



# Ohio MCH Fact Sheet

## Women's Health, Birth Outcomes, Newborn Health Ohio Connections for Children with Special Needs (OCCSN)

### **MCH Block Grant Needs Assessment Information**

#### **Key Data Summary – Ohio**

- In 2007, congenital anomalies were the leading cause of infant mortality in Ohio. State birth defect programs are instrumental for breakthroughs in research regarding birth defect causes and prevention such as folic acid and neural tube defects.
- The Ohio Administrative Code mandates reporting of 45 major birth defects in children up to 5 years of age. It is estimated that 4,500 to 7,500 Ohio children were born with a birth defect in 2006.
- OCCSN is the birth defects surveillance system for Ohio.

#### **Healthy People 2010 Objectives: 6-13, 23-17, 21-16**

- In addition to the District of Columbia, increase the number of tribes and states that
  - have public health surveillance and health promotion programs for people with disabilities and caregivers.
  - conduct or collaborate on population-based prevention research.
  - have an oral and craniofacial health surveillance system.

#### **U.S./Ohio Comparison**

- The OCCSN system is collecting data statewide. Data are not available for comparison to national estimates at this time.

#### **Additional Information**

- OCCSN collaborates with other groups including the March of Dimes, the Regional Comprehensive Genetics Centers, the Fetal Spectrum Disorder initiative and more than 30 other partners and programs from around the state.

### **Goals of OCCSN**

- Determine the burden of birth defects in Ohio.
- Refer children diagnosed with birth defects to services to improve their health outcomes.
- Educate the public to reduce the risk of having a child born with a birth defect.
- Provide data to further research birth defects' causes and prevention.

### **Accomplishments to Date**

- Developed and tested a Web-based data system.
- Initiated statewide reporting in fall 2007.
  - 100 percent of hospitals reporting as of January 2008
- Promoted January as Birth Defects Prevention Month.
- Implemented a testing referral process to programs including Help Me Grow and the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps.
  - Strengthened Help Me Grow, Public Health Nurse consultation at local level
  - Improved timely entry to services
- Established training curriculum and educational materials for local Help Me Grow staff and public health nurses working with children with birth defects.

### **Future Initiatives and Goals**

- Data quality improvement.
  - To meet the growing number of cases reported, OCCSN staff will continue to develop methods to further improve the quality of the data found in the system
- Produce population-based estimates as a first step for detailed reporting from the OCCSN system.
- Incorporate information from Regional Comprehensive Genetics Centers and other potential data sources to provide additional case ascertainment, case verification and referrals to services for children and families.