



Message from the Director

- Each year, about 130,000 babies are born with a birth defect.
- More than 5,500 of these babies die in their first year of life, making birth defects a leading cause of infant death in the United States.
- About 13 percent of U.S. children younger than 18 years of age have a developmental disability.
- Approximately 1 in 5 people in the United States has some type of disability.
- Complications from deep vein thrombosis (DVT) kill more people each year than breast cancer, motor vehicle accidents, and HIV combined.

These statistics are alarming and underscore the burden these conditions place on individuals and families living with birth defects, disabilities, or blood disorders. At NCBDDD, we have worked with partners and experts in the fields of birth defects, disabilities, and blood disorders to develop prevention strategies addressing these conditions and improve the health of millions. We translate science into action to provide credible health information to consumers, health care professionals, and policymakers to help improve the lives of children and adults.

The year 2011 marks 10 years of service for us at NCBDDD, and we will be celebrating a decade of helping to promote the health of babies, children, and adults living with birth defects, disabilities, and blood disorders. Our dedicated partners, researchers, scientists, and public health experts strive to identify the risk factors and causes of these conditions to enhance the potential for full, productive living for many in these most vulnerable populations.

As we enter the next decade of service, we look forward to working with our partners to advance the science and address our current strategic priorities of:

- Preventing major **birth defects** and poor infant outcomes attributable to maternal medical and lifestyle risk factors;
- Preventing death and disability associated with **deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism (DVT/PE)**; and





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National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

- Reducing disparities in **obesity** and other health indicators in children, youth, and adults with **disabilities**.

As the director of NCBDDD, I am proud to celebrate 10 years of continued progress in the pursuit of improved programs, research, and knowledge for the millions of Americans who live with birth defects, disabilities, and blood disorders. Though our work is far from over, the foundation we have built strengthens our quest for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Coleen A. Boyle, PhD, MSHyg
Director, NCBDDD
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