

International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

January 2022

Issue 2022-01

ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

The **48th ICBDSR Annual Meeting** will be held from September 18th to 21st, 2022 in Bologna, Italy. It will be, hopefully, an in-person meeting with the possibility to join the scientific session by live stream.

We received several responses to the [“Survey on the intention to attend the ICBDSR Annual Meeting”](#). Many thanks to those who have already answered. If not yet done, please join the brief [survey](#) to answer a few questions which will help us with our meeting planning. Thank you.

Further information on the program and attendance will be disseminated at a later time.

Venues of future Annual Meetings:

2023: Malta

2024: Prague (Czech Republic)



World Birth Defects Day – WBDD, March 3rd

The WBDD Planning Team thanks the partner organizations for their partnership and support of World Birth Defects Day (WBDD).

In order to plan for the 2022 Edition of the WBDD, the Planning Team would like to assess organizations' interest and engagement in continuing their partnership. Please fill out [this survey](#) with your organization's most up-to-date contact information and how you plan to engage in WBDD 2022. We look forward to continuing our partnership with all the partner organizations.

Email: info@worldbirthdefectsday.org

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/>.

UPDATE ON COVID-19

WHO Coronavirus (Covid 19) Dashboard

The WHO Coronavirus disease situation dashboard presents official daily counts of COVID-19 cases and deaths worldwide: <https://covid19.who.int/>.

Globally, as of 4:35pm CET, **17 January 2022**, there have been **326.279.424 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, including **5.536.609 deaths**, reported to WHO. As of **14 January 2022**, a total of **9.358.243.627 vaccine doses** have been administered.

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

COVID Data Tracker - Find maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Covid-19 Dataset: data on the daily number of new reported COVID-19 cases and deaths by EU/EEA country is available to download. ECDC continues to publish weekly updates on the number of cases and deaths reported in the EU/EEA and worldwide every Thursday <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/cases-2019-ncov-eueea>


Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

Southeast Asia Covid-19 Tracker by country , that includes information on National Responses, International Assistance, and CSIS Analysis. Data is available at: <https://www.csis.org/programs/southeast-asia-program/projects/southeast-asia-covid-19-tracker>

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

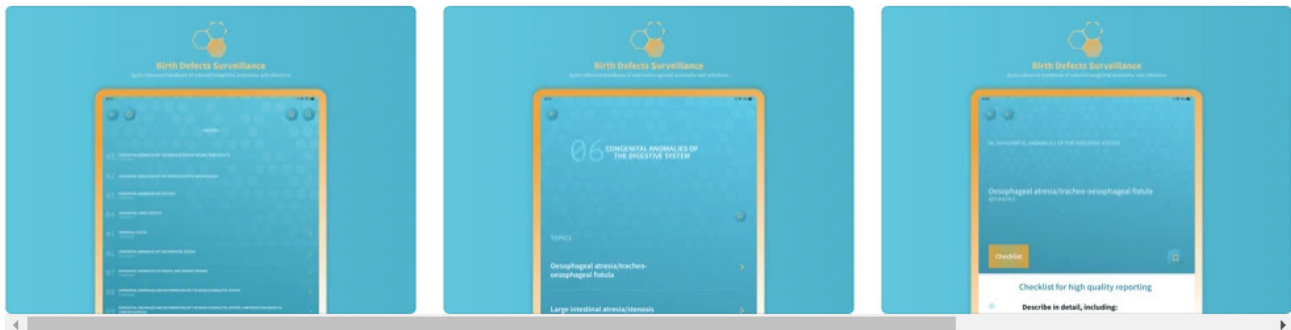
The App of the Quick Reference Handbook (QRH) is out !

Moreover, it is available for both Apple (IOS) and Android systems.



Quick Reference Handbook 12+
International Clearinghouse For Birth Defects Surveillance
Designed for iPad
Free

Screenshots iPad iPhone



Many of you are already acquainted with the QRH in other formats:

- as PDF: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240015418>
- as website: https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/surveillancemanual/photo-atlas/objectives_pa.html

Responding to a global environment, where mobile devices (smartphones, tablets) are much more pervasive and practical, especially at the point of care, we have partnered with an experienced innovation lab to develop the mobile version of the QRH.

The content closely mirrors the original QRH but the app format now allows you to take advantage of typical app features (search, bookmark, tap and enlarge, etc.) – and you can use the QRH anywhere and anytime, when seeing the baby, reviewing records for abstraction, or just when reviewing your knowledge or learning

new skills. **Now, checklists, definitions, codes, diagnostic pearls, photos and diagrams are literally at your fingertips.**

To find the app, go to the Apple or Android stores and search for 'QRH birth defects' – for example:

- IOS: <https://apps.apple.com/ie/app/quick-reference-handbook/id1592730552>
- Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.icbdsr.qrh&hl=en_US&gl=US

We'd like to thank that team that helped develop this application -- at ICBD, at CDC, at Mashfrog – and the reviewers from different parts of the world (Uganda, Tanzania, Latin America) who have tested the prototypes and provided vital feedback.

Tell us what you think, and consider providing a review online. We'd love to get your feedback, and make the next updates even better.

Lorenzo Botto, ICBD Director

What's Going on

US National Birth Defects Awareness Month

CDC recognizes January as National Birth Defects Awareness Month. This is a time to raise awareness about birth defects and highlight efforts to improve the health of people living with these conditions across their lifespan. Join the nationwide effort to raise awareness of birth defects and their impact on individuals, parents, and families. Learn more at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/awareness-month/index.html>

EUROlinkCAT European Conference “Health and education outcomes of children across Europe with congenital anomalies” will be held on April 7-9, 2022 in Poznan, Poland.

