



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

May 2021

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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/>
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NEWS AND UPDATE ON COVID-19

EPI-WIN: WHO Information Network for Epidemics

EPI-WIN is part of WHO's Health Emergency Programme's risk communication efforts and was established following the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), EPI-WIN seeks to give everyone access to timely, accurate, and easy-to-understand advice and information from trusted sources on public health events and outbreaks. News and updates at <https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication>

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](#) for news and updates of the COVAX roll-out.

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)*



TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD:



In the past months we have shared some websites and global data repositories that provide information on birth defect occurrence, infant mortality, and risk factors for, broadly, adverse pregnancy and pediatrics outcomes.

This month we reflect on the SDG 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, launched back in 2015. These 17 goals (and the related 169 targets) are ambitious, broad, and transformation, affirming the value of equity and human rights in economic, social, and environmental development.

We encourage each and everyone of you to spend some time on this document, reflecting on how each of us can move us closer to at least one of these targets and goals in our own backyard. One can begin with Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages -- and expand from there (e.g., goal 5 – gender equality, and goal 10 – reduce inequality). Folic acid fortification of staple foods, for example, can go a long way toward some of these goals, especially in low resource regions – what others can you think of?

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

Wang A, Rose CE, Qi YP, Williams JL, Pfeiffer CM, Crider KS. [Impact of Voluntary Folic Acid Fortification of Corn Masa Flour on RBC Folate Concentrations in the U.S. \(NHANES 2011-2018\)](#). *Nutrients*. 2021 Apr 16;13(4):1325. doi: 10.3390/nu13041325. PMID: 33923768; PMCID: PMC8073626.

Agot GN, Mweu MM, Wang'ombe JK. [Risk factors for major external structural birth defects among children in Kiambu County, Kenya: a case-control study](#). *F1000Res*. 2021 Feb 1;10:59. doi: 10.12688/f1000research.50738.2. PMID: 33880173; PMCID: PMC8039862.

Verján-Carrillo EJ, Murillo-Zamora E, Ceja-Espíritu G, Guzmán-Esquivel J, Mendoza-Cano O. [Factors associated with increased odds of sensorineural hearing loss in infants exposed to the Zika virus during pregnancy](#). *J Infect Dev Ctries*. 2021 Apr 30;15(4):590-594. doi: 10.3855/jidc.12623. PMID: 33956662.

Norman M, Navér L, Söderling J, Ahlberg M, Hervius Askling H, Aronsson B, Byström E, Jonsson J, Sengpiel V, Ludvigsson JF, Håkansson S, Stephansson O. [Association of Maternal SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Pregnancy With Neonatal Outcomes](#). *JAMA*. 2021 Apr 29:e215775. doi: 10.1001/jama.2021.5775. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33914014; PMCID: PMC8085767.

Ko JY, DeSisto CL, Simeone RM, Ellington S, Galang RR, Oduyebo T, Gilboa SM, Lavery AM, Gundlapalli AV, Shapiro-Mendoza CK. [Adverse pregnancy outcomes, maternal complications, and severe illness among U.S. delivery hospitalizations with and without a COVID-19 diagnosis](#). *Clin Infect Dis*. 2021 May 12:ciab344. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciab344. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33977298.

Methods and Tools

Cavadino A, Sandberg L, Öhman I, Bergvall T, Star K, Dolk H, Loane M, Addor MC, Barisic I, Caverio-Carbonell C, Garne E, Gatt M, Khoshnood B, Klungsoyr K, Latos-Bielenska A, Lelong N, Lutke R, Materna-Kiryluk A, Nelen V, Nevill A, O'Mahony M, Mokoroa O, Pierini A, Randrianaivo H, Rissmann A, Tucker D, Wiesel A, Yevtushok L,

Morris JK. [Signal Detection in EUROmediCAT: Identification and Evaluation of Medication-Congenital Anomaly Associations and Use of VigiBase as a Complementary Source of Reference](#). Drug Saf. 2021 May 9. doi: 10.1007/s40264-021-01073-z. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33966183.

Dolk H, Leke AZ, Whitfield P, Moore R, Karnell K, Barišić I, Barlow-Mosha L, Botto LD, Garne E, Guatibonza P, Godfred-Cato S, Halleux CM, Holmes LB, Moore CA, Orioli I, Raina N, Valencia D. [Global birth defects app: An innovative tool for describing and coding congenital anomalies at birth in low resource settings](#). Birth Defects Res. 2021 May 5. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1898. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33949803.

Epidemiology of occurrence and outcomes – health and health related

Jill Glidewell M, Farr SL, Book WM, Botto L, Li JS, Soim AS, Downing KF, Riehle-Colarusso T, D'Ottavio AA, Feldkamp ML, Khanna AD, Raskind-Hood CL, Sommerhalter KM, Crume TL. [Individuals aged 1-64 years with documented congenital heart defects at healthcare encounters, five U.S. surveillance sites, 2011-2013](#). Am Heart J. 2021 May 2:S0002-8703(21)00109-5. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2021.04.007. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33951414.

Taboada-Lugo N, Herrera-Martínez M, Hernández-González G, Ledesma-Hernández H. [Spatiotemporal Distribution of Non-syndromic Orofacial Clefts in Villa Clara Province, Cuba, 2013-2018](#). MEDICC Rev. 2021 Apr;23(2):27. doi: 10.37757/MR2021.V23.N2.8. Epub 2021 Apr 30. PMID: 33974613.

Xiong L, Chen Q, Wang A, Kong F, Xie D, Xie Z. [The Differences of Population Birth Defects in Epidemiology Analysis between the Rural and Urban Areas of Hunan Province in China, 2014-2018](#). Biomed Res Int. 2021 Apr 21;2021:2732983. doi: 10.1155/2021/2732983. PMID: 33969116; PMCID: PMC8081611.

Recommendations from readers

Ho P, Quigley MA, Tatwavedi D, Britto C, Kurinczuk JJ. Neonatal and infant mortality associated with spina bifida: A systematic review and meta-analysis. PLoS One. 2021 May 12;16(5):e0250098. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0250098. PMID: 33979363. Full text: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0250098>

News from ICBD SR Executive Committee and ICBD SR Members

UPDATE ON ICBD SR ANNUAL MEETING

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

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, **490 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.

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 scheduled to be held in Melbourne during September 2020, will be held as a virtual event on September 3-6, 2021. The Conference will focus on “Methodological Innovations in Epidemiology” which reflects the innovative progress in Epidemiology and Public Health.
<https://wce2020.org/>

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