

# PARTNERS UPDATE



## SPRINGING INTO ACTION!

At the heart of our work is a shared commitment to improving maternal and child health outcomes and advancing the prevention of birth defects. This progress is only possible because of the strength, expertise, and dedication of our partners. We are proud to collaborate with organizations such as OTIS (MotherToBaby), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention (BDRP), and March of Dimes - each bringing unique perspectives and invaluable contributions to our collective mission.

Together, we are able to expand our reach, strengthen research and surveillance, support families, and promote evidence-based practices that make a meaningful difference in communities across the country. Collaboration allows us to amplify our impact, share knowledge more effectively, and tackle complex challenges with a unified voice.

Thank you for being an essential part of this partnership. We look forward to continuing this important work together and highlighting the many ways our collaboration is making a difference.

Brennan Martin, MPH  
NBDPN Past Chair

## THIS ISSUE

Intro

AMCHP

OTIS/MotherToBaby

BDRP

May 19 Webinar

CDC

Social Media





# Partners Corner



## ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

1. AMCHP recently welcomed their newly elected **2026 Board of Directors**
2. AMCHP is recruiting a second cohort for their MCH Policy Innovation Program Learning Collaborative. If you have any housing or nutrition policy-related activities linked with your Title V initiatives, please consider reviewing/applying to be part of that cohort. **Apply by April 30**



For more announcements and updates, please view their newsletter, [here](#).



## OTIS/MOTHERTOBABY

MotherToBaby, a service of the non-profit Organization of Teratology Information Specialists (OTIS), has enjoyed opportunities to collaborate with a variety of partners in 2025 to develop critical resources on pregnancy and lactation exposures for healthcare providers and the public.

**Free on-demand webinars for healthcare professionals from MotherToBaby:** MotherToBaby offers an online repository of webinars presented by subject matter experts about a variety of exposure topics in pregnancy and lactation: wildfire smoke, cannabis and other substance use, assisted reproduction, Zika updates, SSRIs, and more. Webinars are available to view at no cost at <https://mothertobaby.org/webinar/>

**MotherToBaby Podcast: Episode 94 - How Birth Defect Surveillance Protects Moms & Babies:** From Zika to Opioid Exposure: Host Chris Stallman, MS, CGC, sits down with Dr. Amanda Elmore, Assistant Professor of Maternal and Child Health at the University of South Florida, to explore how birth defect surveillance helps detect emerging risks, guide prevention efforts, and connect families to care.

**Listen now:** <https://momtobaby.org/SurveillancePodcast>

**Watch on YouTube:** <https://momtobaby.org/SurveillanceYT>

**OTIS Annual Education Meeting, June 2-4, 2026 (virtual):** Join us for an exciting program of expert presentations on environmental exposures, emerging drugs, AI in teratogen counseling, and more. You can find the agenda and register at <https://otis.societyconference.com/v2/>



## **SOCIETY FOR BIRTH DEFECTS RESEARCH AND PREVENTION (BDRP) – UPCOMING EVENTS**



### **Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention 66th Annual Meeting**

This 3-day meeting in Washington, DC, kicks off the evening of Sunday, June 14, 2026, and concludes the afternoon of Wednesday, June 17, 2026, and will include sessions on:

- Reevaluating Fluoride Exposure: Developmental Risks and Emerging Evidence
- What's Next in Birth Defects Research? The Future of Science and Innovation in Understanding Congenital Anomalies
- Including Pregnant and Lactating Women in Clinical Trials: From the Past to the Future
- Exposome Research: Longitudinal Cohorts as a Critical Piece of the Puzzle
- Connecting the Dots: Interpreting Teratogenic Risk Across Study Types and the Path to Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration
- The Next Generation of NAMs: Evaluating Toxicities in Reproductive Tissues

Also included in the program are research needs and professional development workshops, special lectures, platform and poster sessions, and a multitude of networking opportunities.

Late-breaking abstract submission is open through June 1!

The meeting will be preceded by a half-day course the afternoon of Sunday, June 14, on Placental Pathology and Associated Toxicological Models. This course may be added to a meeting registration or may be registered for on its own.

Save the Dates: Next year's BDRP Annual Meeting will take place June 14-17, 2027, at the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, concurrently with the annual meetings of the U.S. DOHaD Society and DNTS.

### **Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology for Industrial and Regulatory Scientists**

This course will provide a basic understanding in reproductive and developmental biology and principles of various testing approaches for reproductive and developmental toxicology, with strong emphasis on the practical application of these principles and interpretation of nonclinical safety data as well as risk assessment. The course will include foundational modules conducted in a virtual setting on September 25, October 2, and October 9, 2026, followed by an interactive case study-based in-person module on October 15-16, 2026, in Cambridge, MA. Registration options include Virtual Only for just the foundational modules or Full Course which includes both the foundational virtual modules and the case-study based in-person module.

### **Teratology Primer**

The Teratology Primer from the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention is an accessible, expert-written resource that introduces the science of birth defects and developmental toxicology. It explores how genetic, environmental, and chemical exposures influence pregnancy outcomes, while addressing key questions about risk, diagnosis, and prevention. Designed for students, clinicians, and researchers alike, the Primer offers concise, up-to-date insights into a complex and evolving field. The Primer is freely available on the BDRP website in over 35 downloadable chapters.

# What's Coming



## 2025 Surveillance Program Performance Summary/Landscape Analysis Webinar

Tori Konrad Markwalter, MPH

This presentation will review the preliminary findings of the 2025 NBDPN Surveillance Data Report's Performance Summary. This webinar will review the landscape analysis of the surveillance methodology used across the Network, with an emphasis on Sections 2 and 3 of the Performance Summary. The live presentation will be recorded to be posted to NBDPN members' website. The Q&A will not be recorded.

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS  
MAY 19TH AT  
1PM ET**

**Click to Register**



This month, CDC scientists published an article in the Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society entitled "[Evaluations and Treatment among Infants Exposed to Syphilis in Utero, 6 U.S. States, 2018–2021](#)." Given NBDPN's commitment to the community, we want to share this article for dissemination to your membership.

These CDC findings highlight inconsistent implementation of guidelines for evaluations and treatment of infants exposed to syphilis during pregnancy. These inconsistencies may result in infants missing out on care needed to prevent long-term health outcomes. Among infants most likely to have congenital syphilis, 1 out of 3 infants were not treated with the recommended full course of treatment (10 days of penicillin G). And only half received the recommended cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analyses. Among infants with possible congenital syphilis, 1 out of 4 infants received other non-recommended treatment or no treatment at all. Only 30% of infants with a reactive blood test at birth received the recommended follow-up testing the first few months after birth.

Increased efforts to improve education, continued coordination between public health and clinical partners, and broader system level supports are necessary to ensure infants exposed to syphilis during pregnancy receive recommended care.

We can do more together. Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and commitment to the populations we serve.





# NBDPN

NATIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS  
PREVENTION NETWORK

**Please submit any member-related communications or other Network updates such as workgroups accomplishments, announcements, upcoming events, etc. to [NBDPNinc@nbdpn.org](mailto:NBDPNinc@nbdpn.org).**

**If you would like to make a donation to NBDPN, [please click here](#).**

## **Engage with us on social media!**

- Talk with your Communications teams about sharing NBDPN posts to your feed.
- Use our prepared social media posts for key campaigns, such as Folic Acid Awareness Week and Birth Defects Awareness Month.
- Please **follow, like, share, save,** and **comment** on our posts!

**Connect with us today!**

