



NBDPN News

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Folic Acid Awareness Week

National Folic Acid Awareness Week, September 11-17th: 30 Years of Prevention

Thirty years ago, the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) recommended people capable of becoming pregnant consume 400 mcgs of folic acid daily to reduce the risk of NTDs. Supplementation has the power to protect! The [2022 Schedule of Events](#) has more details that will be updated as available.

Please support this awareness week in your state by:

RIGHT NOW:

1. Promote the [CDC webinar for providers](#) Wednesday, 9/14 3-4 EDT (CEUs available).
2. Promote the new folic acid [MotherToBaby podcast](#) targeting future moms.
3. Plan social media. [Sample posts](#) are available to use "as is" or edit to your needs.

During FAAW:

1. "Like" and "Share" posts from NBDPN on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).
2. Share posts, selfies, and pics related to folic acid. Use the hashtags: #FolicAcid #NBDPN #PowerToPrevent
3. Attend the [CDC webinar](#) 9/14! Make it a team activity!
4. Listen and share the Mother2Baby podcast. What did you learn? Share and post on social media!

CDC Free Webinar on Folic Acid: The Best Tool to Prevent Neural Tube Defects

This year marks the 30 year anniversary of the U.S. Public Health Service's folic acid recommendation for prevention of neural tube defects (NTDs). Join us for a [free webinar about folic acid and why it remains the best tool available to prevent these serious birth defects of the brain and spine](#). Misinformation on this topic has spread on-line in recent years and may be challenging for patients to make informed decisions. In this webinar, CDC experts will describe the sustained impact of folic acid on the prevention of NTDs, address different forms of folate and why folic acid is the only form proven for NTD prevention, and provide recommendations for people with MTHFR gene variants. CDC will also be joined by Shannon Clark, MD, MMS, FACOG for an interactive discussion where she will share her experiences counseling patients about NTD prevention, how she addresses misinformation about folic acid, and how healthcare professionals can improve collaboration within the healthcare team to improve folic acid intake to prevent NTDs. Continuing education is available.

NBDPN Board of Directors

NBDPN Membership Renewal

Your current NBDPN membership expired on June 30, 2022. The Network has sent out renewal notices with payment due no later than **August 31, 2022**. Network operations are 100% supported by our membership dues. As with everything else our costs are increasing, which means we need to move forward with our planned annual dues increase to \$100. If you are a program manager whose organization covers NBDPN dues and would like to receive a single program invoice, please email nbdpninc@nbdpn.org.

2023 NBDPN National Conference

Our in-person conference for 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia has been pushed back due to concerns about the original site. The conference is now *tentatively* planned to be held in the Summer of 2023. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding travel guidance, registration, calls for proposals/posters, etc.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- August 31 NBDPN Membership Renewal
- September 15-29 Board Nominations
- September 11-17 Folic Acid Awareness Week
- October 12, 2022 Annual Membership Meeting (2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EDT)
- October 12 -26 Board Elections
- **Summer 2023** **NBDPN National Conference dates**

Announcements and Updates

ICD-10-CM Revisions: ASD/PFO and Others

The [2023 version of ICD-10-CM](#) to be implemented Oct 1, 2022, includes changes to the codes for atrial septal defects (ASD) and atrioventricular septal defect (AVSD). Specifically, individual codes have been created for the different types of ASD, including a separate code for PFO. The codes for atrioventricular septal defect have also been updated to include primum ASD. The revisions for 2023 also include updates to the O35 (maternal care for known or suspected fetal abnormality and damage) codes. The "Timeline of ICD-10-CM Changes" document on the [NBDPN website](#) has also been updated to reflect these new codes.

Changes to the ASD and AVSD codes are the result of a 2-year effort by an NBDPN work group, headed by Amanda St. Louis of New York, to propose to NCHS separation of the codes for PFO and ASD. This is a change that has long been needed and we congratulate Amanda and her colleagues on the success of their work.

