

Texas Birth Defects Registry (TBDR) Annual Report

Appendix D. Birth Defect Cluster Investigations

In addition to routine data collection, the Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch (BDESB) conducts birth defect investigations throughout Texas. When a health care professional or a member of the public reports a seemingly unusual concentration of children with a particular type of birth defect — also known as a “cluster” — we initiate an investigation to determine if there is a statistically significant elevation in the number of children with the birth defect of concern. More information about birth defect clusters and investigations can be found on our website at www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-birth-defects-epidemiology-surveillance/birth-defects-clusters.

Since 1994, 129 birth defect clusters have been investigated by BDESB and are listed in the table below. Additional information may be obtained by contacting us via email at birthdefects@dshs.texas.gov or by phone at 512-776-7232.

Number	Location	County	Region	Condition(s)	Status
1994.01	Bryan	Brazos	7	all birth defects	closed
1994.02	Dallas	Dallas	3	polydactyly	closed
1994.03	El Paso	El Paso	10	gastroschisis	closed
1994.04	El Paso	El Paso	10	microphthalmia	closed
1994.05	Granbury	Hood, Somervell	3	Down syndrome	closed
1994.06	McKinney	Collin	3	ear	closed
1994.07	Parkland Hospital	Dallas	3	multiple defects	closed
1994.08	San Antonio	Bexar	8	gastroschisis	closed
1994.09	San Antonio	Bexar	8	anophthalmia	closed
1994.10	Temple area	Bell, Brazos, Falls, Limestone, McClennan	7	gastroschisis	closed
1995.01	Dallas	Dallas	3	holoprosencephaly	closed
1995.02	Dawson County	Dawson	9	spina bifida	closed
1995.03	Eagle Pass	Maverick	8	neural tube defects	closed
1995.04	Ellis County	Ellis	3	Down syndrome	closed
1995.05	Gaines and Dawson Counties	Gaines, Dawson	9	oral clefts	closed

Number	Location	County	Region	Condition(s)	Status
1995.06	Houston	Harris	6	Down syndrome	closed
1995.07	The Woodlands	Montgomery	6	anencephaly	closed
1996.01	Cameron, Willacy, and Hidalgo Counties	Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo	11	heart	closed
1996.02	Fabens	El Paso	10	heart	closed
1996.03	Grand Prairie	Dallas	3	multiple defects	closed
1996.04	Hood County	Hood	3	chromosomal	closed
1996.05	Kingsville	Kleberg	11	multiple defects	closed
1996.06	Lewisville	Denton	3	multiple defects	closed
1996.07	Nueces County	Nueces	11	anencephaly	closed
1996.08	Pantex	Armstrong, Carson, Potter, Randall	1	all birth defects	closed
1996.09	Travis and Bastrop Counties	Travis, Bastrop	7	anophthalmia	closed
1996.10	Vidor	Orange	5	multiple defects	closed
1997.01	Brazos County	Brazos	7	hypoplastic left heart syndrome	closed
1997.02	Bryan and College Station	Brazos	7	anencephaly	closed
1997.03	Conroe	Montgomery	6	anencephaly	closed
1997.04	Dallas	Dallas	3	neural tube defects	closed
1997.05	El Paso	El Paso	10	biliary atresia	closed
1997.06	El Paso	El Paso	10	multiple defects	closed
1997.07	Kelly Air Force Base	Bexar	8	multiple defects	closed
1997.08	Ozona	Crockett	9	oral clefts	closed
1998.01	Cameron County	Cameron	11	neural tube defects	closed
1998.02	Ellis, Dallas, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, and Tarrant Counties	Ellis, Dallas, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Tarrant	3, 7	multiple defects	closed
1998.03	Laredo	Webb	11	neural tube defects	closed
1998.04	Port Lavaca	Calhoun	8	gastroschisis	closed

