# BIRTH DEFECTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

## ABOUT 1 IN EVERY 33 BABIES IS BORN WITH A BIRTH DEFECT IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Birth defects are health conditions that are present at birth that change the shape or function of one or more parts of the body. Common birth defects include heart defects, cleft lip and cleft palate, and spina bifida. Birth defects can affect a baby’s overall health, how the body develops, and how the body works. Birth defects can greatly impact the lives of babies and their families.

## EACH YEAR IN MASSACHUSETTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More than</th>
<th>About</th>
<th>About</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69,100</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>1 in 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>babies are born.</td>
<td>babies will be born with a birth defect.</td>
<td>infant deaths is due to a birth defect.</td>
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</tbody>
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## WE NEED INFORMATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND BIRTH DEFECTS.

The Massachusetts Birth Defects Monitoring Program is a tracking system that collects information on babies born with defects in Massachusetts (MA). Tracking birth defects is crucial for understanding ways to prevent birth defects and supporting Massachusetts children and families impacted by birth defects.

A strong birth defects tracking system is needed to:

- **IDENTIFY CAUSES**
  We don’t know what causes most birth defects.

- **FIGHT NEW THREATS**
  Threats like Zika and opioid exposure put MA children at risk for birth defects.

- **HELP FAMILIES CONNECT TO SERVICES**
  Children with birth defects and their families need services and care.

- **EDUCATE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITIES**
  Families and communities in MA need information and resources to prevent birth defects.

> “Only when we support birth defects tracking programs will we have data to understand why birth defects happen, how to treat them, and what families need to thrive.”
> - JANE C.

## LEARN MORE


To learn more about birth defects, visit [marchofdimes.org](http://marchofdimes.org) and [nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org)

## MA’S PROGRAM

- Massachusetts Birth Defects Monitoring Program
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## BIRTH DEFECTS TRACKING

- National Birth Defects Prevention Network
  [nbdpn.org](http://nbdpn.org)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  [cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/states/](http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/states/)

This profile was developed in partnership with the National Birth Defects Prevention Network. Data source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2016 natality and 2013 period linked birth/infant death data.