



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

September 2020

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UPDATE ON 2020 ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 47th ICBDSR Annual Meeting has been postponed to **October 2021**. The final dates will be released as soon as possible. The meeting venue remains the Relais Bellaria Hotel & Congressi in Bologna (Italy). Updates on the annual meeting will be posted to the [ICBDSR website](#).

NEWS AND UPDATE ON COVID-19

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation:

- Get the full database of COVID-19 resources from WHO: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>.
- Get the latest public health information from CDC: <https://www.coronavirus.gov>.
- Get the latest research from NIH: <https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>.
- Find SARS-CoV-2 literature, sequence, and clinical content: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sars-cov-2/>.

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects: initiatives and announcements

All readers are kindly invited to contribute to this section of the Newsletter, sending their suggestions to centre@icbdsr.org by the 1st Friday of the month.

WHO Spotlight Webinars for NCD Directors

WHO informs national directors and program managers responsible for Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Ministries of Health that WHO is organizing a series of five webinars on how to address NCDs within the context of COVID-19. You can sign up and find out more information [here](#).

News from Knowledge Action Portal (KAP)

KAP is the community-driven platform for Non Communicable Disease (NCD) information, interaction and inspiration, hosted by WHO.

Campaigns

Campaigns are an important part of NCD work in advocacy and awareness-raising. The COVID-19 public health measures have limited the number of people gathering in groups and many campaigns have been shifted to a digital platform or postponed. Check out the campaign section to get the latest information and updates ahead of the Global Week of NCD Action.

To find the campaigns:

1. Visit www.who.int/kap
2. Find and click on the dropdown menu on the top left of the window
3. Click the "Campaigns" tab
4. Explore and learn more about the various campaigns.



World Birth Defects Day – WBDD, March 3

It's never too early to apply to be a 2021 **WBDD Partner Organization**, by completing the online application form on the WBDD website <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/>.

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

News from the ICBDSR Executive Committee

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 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. It is available in English and Spanish. To date, **335 trainees** from **57 countries** have joined the online course. Additional information is available at <http://www.icbdsr.org/online-self-paced-course-on-birth-defect-surveillance-and-prevention/>.

The registration form is available at www.icbdsr.org/course-registration. Once registered, you will receive an email with guidance on how to register in the course platform www.icbdsrtraining.org and how to self-enroll in the self-paced course in either English or Spanish.

Becoming an affiliate member of ICBDSR

Individuals, organizations, or institutions may apply to become affiliates. Affiliates may collaborate with Clearinghouse members, participate in projects, and attend the ICBDSR Annual Meeting. Candidates for affiliates may include people or teams who are interested in developing a surveillance and prevention program, or are beginning to do so but do not yet meet program membership criteria, as well as graduates from the Training Program in Surveillance and Prevention; professionals, advocates, and organizations with a strong interest and commitment to surveillance and prevention.

Requirements to become an affiliate member:

- ✓ A letter of recommendation sent to centre@icbdsr.org by an ICBDSR program director (check the list of program directors).
- ✓ Submission of the affiliate member's application form, available at <http://www.icbdsr.org/affiliate-membership-application/>. Please read the [ICBDSR Bylaws](#) prior to completing the form.

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects: A Selection from the Recent Literature

All readers are kindly invited to contribute to this section of the Newsletter, sending their suggestions to centre@icbdsr.org by the 1st Friday of the month

[Alcohol Use and Co-Use of Other Substances Among Pregnant Females Aged 12–44 Years — United States, 2015–2018](#). Lucinda J. England, Carlyne Bennett, Clark H. Denny, Margaret A. Honein, Suzanne M. Gilboa, Shin Y. Kim, Gery P. Guy, Jr., Emmy L. Tran, Charles E. Rose, Michele K. Bohm, Coleen A. Boyle. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2020 Aug 7; 69(31): 1009–1014. Published online 2020 Aug 7. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6931a1 Correction in: *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2020 Aug 28; 69(34): 1184. PMID: PMC7454897

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[Birth Defects Data From Population-Based Birth Defects Surveillance System in a District of Southern Jiangsu, China, 2014–2018](#). Ying Zhou, Xueqin Mao, Hua Zhou, Li Wang, Zhiqiang Qin, Zhengmao Cai, Bin Yu. *Front Public Health.* 2020; 8: 378. Published online 2020 Aug 6. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2020.00378 PMID: PMC7423872

