

International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

December 2018

Issue 2018-12



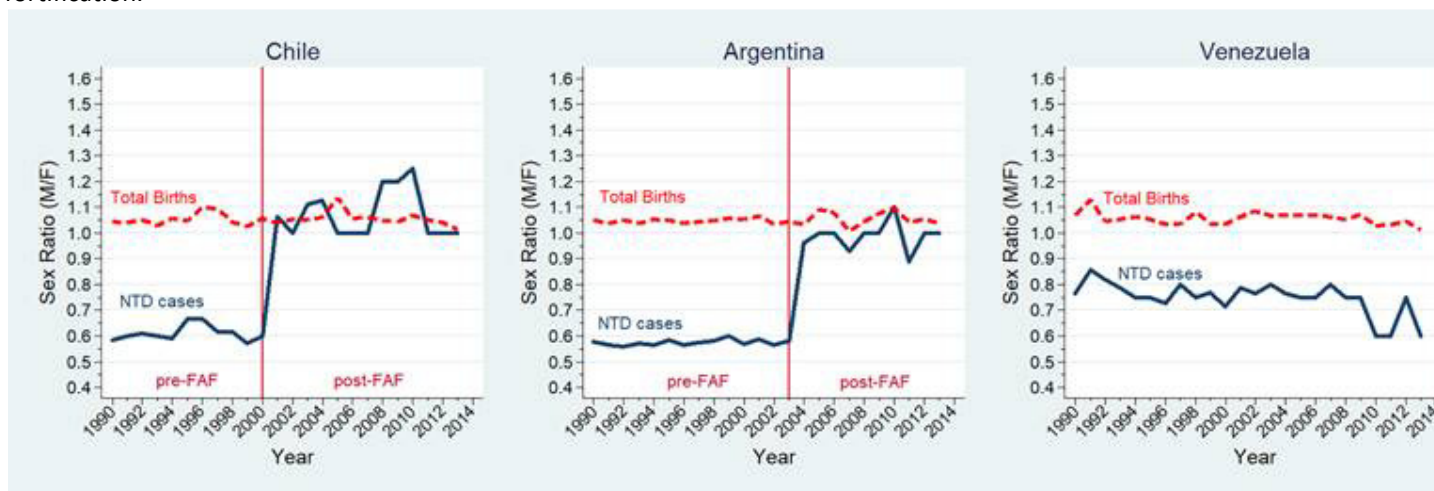
World Birth Defects Day - WBDD

To date, **123 Organizations** worldwide have enrolled to participate in the 2019 WBDD, March 3. The full list is available at on the WBDD website: <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/partners/>. Join the WBDD as Partner Organization by completing the application form: <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/>.

Follow @worldbdday on Twitter <https://twitter.com/WorldBDDay>
Instagram worldbdday <https://www.instagram.com/worldbdday/>
Join WBDD page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WBDDay/>
Visit WBDD website <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/>

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A study from the **Latin American Collaborative Study of Congenital Malformations (ECLAMC)** entitled "Neural tube defects: Sex ratio changes after fortification with folic acid" evaluated the sex ratio shift from female to male before vs. after folic acid fortification (FAF) in infants with isolated NTDs born from 1990 through 2013 in 3 countries participating in the ECLAMC (Chile, Argentina, and Venezuela). The study also assessed whether these differences were related to the fortification.



In Chile and Argentina the prevalence of NTDs, particularly anencephaly and cervico-thoracic spina bifida, showed a greater reduction rate in females than in males after FAF, resulting in a change of the sex ratio of infants with NTDs. Some mechanisms possibly involved in this differential reduction are proposed which might be useful to identify the pathogenesis of NTDs as a whole and specifically those susceptible to the protective effect of folic acid.

Neural tube defects: Sex ratio changes after fortification with folic acid. PLoS One. 2018 Mar 14;13(3):e0193127. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0193127. eCollection 2018. Full text available [here](#)

The **WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on Non Communicable Diseases (GDM/NCD)** launched the **Knowledge Action Portal (KAP)**, a community-driven platform for Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) information, interaction and inspiration. The KAP aims to create a community of connected individuals from various backgrounds and skill-sets to access knowledge and information, promote collaboration, and find the common goals to beat NCDs. New users can

[sign up here](#) and begin connecting with like-minded individuals. Following the official launch of the KAP, the WHO announced an upcoming webinar - '**Exploring the KAP - a community-driven platform**' on Thursday 17 January at 3:00 pm (Geneva). The webinar aims to give an in-depth view of the platform, alongside providing step by step guidance on how to make the most of its various functions and capabilities. [Register here](#) for the webinar.

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

Online Self-paced Course on Birth Defect Surveillance and Prevention

The online course remains available for interested professionals. The course has been developed by the International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD – ICBDSDR 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 is available 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. Once registered, you will receive access credentials and can begin the self-paced course at your own convenience.

Meetings and Conferences

Congenital CMV – From Pregnancy to Infancy: Let's Face It. February 21-22, 2019, Florence, Italy. <https://www.mcascentificevents.eu/cm/>

2nd International Congress on Advanced Treatments in Rare Diseases (RARE2019). March 4-5, 2019, Vienna, Austria. <http://www.rare2019.com/>

2nd World Congress on Maternal Fetal Neonatal Medicine. April 4-6, 2019, London, United Kingdom. <https://www.mcascentificevents.eu/worldmfnm/>

ECPCA – European Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association. June 12-15, 2019, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Theme of the 2019 congress is "*Future perspectives in research & therapy*". Abstracts submission is now open. <http://ecpca.eu/>

59th Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society, June 22–26, 2019, San Diego, California, US. The theme for the meeting is "Sea Changes in Birth Defects Research and Prevention". The program offers an exciting variety of scientific sessions, and three workshops will be offered: Current Topics and Updates for Pregnancy Registries, Multidisciplinary Research Needs, and Irresponsible Conduct of Research: What Happens When Things Go Wrong. **Full information is available at** <http://www.teratology.org/meetings/2017/>

3rd Congress of Joint European Neonatal Societies. September 17-21, 2019, Maastricht, The Netherlands. <https://www.mcascentificevents.eu/jens/>

13th Asia Pacific Conference on Human Genetics, November 7-9, 2019, Makati Shangri-la Manila, Philippines. The theme of the Conference is "Advancing Translational Medicine and Collaborations in Genomics." This conference will bring together an outstanding community of faculty, scientists, researchers, and students from the Asia Pacific region and different parts of the world. Everyone is invited to submit abstracts by **March 7, 2019.** www.apchg2019.org

9th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD 2019) – "Health for all: Accelerate Efforts for Birth Defects Prevention and Care". October 23-26, 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Recognizing the need to build capacity in lower-income countries for the prevention of birth defects and preterm birth and care of those affected, the goal of these biennial conferences has been to provide specific practical tools and approaches that developing country participants can use to implement and strengthen surveillance and health care delivery and influence policy and funding in support when they return to their respective countries. <http://icbd.marchofdimes.org/>

SAVE THE DATE – 46th ICBDSDR Annual Meeting

The **2019 ICBDSR Annual Meeting** will take place in **Bratislava, Slovak Republic** from **September 8-11, 2019**. The meeting will be hosted by the Slovak Medical University in Bratislava, Faculty of Public Health.

Website: www.icbdsr.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ICBDSR

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/icbdsr/>

Twitter: @icbdsr <https://twitter.com/ICBDSR>



***from the Executive Committee of the Clearinghouse
and ICB/ICBDSR Centre Staff***