

BIOTRUST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is The Michigan Neonatal Biobank?

The *Michigan Neonatal Biobank (MNB)* is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization serving as the repository for storage and management of Michigan's newborn screening blood spot samples.

What is a biobank?

A biobank is a place that collects, stores, processes and distributes biological samples. In some instances, a biobank also stores the data associated with those materials. Biobanks may be used for clinical care or for health research. In the United States, research biobanks are governed by ethical principles for human subject research established by federal regulations.

The Michigan Neonatal Biobank (MNB)

The MNB is a temperature controlled secure facility at Wayne State University's Biobanking Center of Excellence in Tech Town (www.mnbb.org). The only samples currently stored at the MNB are blood spots left-over from Michigan's newborn screen. The MNB cannot access data and only receives blood spots and linked data that have been labeled with a code. Blood spots collected since 2009 are stored at -20°C . Blood spots collected between 1996 and 2008 are stored in a temperature and humidity controlled space while blood spots collected between July 1984 and 1995 are stored at ambient temperature.



Who oversees the MNB?

Oversight of the biobank is provided by a board of directors. One board member is appointed from each of the institutions that collaborated to establish the MNB– the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Van Andel Institute, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

What is the difference between the Michigan BioTrust for Health and the MNB?



The BioTrust is a program run by the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee Michigan's stored blood spots and their use in health research. The BioTrust encompasses outreach and community engagement, policy development as well as coordination and approval of research requesting blood spots.



The MNB is the storage repository for Michigan's residual newborn screening blood spot samples. The Department of Health and Human Services contracts with Wayne State University for services. While securely storing and optimally preserving blood spots, the biobank also works to promote the use of these samples in health research.