



Georgia Birth Defects Reporting and Information System Pilot Project (2003)

To develop effective strategies for primary and secondary prevention of birth defects, state and local maternal and child health workers need a birth defects surveillance system to 1) identify children eligible for public health services and track their progress, 2) monitor the prevalence and incidence of birth defects, and 3) understand the causes and sequellae of various birth defects. Our goal in developing the Georgia Birth Defects Reporting and Information System (GBDRIS) is to integrate birth defects surveillance into maternal and child health programs and activities, thus creating a seamless system of data collection, analysis, research, and follow-up interventions. A brief description of the GBDRIS is attached. In an effort to improve surveillance outside of the metropolitan Atlanta area, which is home to the CDC's Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program, we are increasing data collection from a variety of sources. A crucial source is the accurate and timely reporting of birth defects by medical providers and hospitals. To be able to provide reporters with assurances of confidentiality, birth defects have recently been added to the Notifiable Disease List in Georgia.

We are planning a pilot project for 2003 that will involve 17 hospitals, medical centers and laboratories. A list of the proposed pilot sites is attached below. 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 ongoing activity will be the monthly collection of birth defect reporting files and/or forms 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. We will also be gathering information about children affected by birth defects from several other sources – including newborn screening laboratory data, birth certificates, fetal death certificates, Medicaid, WIC and hospital discharge data sets. Data will be imported into an Access database and duplicate records will be merged, to create one summary record for each child.

Line listings of all cases in each district will be sent to the appropriate district's Children 1st Coordinator with the request for updates and follow up information. This will help to ensure that children identified through GBDRIS are receiving appropriate public health services.



Participating Hospitals/Centers/Laboratories:

Region 1

Northside Hospital
DeKalb Medical Center
Grady Memorial Hospital
Crawford Long Hospital
Emory Genetics Laboratory

Region 2

University Hospital
Athens Regional Medical Center
Medical College of GA Hospital

Region 3

Medical Center of Central GA
Houston Medical Center

Region 4

The Medical Center
West GA Medical Center

Region 5

Candler Hospital (Chatham)
Memorial Health University Medical Center

Region 6

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
South GA Medical Center

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