

Birth Defects Profile

THIS YEAR IN CALIFORNIA....

About **524,000** babies will be born.

2-3% of babies born (over 12,500 total) will have serious structural birth defects requiring medical treatment.

Very little is known about environmental causes of birth defects, and what exposures are or are not safe.

The infants with birth defects will include more than

- ⇒ 2500 with heart defects
- ⇒ 900 with cleft lip/cleft palate
- ⇒ 700 with Down syndrome
- ⇒ 300 with spina bifida & other neural tube defects
- ⇒ 250 with missing or malformed limbs.

To find out more, contact the
**CALIFORNIA BIRTH DEFECTS
MONITORING PROGRAM**
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CBDMP>

1 in 5 babies with birth defects will die - California's leading cause of infant mortality.

The California Birth Defects Monitoring Program (CBDMP) collects and analyzes data to identify opportunities for preventing birth defects and improving the health of babies.

Anyone can have a baby with a birth defect.

Similar risks are seen in parents of

- ⇒ all ages
- ⇒ all income levels
- ⇒ all ethnic groups
- ⇒ all parts of California.

The causes of most birth defects are unknown.

Birth defects occur even if

- ⇒ there is no one else in the family with birth defects
- ⇒ the mother gets good prenatal care
- ⇒ the mother does not drink alcohol or take drugs.