Updated Member's Webinar page

The Member's webinar page has been updated to include the recordings of our 2021 Annual Membership Meeting and the Listening Sessions from June 2021 and both 2022 sessions in April and August. If you would like to revisit anything that was discussed at any of these meetings, please visit: <https://www.nbdpn.org/webinars.php>.

CDC Updates

Congenital Heart Defects Toolkit for Physicians

In partnership with the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), CDC created a [digital toolkit](#) with resources for physicians to help ensure that people with heart defects get the specialized lifelong care they need. The toolkit contains social media materials,

customizable content for emails and newsletters, conversation starters, and infographics. Materials are customized by medical specialty and help providers promote lifelong congenital cardiac care for people with heart defects. These materials are free to download and use.

Updated Hearing Loss Resource for Families

CDC's EarlyHearing Detection and Intervention program has an updated version of A Parent's Guide to Genetics & Hearing Loss available for download. Genetics counselors and other healthcare professionals can use this material to educate families on the types of hearing loss, genetic testing, and some of the available hearing loss interventions, and families can access and review this information on their own. An updated Spanish version will be available in the future.

Publications

Follow the link below to a list of articles of potential interest.

[Publications](#)

Partner Corner

March of Dimes Call for Abstracts

The Call for Abstracts is now open for the 2023 International Conference on Birth Defects. Surveillance, clinical & public health professionals, research & non-governmental associations & organizations working in the field of [#maternalhealth](#)—specifically [#birthdefects](#) & [#disabilities](#)—are invited to submit abstracts for #ICDB2023. The submission deadline is September 30, 2022. Learn more at <https://lnkd.in/eWMQKcDj>

National Birth Defects Dashboard

March of Dimes and NBDPN have partnered together to create a [birth defects data dashboard](#). This dashboard will serve as a tool for data and program exploration among participating states. The dashboard includes prevalence data from the 2022 NBDPN biannual report, as well as state surveillance program characteristics. <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/dashboards/birth-defects>

AMCHP is seeking stories of resilience in times of public health emergencies

The Association of Maternal Child Health Programs (AMCHP)'s Public Health Emergency Preparedness National Workgroup hopes to identify potential contributors within NBDPN to collect testimonials that aim to:

- Build emergency preparedness and response capacity of maternal and child health (MCH) professionals and stakeholders,
- Share evidence-based practices and best practices for supporting MCH communities during emergencies, and
- Uplift the efforts and stories of MCH communities, and those who support them, in ways that center lived experiences

Your perspectives and insights can help guide the actions of agencies who support MCH populations, and help others consider implementing similar practices in their communities. AMCHP will share submitted stories (once approved by original contributors) on a publicly available web platform.

This [Information Guide](#) explains the types of testimonials and ways you can share your story. You can [fill out the interest form](#) and an AMCHP staff member will be in touch to support you through the submission process.

If you know of folks who could provide valuable contributes, please share this opportunity with them! Here is a flyer that you can [download](#) and share as well. If

you have any questions or would like more information about the purpose or intended scope of this project you can contact our team at PHEP@AMCHP.org.

Webinar: How to Plan an Accessible Virtual Event

This new 20-minute quick learn was developed by AMCHP staff Maura Leahy. You just need a free CDC TRAIN account to access the course at this [link](#).

Here are the course objectives:

1. Reviewing examples of promotional materials and identify which words need to be changed to plain language.
2. Describe three elements to writing good alternative text for images
3. Outline the steps needed to get a live captioner for a virtual event

For questions, please email: mleahy@amchp.org.

Making the Call for MCH: Exploring the Maternal Mental Health Hotline and the 988 Crisis Lifeline

AMCHP & ASTHO hosted a [virtual learning session](#) as part of the PRISM learning community! This national webinar explored the [National Maternal Mental Health Hotline](#), the 988 Suicide Prevention Crisis Lifeline, and opportunities for public health agencies to partner to promote their success and support MCH populations' mental health and wellbeing.

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

