



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People. Saving Money through Prevention.

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

---

## Our Strategic Plan Priorities

---

As the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) begins its second decade, we thought an in-depth reflection of what we have accomplished, how we have operated, and what we want to accomplish in the next few years was in order. This strategic planning process has allowed us to accomplish this work, and most importantly, to identify promising new areas ripe for active engagement. In creating this plan, we identified our priorities by focusing on issues that share these characteristics:



- The magnitude of the problem is known and significant.
- Opportunities for prevention, intervention and improvement are present.
- Several conditions can be improved based on evidence-based interventions and strategies.
- Disparity reduction/amelioration is a central aspect of what we work to accomplish.
- The priorities are reinforced or supported by CDC-wide priorities, and clearly fit within our Center's mandate.
- The priorities build on previous work or known scientific evidence.

Our strategic planning discussions confirmed that, in carrying out our work, **NCBDDD strives to:**

- Characterize the problem, incidence, prevalence, and distribution of our Center's priority health conditions to inform public health research, priority setting and program monitoring;
- Conduct epidemiological research to understand the major modifiable risk factors in order to develop intervention/prevention programs and policies; and
- Develop, evaluate and disseminate effective programs and policies for adoption by global, national, state and local organizations.

## Success in these population-based activities will result in:

- Prevention of birth defects and developmental disabilities;
- Health promotion and inclusion of people with disabilities;
- Prevention of chronic disease and subsequent mortality in people with our targeted conditions;
- Effective population level management of a number of existing conditions including blood disorders; and,
- Preparedness for disasters and other potential catastrophic health events.

## Center Priorities

Priority 1: Prevent major **birth defects** attributable to maternal risk factors.

Priority 2: Enhance tracking and research of **autism spectrum disorders** to monitor changes in occurrence and contributing risk factors.

Priority 3: Prevent death and disability associated with **deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism**.

Priority 4: Preventing and controlling complications of **sickle cell disease**.

Priority 5: Reduce disparities in obesity and other health indicators in children, youth and adults with **disabilities**.



## Division Priorities

Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

Priority 1: Enhance surveillance and research for autism and other developmental disabilities to monitor changes in prevalence and contributing risk factors, and better inform prevention policy and programs.

Priority 2: Prevent congenital heart defects and other major birth defects associated with obesity, diabetes, and medications.

Priority 3: Prevent alcohol-exposed pregnancy among reproductive age women to prevent fetal alcohol syndrome and other adverse effects of prenatal alcohol exposure.

Priority 4: Eliminate folic acid-preventable neural tube defects in the United States and globally.

Priority 5: Enhance the quality and usefulness of newborn screening data and programs.

#### Division of Blood Disorders

Priority 1: Prevent clotting disorders – deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

Priority 2: Prevent and control complications resulting from hemoglobinopathies, with a focus on Sickle Cell Disease and thalassemia.

Priority 3: Prevent and control complications resulting from bleeding disorders such as hemophilia and von Willebrand Disease.



#### Division of Human Development and Disability

Priority 1: Reduce disparity in obesity and other health indicators in children, youth and adults with disabilities.

Priority 2: Improve developmental outcomes of all children.

Priority 3: Ensure that all newborns are screened and assessed for hearing loss and receive appropriate intervention according to established guidelines.

Priority 4: Identify and reduce disparities in health care for persons with disabilities.

Priority 5: Incorporate disability status as a demographic variable into all relevant CDC surveys, policies and practices.

---

Page last reviewed: March 29, 2011

Page last updated: March 29, 2011

---

**Content Maintained by:** National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Rd. Atlanta, GA 30333, USA 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: (888) 232-6348, 24 Hours/Every Day - [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)