



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

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What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A descriptive epidemiological study published on **the Medical Journal of Australia** reports the prevalence and characteristics of microcephaly cases ascertained by the Western Australian Register of Developmental Anomalies (WARDA), in a geographically defined Australian population. These data provide a baseline for prospective surveillance of microcephaly. Authors identified a high proportion of cases without known cause, highlighting the need for clinicians to carefully investigate all possibilities, including emerging infections. They also reported FASD is an important cause of microcephaly in the Aboriginal population.

Reference: Prevalence of microcephaly in an Australian population-based birth defects register, 1980-2015. *Med J Aus* 2017 May 1;206(8):351-356.

Full text available at <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2017/206/8/prevalence-microcephaly-australian-population-based-birth-defects-register-1980>

A recent paper published on **Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases** compared basic surveillance through active medical record review with a linked administrative data file to assess the number of cases of two rare conditions, fragile X syndrome (FXS) and muscular dystrophy (MD) in a population. The study shows that applying capture-recapture methods to passively collected surveillance data for rare health conditions produced an estimate of the number of true cases that was similar to that obtained through active data collection.

Reference: Capture-recapture methodology to study rare conditions using surveillance data for fragile X syndrome and muscular dystrophy. *Orphanet J Rare Dis*. 2017 Apr 21;12(1):76.

Full text available at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5399384/pdf/13023_2017_Article_628.pdf

News from Members

Canada Alberta Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System - Eleventh Report, 1997 – 2014

Prepared by R.B. Lowry, MD, DSc, FRCPC, B. Sibbald, BA, BN, MSc, T. Bedard, BSc, MPH. Full report available at <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/1710-8594>

Meetings and Conferences



44th Annual Meeting of the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research, Austin, Texas, November 13th to 15th, 2017 (venue: Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol).

Information on meeting's program, abstracts submission, registrations, and logistics available at www.icbdsr.org.

Deadline for abstracts submission: **July 30, 2017**



8th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the

Developing World (ICBD), Bogotá, Colombia, 8th-11th November 2017. Visit <http://icbd.marchofdimes.org/> for information on abstract submission and for submission guidelines. Abstracts will be accepted until **May 31, 2017**



III International Congress of Community Genetics, organized by the Cuban Society of Human Genetics, held in Havana, Cuba, November 14th-17th, 2017. Under the slogan "Community Genetics in the Age of Genomics Medicine: Prevention is the Challenge", the scientific meeting plans to share experiences, show the progress of human and medical genetics in Cuba and other countries, and reflect on the application of results from the revolution of genomics new technologies in primary health care, for prevention. Registration and Abstract Submission are open at <http://geneticacomunitaria2017.sld.cu/index.php/gencom/2017>



The **Teratology Society's 57th Annual Meeting** is held June 24th-28th, 2017 in Denver, Colorado. The theme for this year's meeting is "**World Spotlight: Elevating Birth Defects Research.**" The program offers an exciting variety of scientific and professional development session: <http://teratology.org/meetings/2017/>



The **45th annual meeting of the European Teratology Society** will be held in **Budapest** on **4th-7th September 2017**. Full information at <https://www.etsoc.com/annual-meeting>

News from the ICBDsr Centre and Executive Committee



The new **ICBDsr's website** is online! Look at www.icbdsr.org for new design and updated contents. Additional renewal of contents will follow. Please, send your comments or suggestions to centre@icbdsr.org

ICBDsr Alessandra Lisi Award: This award honors Alessandra Lisi, a young researcher at ICBDsr Centre from 2002 to her untimely death in 2006. The eligibility requirements include an active contribution to the epidemiology or surveillance of birth defects, preferably with an ICBDsr program, and evidence of a promising research career and ongoing commitment to the field, among others. The deadline for submitting applications is **June 30, 2017**. Visit ICBDsr website for more

Becoming a member of ICBDsr:

Organizations that systematically collect and analyse data for the surveillance of birth defects and are interested in undertaking collaborative research studies can become members of the ICBDsr.

More info: <http://www.icbdsr.org/become-a-member/>

Please, send your contribution to the Newsletters to centre@icbdsr.org