[Changes in parental smoking during pregnancy and risks of adverse birth outcomes and childhood overweight in Europe and North America: An individual participant data meta-analysis of 229,000 singleton births.](#) Elise M. Philips, Susana Santos, Leonardo Trasande, Juan J. Aurrekoetxea, Henrique Barros, Andrea von Berg, Anna Bergström, Philippa K. Bird, Sonia Brescianini, Carol Ní Chaoimh, Marie-Aline Charles, Leda Chatzi, Cécile Chevrier, George P. Chrousos, Nathalie Costet, Rachel Criswell, Sarah Crozier, Merete Eggesbø, Maria Pia Fantini, Sara Farchi, Francesco Forastiere, Marleen M. H. J. van Gelder, Vagelis Georgiu, Keith M. Godfrey, Davide Gori, Wojciech Hanke, Barbara Heude, Daniel Hryhorczuk, Carmen Iñiguez, Hazel Inskip, Anne M. Karvonen, Louise C. Kenny, Inger Kull, Debbie A. Lawlor, Irina Lehmann, Per Magnus, Yannis Manios, Erik Melén, Monique Mommers, Camilla S. Morgen, George Moschonis, Deirdre Murray, Ellen A. Nohr, Anne-Marie Nybo Andersen, Emily Oken, Adriëtte J. J. M. Oostvogels, Eleni Papadopoulou, Juha Pekkanen, Costanza Pizzi, Kinga Polanska, Daniela Porta, Lorenzo Richiardi, Sheryl L. Rifas-Shiman, Nel Roeleveld, Franca Rusconi, Ana C. Santos, Thorkild I. A. Sørensen, Marie Standl, Camilla Stoltenberg, Jordi Sunyer, Elisabeth Thiering, Carel Thijs, Maties Torrent, Tanja G. M. Vrijkotte, John Wright, Oleksandr Zvinchuk, Romy Gaillard, Vincent W. V. Jaddoe. *PLoS Med.* 2020 Aug; 17(8): e1003182. Published online 2020 Aug 18. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1003182. PMID: PMC7433860

[Clinical features and outcomes of pregnant women with COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#) Yi-jie Gao, Lei Ye, Jia-shuo Zhang, Yang-xue Yin, Min Liu, Hong-biao Yu, Rong Zhou. *BMC Infect Dis.* 2020; 20: 564. Published online 2020 Aug 3. doi: 10.1186/s12879-020-05274-2 PMID: PMC7396931

[Congenital Zika syndrome: association between the gestational trimester of maternal infection, severity of brain computed tomography findings and microcephaly at birth.](#) Ana Karolina Torres Mendes, Marizélia Rodrigues Costa Ribeiro, Fernando Lamy-Filho, Gláucio Andrade Amaral, Marcella Costa Ribeiro Borges, Luciana Cavalcante Costa, Tamires Barradas Cavalcante, Rosângela Fernandes Lucena Batista, Patrícia da Silva Sousa, Antônio Augusto Moura da Silva. *Rev Inst Med Trop Sao Paulo.* 2020; 62: e56. Published online 2020 Aug 21. doi: 10.1590/S1678-9946202062056 PMID: PMC7447234

[Cost-effectiveness of neonatal surgery for congenital anomalies in low-income and middle-income countries: a systematic review protocol.](#) Na Eun Kim, Dominique Vervoot, Ahmad Hammouri, Cristiana Riboni, Hosni Salem, Caris Grimes, Naomi Jane Wright. *BMJ Paediatr Open.* 2020; 4(1): e000755. Published online 2020 Aug 30. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2020-000755 PMID: PMC7462241

[COVID-19 During Pregnancy and Puerperium – A Review by the Austrian Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics \(OEGGG\).](#) Philipp Klaritsch, Alexandra Ciresa-König, Gunda Pristauz-Telsnigg, on behalf of the board of the OEGGG. *Geburtshilfe Frauenheilkd.* 2020 Aug; 80(8): 813–819. Published online 2020 Aug 14. doi: 10.1055/a-1207-0702. PMID: PMC7428372

[Decreasing smoking during pregnancy: Potential economic benefit of reducing sudden unexpected infant death.](#) Stephen T. Higgins, Eric P. Slade, Donald S. Shepard. *Prev Med.* 2020 Aug 17 : 106238. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2020.106238 [Epub ahead of print] PMID: PMC7429512

[Dietary patterns of Chinese women of childbearing age during pregnancy and their relationship to the neonatal birth weight.](#) Hui Yan, Shaonong Dang, Yaodong Zhang, Shuying Luo. *Nutr J.* 2020; 19: 89. Published online 2020 Aug 26. doi: 10.1186/s12937-020-00607-y PMID: PMC7449039

[Epidemiology, prenatal diagnosis, and neonatal outcomes of congenital heart defects in eastern China: a hospital-based multicenter study.](#) Xiaohui Zhang, Yu Sun, Jiajun Zhu, Yuning Zhu, Liqian Qiu. *BMC Pediatr.* 2020; 20: 416. Published online 2020 Sep 2. doi: 10.1186/s12887-020-02313-4 PMID: PMC7466801

[Epidemiological Studies on Fetal Loss – Better Data and Research Methods are Needed.](#) Jørn Olsen, Zeyan Liew. *Clin Epidemiol.* 2020; 12: 883–887. Published online 2020 Aug 13. doi: 10.2147/CLEP.S256297 PMID: PMC7439488

