



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

March 2018

Issue 2018-3



World Birth Defects Day - WBDD 2018 – March 3rd

The result of the 2018 WBDD Campaign on Thunderclap exceeded expectations with its huge number social reach:

The screenshot shows a campaign page for "World Birth Defects Day 2018" by World Birth Defects Day Partners, categorized as "Health". The main message is: "Many birth defects can be prevented & treated. Help spread global awareness for World Birth Defects Day. #WorldBDDay" with a link to "http://thndr.me/ul6H4z". The campaign status is "COMPLETE". Statistics shown include: 866 of 500 supporters (172% of goal supported), 8,165,151 social reach, and time left is "Complete". The organizer is "World Birth Defects Day Partners @wbdday". The aim of WBDD is to raise awareness of this serious global problem and advocate for increased monitoring of the occurrence of birth defects, research to find causes and improve prevention, and promote care to help children and adults with birth defects improve their quality of life and participation in society. The page also includes a "THE STORY" tab and an "UPDATES" tab, with a large logo for "world birth defects day march 3" at the bottom.

Some activities organized by the Participating Organizations observing the WBDD are available at <http://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/activities/>.

The 2018 WBDD Participating Organizations are kindly requested to send to centre@icbdsr.org the link to the organization's website where information on 2018 WBDD was posted, and poster, pictures, press releases, etc. of

any other activity completed by the organization. **Please do not send us a report on activities on social networks.**
Thank you.

Follow @WBDD on Twitter <https://twitter.com/wbdday>,
Join WBDD page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WBDDay/>

News from the ICBDSR Centre, Executive Committee, and ICBDSR Members

45th ICBDSR Annual Meeting

The 2018 ICBDSR Annual Meeting will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from September 30th to October 4th. The preliminary program and information on registration and logistics are available at <http://www.icbdsr.org/45th-icbdsr-annual-meeting/>. Abstracts are due by **May 30th, 2018**

2018 Training Workshop on Birth Defect Surveillance and Prevention

A training Workshop, tailored to best meet the needs of the African Birth Defects surveillance (BDS) systems, will be held in Nairobi (Kenya), from April 29 to May 2, 2018. Invited Participants: BDS Teams of Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda.

The training will be developed by the International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD – ICBDSR Centre) and supported in part by funding from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through Agreement 2017-2018 with the Task Force for Global Health.

The four BDS Teams are currently completing the online pre-training course, that started two weeks ago.

Major focus of the Workshop will be the review of the data quality improvement plans that the local Teams created during the Arusha 2017 ICBDSR training – including the following:

- Data quality indicators: completeness, accuracy, timeliness
- Tools for quality: visual process maps, checklists for description and coding, recommended data table structure
- Success stories: what works well in other programs

Online Self-paced Course on Birth Defect Surveillance and Prevention

The online course is still available for interested professionals. The course has been developed by the International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD – ICBDSR Centre), and supported in part by funding from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through Agreement 2016-2017 with the Task Force for Global Health. The course is designed for clinicians, epidemiologists, public health professionals, and anyone interested in understanding birth defects and improving their prevention and care. The course includes videos, quizzes, a discussion forum, and publications/resources. The course is available in English and Spanish. Further information at <http://www.icbdsr.org/online-self-paced-course-on-birth-defect-surveillance-and-prevention/>, and the registration form is available at www.icbdsr.org/course-registration. You will receive your access credentials and you can begin the course at your convenience (It is “self-paced”).

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

The findings of a study published in Birth Defects Research show that fortification of *wheat flour with folic acid* can be achieved immediately in many countries with existing industrial milling infrastructure. Effective fortification interventions can accelerate global primary prevention efforts of folic acid-preventable spina bifida and anencephaly, especially in developing countries with a high prevalence of neural tube defects and associated morbidity and mortality.

Kancherla V, Zimmerman S. Countries with an immediate potential for primary prevention of spina bifida and anencephaly: Mandatory fortification of wheat flour with folic acid. Birth Defects Res. 2018 Mar 13. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1222. [Epub ahead of print]. Abstract available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29532629>

Meetings and Conferences

2018 67th Annual EIS Conference, April 16-19, 2018, Hilton Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, USA. The EIS Conference is a primary forum for EIS officers to present their epidemiologic activities. National and international participants represent EIS officers, their mentors, EIS alumni, and public health professionals. Get more information at <https://www.cdc.gov/eis/conference.html>.

ACPA 75th Annual Meeting, April 10th-14th, 2018, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. <http://acpa-cpf.org/annual-meeting/>.

7th ICCN - International Conference on Clinical Neonatology, May 23rd- 26th 2018, Turin, Italy. Main Topics: Hypothermia in preterms: what's new?; Team working in the NICU; NIDCAP and family-centered care; EPO and neuroprotection: an update; Delivery of fetal CHD patients. Info at <http://www.mcascientificevents.eu/iccn2018/>.

EUROCAT Registry Leaders Meeting (RLM) and the **Scientific Symposium** will take place on the 13th– 15th June 2018 at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. Details on the program to follow.

The [58th Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society](#) will be held on June 23rd–27th, 2018, at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, in Clearwater, Florida. The theme for this year's meeting is "**Mechanisms, Models, Mothers and Babies: Bringing Birth Defects Research into Practice**". Abstracts due by February 15th, 2018.

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