The Birth and Infant Health Registry (BIHR) was established in 1998 at the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs due to the growing number of women on active duty and the diverse occupational exposures associated with military service, making reproductive health issues a special concern for the Department of Defense (DoD). The main goal of the Registry is to increase understanding of how military service impacts reproductive health by conducting systematic surveillance of DoD beneficiary births and studying reproductive health outcomes.

The research done by the Registry support the health of military families by addressing their reproductive health concerns with strong science and surveillance.

The Registry’s researchers and data analysts have direct access to large military databases, allowing for thorough capture of all birth outcomes for infants born to military families.

Core Data Sources:
- Military Health System Data Repository (MDR)
- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)
- Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)

Study population:
- Military Health System beneficiaries, including service members and their families

Infant outcomes:
- Data is captured through the first year of life and up to 5 years of age for those with continuous TRICARE enrollment

The Registry contains data on over 1.6 million infants.
More than 100,000 beneficiary infants are born and added to the Registry annually.
Birth defect rates are similar for military women and dependent wives, and are consistent with civilian populations.

- Federal agencies (e.g. DHA IHB, CDC, NBDPN)
- Military Treatment Facilities (e.g. NMCS, TAMC, MAMC, NHCL)
- Other agencies (e.g. universities, Organization of Teratology Information Specialists)