

Wisconsin Birth Defects Registry

Information for Providers



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in every 33 babies are born with a birth defect. The Wisconsin Birth Defects Registry (WBDR) is a confidential birth defects registry that was established in 2000 to collect demographic, diagnostic, and identifying information on children from birth to two years of age who are born with specific birth defects.

What is a birth defect?

Wisconsin Stat. § 253.12 defines a birth defect as a structural deformation, disruption or dysplasia or a genetic, inherited, or biochemical disease that occurs prior to or at birth and that requires medical or surgical intervention or interferes with normal growth and development. A complete list of reportable conditions for the WBDR can be found at the [Birth Defect Prevention and Surveillance Program webpage](#).

Requirements for Providers

According to sub. 2, physicians and pediatric specialty clinics who diagnose and/or treat a child under the age of two with a birth defect are mandated to report on birth defects. Health care systems and hospitals may report on behalf of physicians and/or pediatric specialty clinics they are affiliated with.

Reports can be submitted via:

- A paper form (F-40054).
- Manual entry, one case at a time, into WBDR.
- Upload of multiple reports from reporting site's electronic patient record system to WBDR.

Reporters are required to notify parents of the option to withhold the name and address of their child to the registry. Reporters should retain documentation (F-40054A) of the parental refusal to include name and address per hospital or clinic policy; a minimum of three years.

How is this information used?

- Monitor the occurrence of birth defects to detect potential public health problems, assess trends, predict risks, and assist in response to birth defects clusters
- Evaluate impact of primary prevention efforts designed to improve health outcomes
- Use data to target interventions, prevention programs, and services for communities, patients, and their families
- Inform health professionals and citizens of the prevalence of, risks for, and prevention of birth defects

Learn more

Birth Defect Prevention and Surveillance Program webpage: dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/birthdefects.

