



Neural Tube Defects (NTDs) Enhanced Surveillance Project

The Georgia Birth Defects Reporting and Information System (GBDRIS) is collaborating with the GA Division of Public Health’s Family Health Branch, the GA Folic Acid Task Force, and the March of Dimes on a new initiative aimed at improving surveillance and prevention of neural tube defects in Georgia.

The goal of this project is to collect more complete, accurate, and timely data on NTDs. These data will be used to help develop and evaluate folic acid promotion activities in the state.

Birth Defects Reporting

In 2003, health providers will begin reporting the occurrence of newly diagnosed cases of birth defects in children up to 6 years of age to the GBDRIS (see below for the list of included conditions).

The pilot project involving 17 hospitals, medical centers and laboratories is currently underway. The two hospitals with the highest number of births from each perinatal region were selected. The Regional Perinatal Centers were also included if they were not one of the top two birthing hospitals. One proposed activity would be the monthly collection of birth defect reporting files and/or forms that contain a minimal amount of information from the pilot sites. Forms could be mailed or faxed, or, preferably, files could be sent electronically using a secured email attachment to the GBDRIS. Reporting mechanisms and forms will be updated based on recommendations made during this time.

All NTD reports will be flagged during the pilot as well as after full implementation of the surveillance system and additional information will be collected on each case. A member of the GBDRIS team will conduct a medical record review in order to abstract information for the extended report form. This enhanced surveillance activity for NTDs will occur at all sites outside of the metropolitan Atlanta area. The CDC’s Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program (MACDP) is currently collecting extended data on all birth defects including NTDs in the metropolitan area. We will be collaborating with the MACDP to create a complete state file containing extended reports on all identified NTD cases.

List of Birth Defects to be Reported

<i>Condition</i>	<i>ICD-9</i>	<i>ICD-10</i>
Congenital anomalies	740-759.9	Q00-Q99
Fetal alcohol syndrome	760.7	P04
Genetic and metabolic conditions	240-279	E00-E88
Cerebral palsy	343	G80
Sickle-cell anemia	282.6	D57
and other hemoglobinopathies	282.4 and 282.7	D56 and D58