

Medical and Human Genetics in ARKANSAS

*Jackie Whitfield, RN, Leslie Himstedt, Supervisor Newborn Screening Lab.
Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services; Little Rock, Arkansas*



State Profile

Population: 2,673,400 **Capitol:** Little Rock

Largest cities: Little Rock, Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, Hot Springs

Personnel

State Health Department

Jackie Whitfield, State Genetic Coordinator
Leslie Himstedt, Newborn Screening Lab Supervisor
Dianne Pettit, RN, Newborn Screening Coordinator
Dr. Richard Nugent, Maternal & Child Health

Clinical Geneticists

Dr. Steve Kahler, Arkansas Children's Hospital
Kent McKelvey, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Maternal Fetal Medicine Obstetricians

Curtis Lowery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Paul J. Wendel, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Helen Kay, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Nafisa Dajani, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Cytogeneticist

Jeff Sawyer, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Genetic Counselors

Prenatal

Shannon Barringer, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Katherine Bridgeman, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Kristin Frazer, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Kristin Baldwin, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Noelle Agan, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Pediatric

Cynthia Lim, Arkansas Children's Hospital

Cancer

Ulrika Lange, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Adult

Sarah Jackson, Central Arkansas Veteran's Healthcare System & UAMS

Genetic Nurses

Prenatal

Susan Franklin, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Pediatric

Paula Conaway, Arkansas Children's Hospital

Adult

Carmen Ramirez, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Public Health

Jackie Whitfield, Arkansas Department of Health
Dianne Pettit, RN, Arkansas Department of Health

MAP



Newborn Screening

- Congenital Hypothyroidism: 1981
- Galactosemia: 1995
- Phenylketonuria: 1967
- Hemoglobinopathies: 1987
- *Performance Site

Special Features

- Genetic Counseling Telemedicine Clinic
- First Multi-state Genetic Counseling consortium (Pending)
- First Genetic Counseling Clinic in the VA Hospital System
- First Char Syndrome patient identified by Florence Char
- Nationally recognized Birth Defects Registry

Facilities

- Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services
- Newborn Screening Laboratories
- Arkansas Children's Hospital
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

Advisory Bodies

- State Genetic Advisory Board
- March of Dimes

Training

- Genetics Fellowships
- MS in Genetic Counseling (Pending)

Reference

State Genetic Plan: 2002