

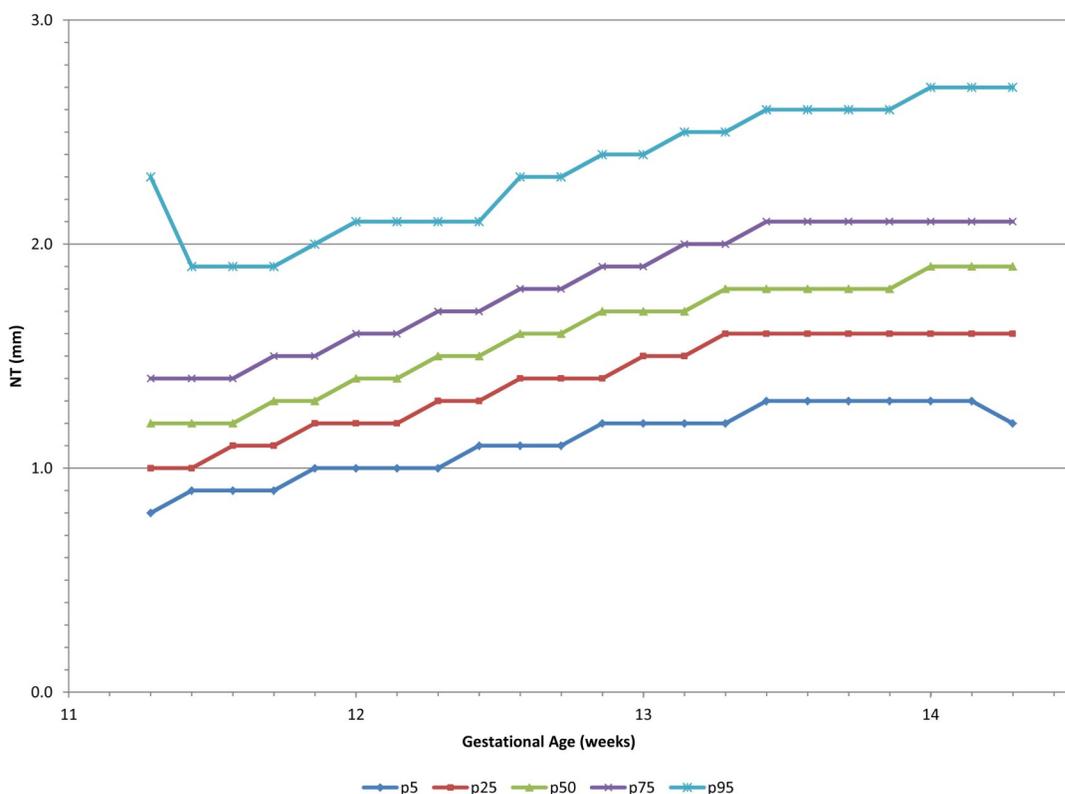
## CA Prenatal Screening Program

# NT Practitioner Bulletin

July 2014

### Percentiles of NT distribution for fetuses with no known chromosome abnormality

(Jun-Dec 2012; n=60,387)



We appreciate the work that our NT practitioners do to provide California women with first trimester risk assessments and improved second trimester risk assessments. In addition to being used in risk calculations, the nuchal translucency data that is submitted to the Prenatal Screening Program is also used to look at trends in the California population. The figure above shows the NT distribution at the 5th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 95th percentiles for fetuses with no known chromosome abnormality. The data used for analyses was for NT exams performed between June 2012 and December 2012 to provide time for the pregnancies to end, outcome of pregnancy surveys to be returned and chromosomal defect data to be entered into the California registry.

The median NT increased from 1.2 mm at 11 weeks and 2 days to 1.9 mm at 14 weeks and 2 days. Nearly 0.5% of cases with no known chromosome abnormality had a Large NT ( $\geq 3.5$  mm). While some of these Large NT cases had diagnostic procedures to confirm the absence of a chromosome abnormality, many cases were not diagnosed, ending in fetal demise or elective termination due to ultrasound anomalies.

As expected, the 95th percentile distribution does not reach the Program's Large NT threshold of 3.5 mm. Even though those screenings will not receive a **Large NT: Screen Positive** risk assessment, they will have larger multiple of the medians (MoMs) that will increase the risk assessment ratio, which highlights the importance of using the most accurate practitioner specific median to calculate MoMs.

#### Updates and Reminders:

- PNS risk assessments are based on the first valid NT exam data that is submitted to the Program and will not be changed for subsequent data. If a supervisor is reviewing ultrasounds, data should be submitted only after the ultrasound report has been reviewed.

#### We're Online

Visit our [website](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pns/pages/ntpractitioner.aspx) for instructions on how to enter NT data online; tools for calculating the valid gestational age window; and various guidance documents for NT practitioners.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pns/pages/ntpractitioner.aspx>

#### Questions or Comments?

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