



The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) strives to help people live to the fullest. It focuses on those that are especially vulnerable to health risks - babies, children, people with blood disorders, and children and adults with disabilities.

NCBDDD works across four thematic areas using a public health approach:



1. Saving Babies through Birth Defects Prevention and Research. Every 4 ½ minutes, a baby is born with a major birth defect in the United States. That's 1 in 33 babies. NCBDDD identifies causes of birth defects, finds opportunities to prevent them, and improves the health of those living with birth defects.

Program Example: NCBDDD promotes alcohol screening and counseling to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) which are lifelong physical, behavioral, and cognitive disabilities.



2. Helping Children Live to the Fullest by Understanding Developmental Disabilities. More children than ever before are being diagnosed with developmental disabilities. For instance, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) now affect 1 in 68 children in the U.S. NCBDDD works to provide essential data on ASD, search for risk factors and causes of ASD, and develop resources that help identify children with ASD and other developmental disabilities as early as possible

Program Example: NCBDDD conducts surveillance in over a dozen sites across the country to track the prevalence of ASD that can be used to plan for needed services.



3. Protecting People and Preventing Complications of Blood Disorders. Blood disorders - such as deep vein thrombosis, hemophilia, and thalassemia - affect millions of people each year. NCBDDD works to reduce the public health burden of blood disorders by contributing to a better understanding of blood disorders and their complications; developing, implementing and evaluating prevention programs; providing information to consumers and health professionals; and encouraging action to improve the quality of life for people living with these conditions.

Program Example: NCBDDD works to identify risk factors for and prevent blood clots through research and training for professionals.



4. Improving the Health of People with Disabilities. In the United States, an estimated 57 million people live with a disability. Through public health efforts, such as tracking, research, and health communication and education, NCBDDD aims to reduce health disparities and the incidence as well as the severity of additional physical or mental health conditions that occur as a result of having a disability.

Program Example: NCBDDD supports spina bifida specialty clinics that collect patient data that is used to develop clinical care guidelines.