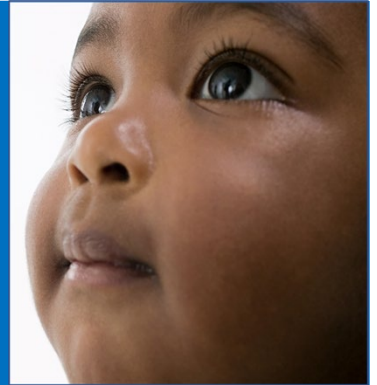


# 2022 Report: South Carolina Birth Defects Program (SCBDP)



SCBDP Vision: A South Carolina where healthy births are promoted, every birth defect counts, and families impacted by birth defects are supported.

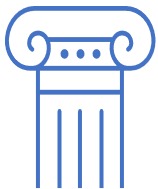
SCBDP Goal: To continue to support the 3 pillars of the SC Birth Defects Program: **Prevention, Research, and Referrals**

## Prevention



- SCBDP Partners with Greenwood Genetic Center's Neural Tube Defect prevention program to support families impacted by neural tube defects.
- **Since 2018, SCBDP has referred 800 families to Greenwood Genetic Center**, where families receive genetic counseling and recurrence prevention support.
- Folic acid intake can prevent some neural tube defects.

## Research



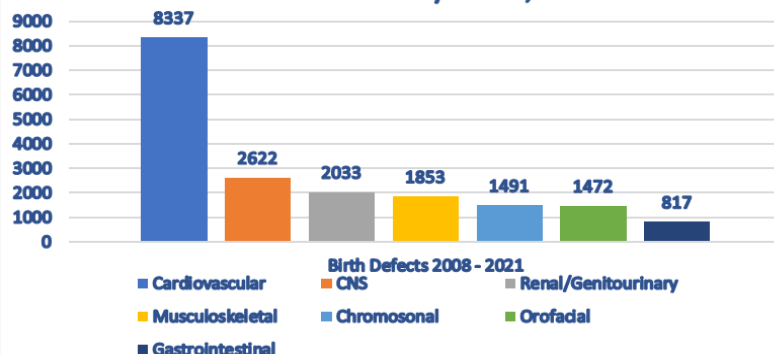
- The SCBDP is a recipient of two competitive CDC grants and is supporting CDC with a national study to assess health outcomes of individuals with congenital heart defects.
- **In 2022, SCBDP participated in national studies related to heart defects, Turner Syndrome, cancer and birth defects, and COVID-19 on pregnancy.**
- SCBDP is working with national partners to research the timing and method of detection of critical congenital heart defects.

## Referrals



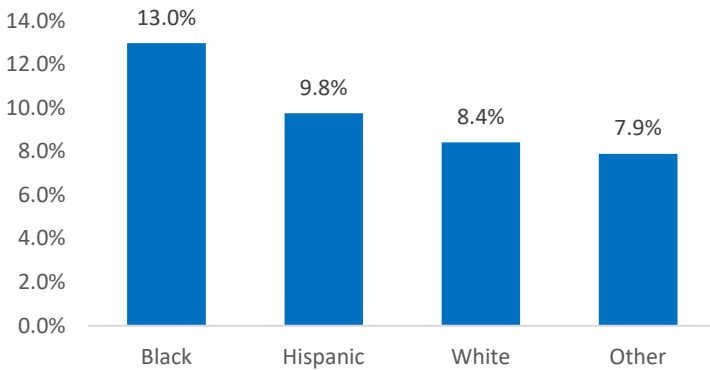
- The SCBDP refers all families impacted by neural tube defects to Greenwood Genetic Center to help prevent recurring neural tube defects.
- **The SCBDP has referred over 3,500 children to Early Intervention since 2018.**
- SCBDP assists the state's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, First Sound, with reducing loss-to-follow-up of children who are at risk for hearing loss.

Birth Defects Identified by SCBDP, 2008-2021



- From 2008-2021, SCBDP identified 19,228 cases of birth defects.
- In 2021, there was a 75% increase in birth defects identified and all categories of birth defects identified have doubled with enhanced surveillance.
- Additional cases identified are referred to services such as Early Intervention, which can improve outcomes.

### Deaths among children with birth defects in SC born 2008-2021, by race and ethnicity



#### Disparities in SC:

In SC, Black and Hispanic infants with birth defects were more likely to die than White infants. Policy makers should focus on health initiatives that decrease disparities in this population.

“As a fetal and pediatric cardiologist in Greenville, I am privileged to care for our South Carolina families affected by congenital heart disease from the womb to adulthood. Through the Congenital Heart Defects Surveillance Across Time and Regions (CHD STAR) project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, I have begun to work closely with the South Carolina Birth Defects Program. The additional funding provided through this federal grant has allowed for more accurate surveillance of the burden of congenital heart disease in our state.”



-Dr. Susan Haynes

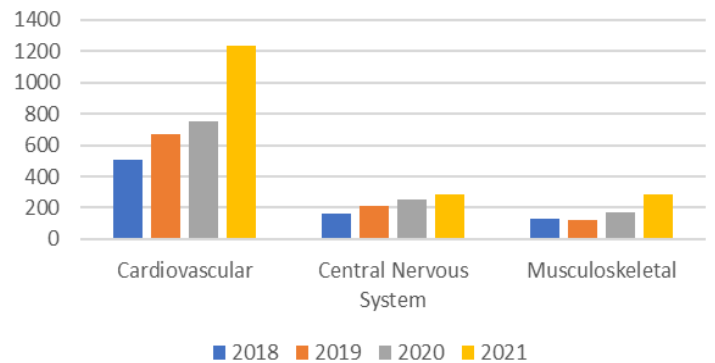
### The Importance of Birth Defects Surveillance

Early intervention results in more referrals. “In 2021, over **800** children were referred by the South Carolina Birth Defects Program to BabyNet for evaluation. These referrals are important to ensure that children don’t miss out on the opportunity for early intervention. We know that intervention is more likely to be effective when it is provided early in life rather than later because this is a time when a child’s neural connections are most flexible.”



-Dr. Sonja Rasmussen

### Impact of Outpatient Data Collection on Top 3 Birth Defects



#### Data Collection and Surveillance in SC:

The increase in outpatient surveillance since 2018 resulted in an increase in data collection for all birth defects. Cardiovascular birth defect identification significantly increased with enhanced surveillance from 2020 to 2021.

**Questions?**

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