[Gabapentin in pregnancy and the risk of adverse neonatal and maternal outcomes: A population-based cohort study nested in the US Medicaid Analytic eXtract dataset.](#) Elisabetta Patorno, Sonia Hernandez-Diaz, Krista F. Huybrechts, Rishi J. Desai, Jacqueline M. Cohen, Helen Mogun, Brian T. Bateman. PLoS Med. 2020 Sep; 17(9): e1003322. Published online 2020 Sep 1. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1003322PMCID: PMC7462308

[Geographical variations in maternal lifestyles during pregnancy associated with congenital heart defects among live births in Shaanxi province, Northwestern China.](#) Yini Liu, Huihui Zhang, Jing Li, Chujun Liang, Yaling Zhao, Fangyao Chen, Duolao Wang, Leilei Pei. Sci Rep. 2020; 10: 12958. Published online 2020 Jul 31. doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-69788-0PMCID: PMC7395152

[Gestational weight gain and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a prospective cohort study.](#) Yuelin Wu, Sheng Wan, Shengyi Gu, ZhengqianMou, Lingling Dong, Zhongcheng Luo, Jun Zhang, Xiaolin Hua. BMJ Open. 2020; 10(9): e038187. Published online 2020 Sep 2. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-038187PMCID: PMC7470642

[Investigating the use of ultrasonography for the antenatal diagnosis of structural congenital anomalies in low-income and middle-income countries: a systematic review.](#) Stephanie Michele Goley, Sidonie Sakula-Barry, Nana Adofo-Ansong, Laurence Isaaya Ntawunga, Maame Tekyiwa Botchway, Ann Horton Kelly, Naomi Wright. BMJ Paediatr Open. 2020; 4(1): e000684. Published online 2020 Aug 20. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2020-000684PMCID: PMC7443309

[Marijuana and Opioid Use during Pregnancy: Using Zebrafish to Gain Understanding of Congenital Anomalies Caused by Drug Exposure during Development.](#) Swapnalee Sarmah, Marilia Ribeiro Sales Cadena, Pabyton Gonçalves Cadena, James A. Marrs. Biomedicines. 2020 Aug; 8(8): 279. Published online 2020 Aug 8. doi: 10.3390/biomedicines8080279. PMCID: PMC7460517

[Pregnant women's perceptions of risks and benefits when considering participation in vaccine trials.](#) Elana Jaffe, Anne Drapkin Lyerly, Ilona Telefus Goldfarb. Vaccine. 2020 Sep 4 doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.08.059 [Epub ahead of print]PMCID: PMC7471759

[Relationship between volume and outcome for gastroschisis: a systematic review protocol.](#) Johannes Morche, Tim Mathes, Anja Jacobs, Lucas Wessel, Edmund A. M. Neugebauer, Dawid Pieper. Syst Rev. 2020; 9: 203. Published online 2020 Sep 2. doi: 10.1186/s13643-020-01462-yPMCID: PMC7469094

[Risk of pre-term births and major birth defects resulting from paternal intake of COVID-19 medications prior to conception.](#) Silvia Rizzi, Maarten Jan Wensink, Rune Lindahl-Jacobsen, Lu Tian, Ying Lu, Michael Eisenberg. Version 1. Res Sq. Preprint. 2020 Aug 26. doi: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-59420/v1PMCID: PMC7457584

[Systematic review and meta-analysis of the effectiveness of pre-pregnancy care for women with diabetes for improving maternal and perinatal outcomes.](#) Hayfaa A. Wahabi, Amel Fayed, Samia Esmaeil, Hala Elmorshedy, Maher A. Titi, Yasser S. Amer, Rasmieh A. Alzeidan, Abdulaziz A. Alodhayani, Elshazaly Saeed, Khawater H. Bahkali, Melissa K. Kahili-Heede, Amr Jamal, Yasser Sabr. PLoS One. 2020; 15(8): e0237571. Published online 2020 Aug 18. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0237571PMCID: PMC7433888

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Meetings and Conferences

8thInternational Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (ICGO-2020), November 11-13, 2020, Dubai, UAE
<https://www.bitcongress.com/icgo2020/>

16th World Congress on Public Health. 12-16 October 2020. Virtual Edition, <https://wcpH2020.com/>

World Congress of Epidemiology WCE 2020 on “Methodological Innovations in Epidemiology”, has been postponed to September 3-6, 2021, Melbourne, Australia <https://wce2020.org/>

EUROCAT Registry Leader Meeting and 15th European Symposium on Congenital Anomalies Considering the development of the pandemic in Europe, after thoughtful deliberations, a decision was made to postpone the EUROCAT Scientific Symposium scheduled to take place on July 2, 2020 in Valencia, Spain. Information about a new date will be available as soon as possible. For questions, please contact: JRC-EUROCAT@ec.europa.eu