



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

April 2021

Issue 2021-04



World Birth Defects Day – WBDD, March 3rd

Thanks to all the participants in the events of **March 3rd World Birth Defects Day**. Let us know what you did for celebrating WBDD: Email centre@icbdsr.org so your activities can be published in the WBDD website

Join World Birth Defects Day as **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 AND UPDATE ON COVID-19

COVAX –Working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines

COVAX is co-led by [CEPI](#), [Gavi](#) and WHO, alongside key delivery partner [UNICEF](#). In the Americas, the PAHO Revolving Fund is the recognized procurement agent for COVAX. Click [here](#) to view the 2nd edition of the COVAX Delivery Situation Report (SitRep) released on April 1st, which includes the latest stories and monitoring numbers around the preceding two weeks' COVAX vaccine preparedness and delivery. With the arrival of the first doses in countries, COVAX is now focusing its delivery efforts on supporting scale-up of vaccine rollouts, managing delivery risks as well as preparing for an expanded suite of products to complement vaccine delivery. Additional new inputs to the SitRep highlight the vaccine delivery progress at a regional and country level with reference to achieving the 20% immunisation target of AMC 92 countries.

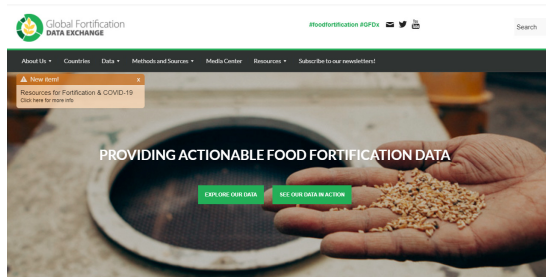
- Get epidemiological updates from WHO:
 - ✓ [Coronavirus disease \(COVID 19\) pandemic](#)
 - ✓ [EPI-WIN updates](#)
- Get the latest public health information from CDC: <https://www.coronavirus.gov>.
- Get the latest research from NIH: <https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>.
- Find SARS-CoV-2 literature, sequence, and clinical content: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sars-cov-2/>.

ICBD corner: News and comments from the *International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD)*

This month we continue with highlighting helpful and rich data repositories --- last newsletter included the IHME (Health Metrics from the University of Washington—healthdata.org) and this month we invite you to explore the **Global Fortification Data Exchange** at <https://fortificationdata.org/>

As underscored by many in our community, and especially the group at Emory University led by Dr Oakley and Dr Kancherla, we still lag behind preventing spina bifida throughout the world, despite knowing all too well the ‘vaccine’ for spina bifida F (folic acid – preventable spina bifida). Fortification is the strategy that holds the greatest potential for prevention -- the lowest cost, the quickest, and the most sustainable of such interventions.

We invite you to *check your country* and explore, think, act.



What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects: a selection from the recent literature, and recommendations from readers

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

A Selection from the Recent Literature

Risk factors, Protective Factors

Gualdani E, Di Cianni G, Seghieri M, Francesconi P, Seghieri G. [Pregnancy outcomes and maternal characteristics in women with pregestational and gestational diabetes: a retrospective study on 206,917 singleton live births](#). Acta Diabetol. 2021 Apr 9. doi: 10.1007/s00592-021-01710-0. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33835261.

Li F, Wang T, Chen L, Zhang S, Chen L, Qin J. [Adverse pregnancy outcomes among mothers with hypertensive disorders in pregnancy: A meta-analysis of cohort studies](#). Pregnancy Hypertens. 2021 Mar 20;24:107-117. doi: 10.1016/j.preghy.2021.03.001. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33813363.

Boissière-O'Neill T, Schnitzer ME, Lewin A, Bilodeau-Bertrand M, Ayoub A, Auger N. [Original article: Is the protective association between hyperemesis gravidarum and birth defects biased by pregnancy termination?](#) Ann Epidemiol. 2021 Mar 30:S1047-2797(21)00051-X. doi: 10.1016/j.annepidem.2021.03.007. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33798708.

