



WISDOM Data Source Descriptions

Birth Conditions

Data are from the New Hampshire Birth Conditions Program (NHBCP) based at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. NHBCP began data collection activities in 2003. Data obtained in the NHBCP database are used to detect trends in the occurrence of birth conditions in NH; evaluate the need for and facilitate access to supportive health services; guide and assess the progress of statewide prevention activities; and educate the community, health care providers and service agencies regarding birth conditions.

Data are collected on births occurring in-state to NH residents. Data for NH residents who give birth or have care visits in out-of-state hospitals are not recorded. Birth termination data is collected by the NH Birth Conditions Program but excluded in the NH EPHT data. Birth defect cases are ascertained up to age 1 through active surveillance methods. The birth defects coding system is ICD-9-CM (CDC coding based on BPA).

Methodology:

Records of New Hampshire (NH) residents from birth certificates, hospital ICD codes for admissions, transports, discharges, fetal pathology reports, and other health care facilities related to caring for children with birth conditions. Source data are queried by ICD-9 code and confirmed through active medical chart review, then entered manually by the NHBCP staff into the database. The NHBCP does have an opt out procedure in which after cases are confirmed, a packet is sent to the case with the option to opt out of having identifiable information stored in the NHBCP dataset. To date there is no data on the rate of opt outs per year.

Limitations: Approximately 5% of cases annually opt out of allowing the NHBCP to geocode their location (via the Opt Out provision) which limits the ability to analyze the data by geographic location. The enabling language requires the NHBCP to contact each identified case and offer the option to "opt out" of having name, address and full birth date included in the dataset. Derived rates and counts measures by different level of aggregation; Non-zero counts less than 6 and corresponding rates have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.