Number	Location	County	Region	Condition(s)	Status
1998.05	Presidio and Brewster Counties	Presidio, Brewster	10	oral clefts	closed
1998.06	San Angelo and Ballinger	Tom Green, Runnels	2, 9	heart	closed
1998.07	Tyler	Smith	4	Down syndrome	closed
1999.01	Bastrop County	Bastrop	7	anencephaly	closed
1999.02	Cameron and Hidalgo Counties	Cameron, Hidalgo	11	esophageal atresia	closed
1999.03	Collin and Denton Counties	Collin, Denton	3	neural tube defects	closed
1999.04	El Paso County	El Paso	10	neural tube defects	closed
1999.05	El Paso	El Paso	10	trisomy 18	closed
1999.06	North Austin	Travis	7	gastroschisis and omphalocele	closed
1999.07	Corpus Christi	Nueces	11	neural tube defects	closed
1999.08	Nueces County	Nueces	11	cyclopia	closed
1999.09	Roby	Fisher	2	multiple defects	closed
1999.10	San Angelo	Tom Green	9	agenesis of the corpus callosum	closed
1999.11	West Dallas	Dallas	3	multiple defects	closed
2000.01	Bryan	Brazos	7	anencephaly	closed
2000.02	Cedar Creek	Bastrop	7	Down syndrome	closed
2000.03	Houston area	Harris, Montgomery Chambers, Fort Bend, Angelina, Hardin, Colorado	6	spina bifida	closed
2000.04	Lindale	Smith	4	oral clefts	closed
2000.05	Shelby County	Shelby	5	anencephaly	closed
2000.06	Williamson County	Williamson	7	agenesis of the corpus callosum	closed
2000.07	Zavalla	Angelina	5	multiple defects	closed
2001.01	Cedar Park	Williamson	7	multiple defects	closed
2001.02	Corpus Christi	Nueces	11	multiple defects	closed

Number	Location	County	Region	Condition(s)	Status
2001.03	Nueces, San Patricio, and Kleberg Counties (originally Corpus Christi)	Nueces, San Patricio, Kleberg	11	multiple defects (15 specific birth defects)	closed
2001.04	Dallas and Tarrant Counties	Dallas, Tarrant	3	gastroschisis	closed
2001.05	Deer Park	Harris	6	multiple defects	closed
2001.06	Grayson County	Grayson	3	ventricular septal defect	closed
2001.07	Port Neches, Groves, and Nederland	Jefferson	5	all birth defects	closed
2001.08	Houston area	Harris	6	spina bifida	closed
2001.09	Kelly Air Force Base	Bexar	8	all birth defects	closed
2001.10	Laredo	Webb	11	neural tube defects	closed
2001.11	Odessa	Ector (only)	9	microtia	closed
2001.12	Dallas	Dallas	3	anencephaly	closed
2001.13	San Antonio and El Paso	Bexar, El Paso	8, 10	Williams syndrome	closed
2001.14	Tarrant County	Tarrant	3	triploidy	closed
2001.15	Tarrant, Dallas, Hood, and Young Counties	Tarrant, Dallas, Hood, Young	2, 3	diaphragmatic hernia	closed
2001.16	Travis and Williamson Counties	Travis, Williamson	7	gastroschisis	closed
2002.01	Houston	Harris	6	port wine stain	closed
2002.02	Duval County	Duval	11	transposition of the great vessels	closed
2002.03	Ellis County	Ellis	3	anencephaly	closed
2002.04	Garland	Dallas	3	multiple defects	closed
2002.05	Washington County	Washington	7	Dandy-Walker variant	closed
2002.06	Laredo	Webb	11	multiple defects	closed

