The NBDPS does not permit sharing the data dictionary online, however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allow for researchers to obtain access to the NBDPS database and data dictionary [here](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/nbdps-public-access-procedures.html) [external link].

**Type of Data**

Specialty/Birth defects database

**Years Available**

1997-2011

**Short Description**

National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS) is one of the largest studies on the birth defects done in the United States. This study has made essential contributions toward understanding the causes of birth defects and capturing the potential risks for having a baby with birth defect. More details about NBDPS can be found at their [fast-facts website](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/nbdps.html) [external link].

**Strengths**

* There are 10 different study centers with NBDPS (Arkansas, California, Georgia (CDC), Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, New Jersey, Texas and Utah).
* Various maternal characteristics such as number of cigarettes smoked are recorded at different timeframes in respect to pregnancy (ranging from one month before conception throughout third trimester).
* The data are well formatted and maintained with data dictionaries, available in SAS formats mainly.

**Limitations**

* Some variables are already categorized using specific cut-offs (such as number of cigarettes smoked or number of alcoholic beverages consumed) instead of reported in numeric forms.
* Mothers were asked to recall events that took place up to two years in the past and therefore certain responses might not be accurately reported.

**SDC Members with Expertise**

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