



Birth Defect Research for Children

Annual Report 2021-2022

National Birth Defect Registry

The Registry now has 10,561 cases in the data base. As this research tool continues to grow, we can use it to make more and more connections between environmental exposures and birth defects.





NIEHS

National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences

NIEHS Partners



The NIEHS partners are a group of disease and patient advocacy groups who work together with the NIEHS to help discuss the future priorities of the NIEHS. BDRC's Director, Betty Mekdeci is the co-chair of the Partners. NIEHS is headed by Director Dr. Richard Woychik.



Environmental Birth Defects

BDRC monitors research linking medications, metals, radiation, chemicals and other environmental toxins to birth defects. Through the National Birth Defect Registry, data on these exposures are collected to look for patterns of birth defects that may be associated with these toxins. These data are used for studies, community advocacy and as an early warning system for birth defect prevention.

A photograph of a young child with blonde hair, seen from the back and side. An adult's hand is gently holding the child's arm. The background is a solid blue color.

Parent Support Services

Birth Defect Research for Children has over 100 fact sheets on structural and functional birth defects that parents can download from BDRC's website. This year, these fact sheets have been downloaded more than 147,000 times. Parents can also find connections to other families who have children with the same conditions by visiting BDRC's Support Center or by participating in BDRC's Parent Matching Program when they fill out the questionnaire for the National Birth Defect Registry.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with long, wavy blonde hair. She is looking slightly to the right with a gentle expression. She is holding a dandelion seed head near her mouth, and some seeds are visible in the air. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage.

Outreach and Education

Each month BDRC sends out Birth Defect news to nearly 5,000 subscribers.

Every day, we post timely news items on Facebook to over 8,000 friends. These news articles report on the latest research on birth defects and their preventable causes.

Birth Defect Registry **PARENT FORUM**

 **CLOSED GROUP**



One of our new projects is the National Birth Defect Registry Parent Forum. This is a closed group designed to bring together parents who have filled out the National Birth Defect Registry so they have a place to discuss their child's conditions. Currently we have 405 parents in the forum with more being added everyday.



New Community Resource Center

Thanks to a grant from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, BDRC developed an on-line resource center that offers communities a step-by-step plan to investigate concerns about increases in birth defects and disabilities in their area.



Preventing Birth Defects for 40 Years

BDRC was the first organization to make the connection between neurodevelopmental disorders and Agent Orange exposure due to service in Vietnam.



Preventing Birth Defects for 40 Years

BDRC found an increase in Goldenhar (a rare craniofacial disorder) in the children of servicemen returning from the first Gulf War.



Preventing Birth Defects for 40 Years

We assisted the community of Dickson, Tennessee in identifying a cluster of cleft palate cases associated with a solvent (TCE) leaking into their water supply from an old landfill.



Preventing Birth Defects for 40 Years

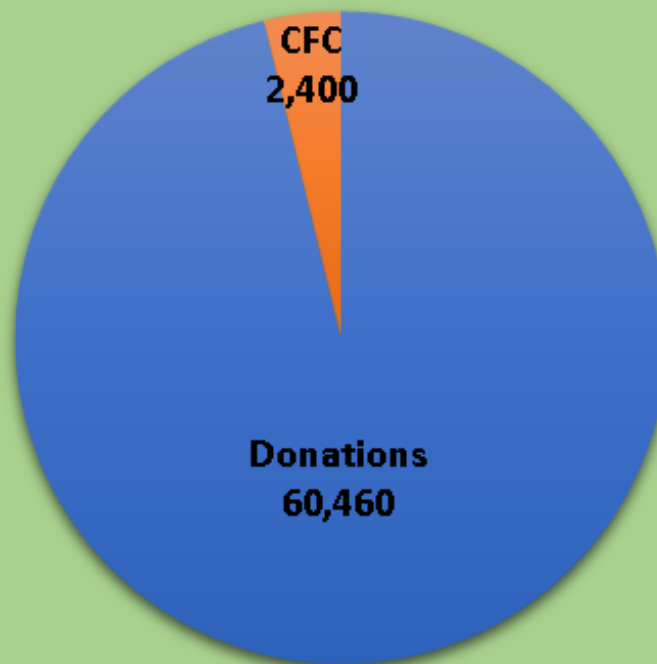
Because of our work to get Bendectin off the market, more children are now born with two hands.



Preventing Birth Defects for 40 Years

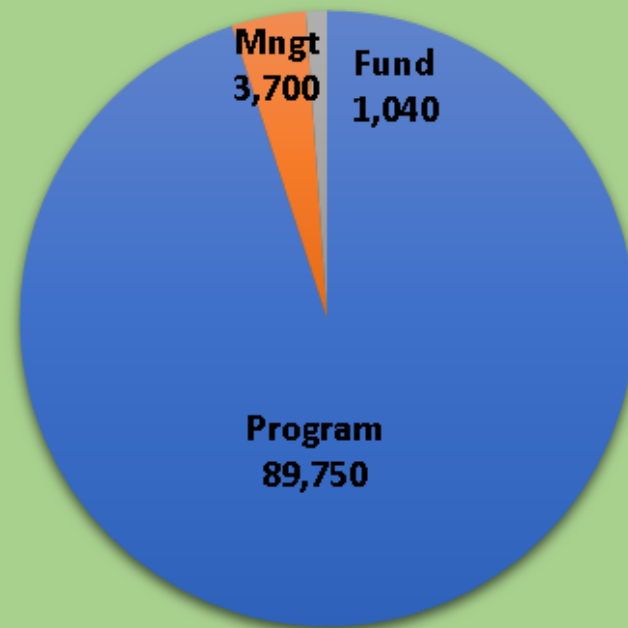
BDRC was the first to report a link between autism and acetaminophen. Now 16 studies have confirmed this.

Income



■ Donations ■ CFC

Expenses



■ Program Services ■ Management / General ■ Fundraising