



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Division of Public Health

WISCONSIN BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY

Information for Families

What is the Wisconsin Birth Defects Registry (WBDR)?

About one in every 33 babies born in the United States is born with a birth defect. Doctors and child specialty providers have to report information to the Wisconsin Birth Defects Registry for children ages birth to 2 years who are born with a birth defect. Common birth defects include spina bifida, heart defects, and Down syndrome. A complete list of birth defects included in the WBDR can be found on the program website below.

Why is this information important?

Birth defects registries like the WBDR provide valuable information to help us understand trends in birth defects over time, and to learn more about whether birth defects happen more frequently in certain areas. When we know more about birth defects, we can better identify actions to prevent them in the future.

Is the WBDR confidential?

Yes, the WBDR is confidential. Information submitted to the WBDR is kept in a secure system. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is responsible for protecting confidential information in the WBDR.

How does the WBDR affect my family?

Your child may have one of the conditions that are included in the registry. This information can help inform prevention efforts and outreach activities to support children and their families. Although having complete information in the WBDR helps to improve what we can learn about birth defects and connects your family to services, you do have the option of having your child's name and address removed from the registry if you so choose. You may discuss this option with your child's health care provider.

Where can I learn more about the WBDR?

Program website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/birthdefects/index.htm

Where can I learn more about birth defects?

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/index.html>
- March of Dimes: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/birth-defects-and-health-conditions.aspx>

Where can I find resources for my family?

Regional centers website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm