



Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

January 2014

Issue 2014 - 1

What's going on regarding birth defects

January 5-11 is **Folic Acid Awareness Week** and January is **National Birth Defects Prevention Month** in the United States.

Links to some activities and news about these initiatives:

- **New folic acid materials** from CDC at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/CDCInfoOnDemand.aspx?ProgramID=5>
- **CDC infographic** at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/infographic.html>
- **New Video** on the Story of Folic Acid Fortification at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSSsRo2n4g>: a short video that chronicles the hard work behind folic acid fortification in the United States and its positive effects on the health and well-being of so many children and families.
- **2014 Birth Defects Prevention Month Packet**: these resources (English and some in Spanish), available at <http://www.nbdpn.org/bdpm2014.php> can be shared with colleagues, policy makers, families, and others during Birth Defects Prevention Month and throughout the year.
- **NCBDDD director, Dr. Coleen Boyle is on Twitter** (follow [@DrBoyleCDC](https://twitter.com/DrBoyleCDC) or join this link <https://twitter.com/DrBoyleCDC>). She will share a fact each day during January to raise awareness about birth defects. Each daily fact will be marked by the hashtag: #1in33 (a reference to the prevalence of birth defects). Re-tweet the facts and add your own, using the hashtag #1in33

The Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS) of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) announced the release of **Congenital Anomalies in Canada 2013: A Perinatal Health Surveillance Report**. The Report provides a concise overview of six important categories of congenital anomalies in Canada, including Down syndrome, neural tube defects, congenital heart defects, orofacial clefts, limb deficiency defects and gastroschisis. It presents national-level birth prevalence data and temporal trends; provincial and territorial estimates (including maps); and international comparisons. The report also describes methods of primary and secondary prevention, in addition to management and treatment options for selected congenital anomalies. An electronic copy (PDF) of the report is available on request at centre@icbdsr.org

News from the Headquarter and Executive Committee

The **2014 Edition of the Training Program on Surveillance and Prevention of Birth Defects and Preterm Births** will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, at WHO Headquarters, from 7 to 11 July 2014. Deadline for application is **January 15, 2014**. Please, spread this link among possible interested colleagues: www.icbdsr.org/page.asp?n=Training_Program. The course may be interesting and useful also for staff members of ICBSR participating Programs.

ICBSR 2013 Annual Report -with data for 2011, or most recent available data from each Program- is in preparation. In order to have the most up-to-date and correct information, would you please:

- Update the description of your Program. Please look at your Program's description as published in the most recent Annual Report (2012 – available for download at <http://www.icbdsr.org/filebank/documents/ar2005/Report2012.pdf>)
- Provide a list of papers by you and/or your collaborators published in 2013, to be included in the section "Publications by ICBSR Members" of the Annual Report.

Deadline for receiving the requested information is **February 28, 2014**.

Upcoming deadlines

- **January 15, 2014**: deadline for application to the 2014 Edition of the Training Program on Surveillance and Prevention of Birth Defects and Preterm Births.
- **February 3, 2014**: extended due date for submission of papers for the Themed Issue on Birth Defects Registry Methods, Spring 2014, Journal of Registry Management, according to the arrangement with the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN). See also www.nbdpn.org/jrm_call_for_manuscripts.php
- **February 20, 2014**: data for the **1st quarter 2013**, to be published in the **Quarterly Report/Krystalos**.
- **February 28, 2014**: updated description of your program and list of papers published in 2013, to be published in the forthcoming Annual Report.
- **June 1, 2014**: deadline for submission of abstracts to be presented at the 41th Annual ICBSR Meeting (more info will be available shortly on the website).

SAVE THE DATE: 13-16 September 2014, 41th Annual ICBSR Meeting in Helsinki, Finland