Number	Location	County	Region	Condition(s)	Status
2003.01	Bee, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, and Willacy Counties	Bee, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Willacy	11	gastroschisis	closed
2003.02	Dallas County	Dallas	3	all birth defects	closed
2003.03	East Texas	not determined	4	reduction defects of the upper limbs	closed
2003.04	Texas	all	all	intestinal duplication	closed
2004.01	El Paso	El Paso	10	gastroschisis	closed
2004.02	Salado	Bell	7	bladder exstrophy, gastroschisis	closed
2004.03	Medical City Hospital, Dallas	not determined	3	hypoplastic left heart syndrome	closed
2004.04	Odessa	Ector	9	plagiocephaly	closed
2005.01	Brownsville	Cameron	11	pyloric stenosis	closed
2005.02	McAllen	Hidalgo	11	Down syndrome	closed
2005.03	Lubbock	Lubbock	1	gastroschisis	closed
2005.04	Midlothian, Venus, and Cedar Hill	Ellis, Johnson, Dallas	3	all birth defects	closed
2005.05	North Texas (loosely defined)	<i>defined various ways, please see report</i>	see report	gastroschisis	closed
2006.01	Zip code 77040 in Houston	Harris	6	all birth defects	closed
2006.02	Zip codes 78238 and 78240 in Leon Valley	Bexar	8	all birth defects	closed
2007.01	Midland	Midland	9	Down syndrome	closed
2007.02	Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, and Fayette Counties	Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Fayette	7	gastroschisis	closed

Number	Location	County	Region	Condition(s)	Status
2008.01	El Paso	El Paso	10	pyloric stenosis	closed
2009.01	Midland and Ector Counties	Midland, Ector	9	anencephaly	closed
2009.02	Brownwood	Brown	2	diaphragmatic hernia	closed
2009.03	Kyle	Hays	7	anotia or microtia	closed
2010.01	Weslaco and Mercedes (Knapp Medical Center)	Hidalgo	11	microtia	closed
2010.02	UTMB Galveston	Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris	6	atrial septal defect	closed
2010.03	Brazos County	Brazos	7	trisomy 18	closed
2011.01	University Medical Center, Lubbock; possibly also Covenant Medical Center	<i>based on patients' residence counties</i>	1	anencephaly, gastroschisis, trisomy 18	closed
2011.02	Bexar County	Bexar	8	all birth defects	closed
2011.03	Brownsville and Los Fresnos	Cameron	11	Down syndrome	closed
2012.01	John Peter Smith Hospital, Fort Worth	Tarrant	3	anencephaly	closed
2012.02	Huguley Memorial Hospital, south Fort Worth	Johnson, Tarrant	3	polydactyly, syndactyly	closed
2012.03	Peterson Regional Medical Center (Kerrville) and Hill Country Memorial Hospital (Fredericksburg)	Kerr, Gillespie	8	clubfoot	closed
2012.04	Ellis County	Ellis	3	Down syndrome	closed
2013.01	El Paso	El Paso	10	anencephaly	closed

Number	Location	County	Region	Condition(s)	Status
2014.01	San Jacinto River Waste Pits area	Harris, possibly Chambers (area defined by Census tracts)	6	all birth defects	closed
2014.02	Amarillo area	Potter, Randall	1	clubfoot	closed
2014.03	Odessa area	to be determined	9	atrial septal defect	closed
2015.01	Sulphur Springs area	Hopkins, Lamar	4	gastroschisis	closed
2017.02	Corpus Christi area	Nueces, San Patricio, Kleberg	11	all birth defects	closed
2017.03	Valley Baptist Hospital	Cameron	11	upper limb defects (hypoplastic arm related to amniotic band)	closed
2017.04	Dallas, one small area within Dallas	Dallas	3	hypoplastic left heart syndrome	closed
2018.01	Cameron County	Cameron	11	anencephaly	closed
2019.01	Tarrant County	Tarrant	3	all birth defects	closed
2019.02	Laredo	Webb	11	anencephaly	closed
2019.03	Harris County–10 Census tracts	Harris	6	all birth defects	closed
2019.04	Brownsville	Cameron	11	trisomy 18	closed
2023.01	Region 8	Not county-specific	8	two-vessel cord	closed
2023.02	Regions 8 and 11	Bexar, Hidalgo	8, 11	cor triatriatum	closed
2025.01	Austin	Travis	7	esophageal atresia/tracheoesophageal fistula	ongoing