CURRENT STUDIES INCLUDE:
- Babies Born with Multiple Birth Defects
- Birth Defects Associated with the Quality of Pubic Water Supplies
- Risk Factors for Cleft Lip/Palate
- Prevention of Neural Tube Defects
- Patterns of Prenatal Diagnostic Testing in Iowa

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM IBDR STUDIES?

Infant Mortality
Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality in the United States. In 1994 The Iowa Department of Health requested that the IBDR investigate apparently high rates of infant mortality in Polk County from 1986 to 1990. Registry staff teamed up with The University of Iowa, Geography Department in using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to generate birth defect, mortality, and other pregnancy outcome rates for small areas. The study identified a specific region of Des Moines where additional resources are now targeted to provide improved prenatal care and education. This work has provided a model for future investigations and cluster analysis in response to public health concerns in Iowa.

Birth Weight
Low birth weight babies have an increased risk for lung, heart and metabolic problems, which often require treatment in a special care nursery. For some time, researchers suspected that babies born to Iowa residents might be slightly heavier than the normal distribution of birth weights typically used for classification and determination of treatments for newborns. In 1997, we completed an evaluation of all babies born in Iowa and found that overall, babies born to Iowa residents are 5-10% heavier than the national average.

Iowa has a substantial number of children born with birth defects. The map summarizes the number of children born with any birth defects by county for the fourteen year period 1983 through 1997. Numbers in some counties are higher because the population of those counties is greater. The average rate of occurrence of birth defects for this time period is 36.9/1,000 live births. This rate is similar to the national average rate.

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YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE IOWA BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY BY CALLING (319) 335-8606 OR WRITING TO:
IowaBirthDefectsRegistry
TheUniversityofIowa
4256WestlawnBuilding
IowaCity,IA,52242

SERVING IOWA CHILDREN SINCE 1983
The Iowa Birth Defects Registry (IBDR) is a state-wide reporting system using multiple sources to identify information about birth defects. Information is now available on over 21,000 children with major birth defects identified from more than 580,000 Iowa births. This information is available to researchers who use it to study potential causes of birth defects or new treatments for children with birth defects. The information can also be used to identify factors that can prevent birth defects. For example, taking daily multivitamins containing folic acid before and during pregnancy can prevent some types of birth defects.

The IBDR was established in 1983 as a method to monitor birth defects in the state of Iowa, through the joint efforts of:
- The University of Iowa
- The Iowa Department of Public Health
- The Iowa Department of Human Services

In June of 1986, the United States Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, provided funding to Iowa to investigate possible causes of birth defects. In 1998, the Iowa General Assembly, through The State Board of Regents began to provide partial funding of the IBDR.

Our Mission is to contribute to a healthy start in life for all babies.