI and treatment and minimize adverse alcohol-associated health outcomes.



President Biden released his brief FY 2024 budget request to Congress which includes \$471 million for maternal health efforts aimed at reducing mortality and expanding care in rural areas, supporting bias training, and working to address the largest disparities in prenatal health. Specifically, the budget proposal includes the following:

- Requires states to provide 12 months of postpartum coverage in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- \$1.9 billion for the HRSA Maternal and Child Health programs. Within this total, the budget directs \$276 million towards reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and \$185 million for the Healthy Start program to reduce racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes.
- \$3 million for NIH's continued research on the effects of COVID-19 on individuals during pregnancy, lactation, and during the postpartum period.
- Funding for NIH to continue the Implementing a Maternal health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative to support research focused on interventions to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity and address risk factors that contribute to health disparities in maternal care.
- \$564 million to support the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality with maternal health research as a priority.
- Establishes the Vaccine for Adults Program, which would complement Vaccines for Children and would be financed through mandatory funding.

Representatives Kathy Castor (D-FL), Lauren Underwood (D-IL), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced the *Advancing Safe Medications for Moms and Babies Act of 2022* during the week of February 20th. This legislation, which is a priority for March of Dimes, would help build on studying the effect of medications on pregnant and lactating women and their infants.

March of Dimes hosted its **March for Change Washington DC** fly-in on March 28 and 29, which included a day of bipartisan meetings on Capitol Hill. Advocates urged Congress to provide sustained funding for newborn screening and maternal and infant health programs, and to reauthorize the PREEMIE Act.



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. You still have time to register to attend the 2023 AMCHP Annual Conference in person or virtually. For more information, visit [AMCHP's Conference website](#).

### **Autism Acceptance Month Virtual Fireside Chat: Celebrating Autistic Joy**

The theme of our State Public Health Autism Resource Center's (SPHARC) 2023 Autism Acceptance Month activities is: **Celebrating Autistic Joy**.

Please join SPHARC and its [Autistic Faculty](#) for a virtual fireside chat on **Thursday, April 27 from 3:00-4:00 PM ET**. Presenters will share what celebrating Autistic joy means for them. There will be a question-and-answer session with the audience following. [Register for the virtual fireside chat here](#).

### **Starting From Your Strengths: Planning for Sustainability Webinar Series May 23, 2023 3:00pm Eastern**

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!

The 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 second session will take an assets-based approach to help you explore your program's strengths and plan for a sustainable future. For more info, visit: <https://amchp.org/event/starting-from-your-strengths-planning-for-sustainability/>

## **New Tools and Resources**

### **Trends in Delayed Diagnosis of Critical CHDs in an Era of Enhanced Screening, 2004-2018**

Earlier diagnosis of critical congenital heart defects improves infant outcomes, while delayed diagnosis (after hospital discharge) increases the risk of severe illness and death. In this paper, we evaluated trends in delayed diagnosis in Massachusetts with advances in prenatal screening and the transition to mandatory newborn screening for these defects. While prenatal diagnosis increased dramatically, the adoption of mandatory pulse oximetry screening appeared to have little effect at the population-level. We discuss why that is and strategies to further reduce delayed diagnosis.

[Free link \(for 50 days\)](#)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2023.02.012>

### **CDC Feature: Alcohol Use During Pregnancy and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**

In recognition of April being Alcohol Awareness Month, CDC has a new [web feature](#) highlighting resources available to help prevent alcohol use during pregnancy and provide care for children with FASDs and their families.

### **AMCHP**

AMCHP launched their new and improved [Maternal & Child Health Bill Tracker](#), and our [federal policy agenda](#) for 2023.

With the end of the Covid-19 federal public health emergency, the continuous Medicaid enrollment policy is ending. AMCHP created a [fact sheet for MCH programs](#) on this significant change likely to impact families and children with disabilities.

## **Connections**

### **Follow NBDPN on Social Media**

The NBDPN Social Media Workgroup develops content for the NBDPN social media feeds on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Many of our posts include information for the maternal and child health population, but most of our followers are YOU!



Please **follow, like, save, and share** our posts, which cover all topics related to birth defects/anomalies.

Connect and share our posts with your local partners on social media (e.g. county health departments, federally qualified health centers, culturally specific community-based organizations, and more) to get the messages out further. **Follow and share today!**



### **Connect With Us!!!**