Yang BY, Qu Y, Guo Y, Markevych I, Heinrich J, Bloom MS, Bai Z, Knibbs LC, Li S, Chen G, Jalaludin B, Morawska L, Gao M, Han B, Yu Y, Liu XX, Ou Y, Mai J, Gao X, Wu Y, Nie Z, Zeng XW, Hu LW, Shen X, Zhou Y, Lin S, Liu X, Dong GH. [Maternal exposure to ambient air pollution and congenital heart defects in China](#). Environ Int. 2021 Apr 7;153:106548. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2021.106548. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33838617.

Infections

Chmielewska B, Barratt I, Townsend R, Kalafat E, van der Meulen J, Gurol-Urganci I, O'Brien P, Morris E, Draycott T, Thangaratnam S, Le Doare K, Ladhani S, von Dadelszen P, Magee L, Khalil A. [Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal and perinatal outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Lancet Glob Health. 2021 Mar 31:S2214-109X(21)00079-6. doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(21)00079-6. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33811827; PMCID: PMC8012052.

Legro RS. [The COVID-19 pandemic and reproductive health](#). FertilSteril. 2021 Apr;115(4):811-812. doi: 10.1016/j.fertnstert.2021.02.003. Epub 2021 Feb 6. PMID: 33832740; PMCID: PMC7867394.

Gazeta RE, Bertozzi APAP, Dezena RCAB, Silva ACB, Fajardo TCG, Catalan DT, Rizzo MFV, Moron AF, Soriano-Arandes A, Clemente NS, Quintella T, Ventura DF, Damico FM, França VCRM, Almeida JPG, Zara ALSA, Pires LC, Jundiaí CZV, Passos SD. [Three-Year Clinical Follow-Up of Children Intrauterine Exposed to Zika Virus](#). Viruses. 2021 Mar 22;13(3):523. doi: 10.3390/v13030523. PMID: 33810110; PMCID: PMC8005078.

Epidemiology of occurrence and outcomes – health and health related

Peluso AM, Othman HF, Zahka K, Perez AL, Sammour I, Aly H. [Neonatal Ebstein anomaly national outcomes from 2000 to 2018 using the National Inpatient Sample](#). Birth Defects Res. 2021 Mar 31. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1895. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33788426.

Yow M, Jin A, Yeo GSH. [Epidemiologic trends of infants with orofacial clefts in a multiethnic country: a retrospective population-based study](#). Sci Rep. 2021 Apr 6;11(1):7556. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-87229-4. PMID: 33824370; PMCID: PMC8024282.

Bronberg R, Groisman B, Bidondo MP, Barbero P, Liascovich R. [Birth prevalence of congenital anomalies in Argentina, according to socioeconomic level](#). J Community Genet. 2021 Mar 31. doi: 10.1007/s12687-021-00516-5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33786756.

News from ICBD SR Executive Committee and ICBD SR Members

The [ICBD SR Collaborative paper](#) on survival of infants born with Esophageal Atresia has been published in Birth Defects Research:

Bell JC, Baynam G, Bergman JEH, Bermejo-Sánchez E, Botto LD, Canfield MA, Dastgiri S, Gatt M, Groisman B, Hurtado-Villa P, Kallen K, Khoshnood B, Konrad V, Landau D, Lopez-Camelo JS, Martinez L, Morgan M, Mutchinick OM, Nance AE, Nembhard W, Pierini A, Rissmann A, Shan X, Sipek A, Szabova E, Tagliabue G, Yevtushok LS, Zarante I, Nassar N. [Survival of infants born with esophageal atresia among 24 international birth defects surveillance programs](#). Birth Defects Res. 2021 Mar 18. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1891. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33734618.

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 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, **487 trainees** from **65 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.

UPDATE ON ICBD SR ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **47th ICBD SR Annual Meeting** has been postponed to **October 10-13, 2021**. Updates on the annual meeting will be posted on the [ICBD SR website](#).

Meetings and Conferences

Public Health Unit of Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) 7th Annual International Conference on Public Health, June 21-24, 2021, Athens, Greece. <https://www.atiner.gr/publichealth/call>

Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention VIRTUAL 61st Annual Meeting. June 24–July 1, 2021.

“Building bridges in birth defects research and prevention: from innovation to application”.

<https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2021/>

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