This will be a hybrid conference and participants can choose whether to participate in-person or online. In-person attendance is dependent on the situation with COVID-19, and if in-person attendance is not possible, the conference will be moved online.

The aims of the conference are to disseminate research findings from the EUROlinkCAT project, discuss these in the context of existing research, and agree on a set of recommendations for the medical care and education of children with congenital anomalies.

Conference website: <http://eurolinkcat2022.bok-ump.pl/>

Registrations: <http://eurolinkcat2022.bok-ump.pl/teksty.php?plik=registration.php>

There will also be two satellite conferences – one for parents of children with Spina Bifida and another for parents of children with Down Syndrome.

Indian Institute of Public Health- Delhi (IIPH-Delhi), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) Training workshops scheduled during January - March 2022.

Please click the following links for details of each workshop and to apply online:

- ✓ [Impact Evaluation: Public Programs in Health \(Jan 31 - Feb 4, 2022\)](#) – Deadline for registration: 17th Jan, 2022
- ✓ [Medical Writing \(Feb 01 - 04, 2022\)](#) – Deadline for registration: 18th Jan, 2022
- ✓ [Application of Econometrics in Health Policy Analysis \(Feb 21 - 25, 2022\)](#) – Deadline for registration: 7th Feb, 2022
- ✓ [Monitoring and Evaluation of Health Programs for Improved Decision Making \(March 07 - 11, 2022\)](#)
Deadline for registration: 21st Feb, 2022
- ✓ [Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis using RevMan \(March 28 - April 1, 2022\)](#) - Deadline for registration: 14th Mar, 2022
- ✓ [Approaches for Implementing Adolescent Health Programs \(Mar 29 - Apr 1, 2022\)](#) – Deadline for registration: 15th Mar, 2022

Training Venue:

Indian Institute of Public Health- Delhi (IIPH-Delhi)
Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)
Plot 47, Sector 44, Institutional Area
Near HUDA City Center Metro Station
Gurugram– 122002 -Haryana, INDIA
Ph: +91 124 4722900 (Extn: 4110)

website: www.phfi.org

A 10% concession will be given upon registration of 5 or more candidates in one workshop. For more queries please contact traininigs@iiphd.org

WHO - Health for All Film Festival

WHO invites independent filmmakers, production companies, public institutions, NGOs, communities, students, and film schools from around the world to submit their original short films on health. The festival's aim is to recruit a new generation of film and video innovators to champion and promote global health issues. The 3rd call for short films has been launched, with deadline for submissions 30 January 2022.

To highlight that there is a special prize for - Health Innovation - Rehabilitation - Student film prize

A NEW special prize focused on very short films with a length between 1' to 2'30 has been launched to create inspiring content for the festival (mobile phones could be used for this).

Themes: Universal Health Coverage, Health emergencies, Better health & well-being

[How to apply](#) - submissions by 30 January 2022.

www.who.int/film-festival

www.who.int/fr/film-festival

www.who.int/es/film-festival

Joint Workforce Planning seminar with Health Education England (HEE)

With Health Education England, WHO Health Workforce is producing a joint Action Learning series on Workforce Planning for global health system strengthening – as part of HEE's support and contribution for the Year of Health and Care Workers. A series of four (4) open access seminars will be scheduled over the next 9-12 months. The recording of Seminar one – “An introduction to systemic workforce planning”, held on 13th December 2021, is available at <https://global.hee.nhs.uk/yhcw/>. For registration links to subsequent seminars, please check this page in Spring 2022.

News from ICBDSR Members

Here is the link to the latest edition of the **Texas Birth Defects Monitor**, with annual data and research update, just published online:

<https://dshs.texas.gov/birthdefects/monitor/Texas-Birth-Defects-Monitor-Vol-27.pdf>

It is also housed here on the Monitor homepage, where you can view previous issues:

<https://dshs.texas.gov/birthdefects/monitor/default.shtm>

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

New section: Genomics (selected reviews)

Morton SU, Quiat D, Seidman JG, Seidman CE [Genomic frontiers in congenital heart disease](#). Nat Rev Cardiol. 2022 Jan;19(1):26-42. doi: 10.1038/s41569-021-00587-4. Epub 2021 Jul 16. PMID: 34272501

Wolujewicz P, Steele JW, Kaltschmidt JA, Finnell RH, Ross ME [Unraveling the complex genetics of neural tube defects: From biological models to human genomics and back](#). Genesis. 2021 Nov;59(11):e23459. doi: 10.1002/dvg.23459. Epub 2021 Oct 29. PMID: 34713546

Prevention / Risk Factors

Bortolus R, Filippini F, Cipriani S, Trevisanuto D, Cavallin F, Zanconato G, Somigliana E, Cesari E, Mastroiacovo P, Parazzini F. [Efficacy of 4.0 mg versus 0.4 mg Folic Acid Supplementation on the Reproductive Outcomes: A Randomized Controlled Trial](#). *Nutrients*. 2021 Dec 10;13(12):4422. doi: 10.3390/nu13124422. PMID: 34959975; PMCID: PMC8704306.

Felipe-Dimog EB, Tumalak MJR, Laurino MY, Daack-Hirsch S, Silao CLT, Conaco MCG, Padilla CD, Estacio LR Jr. [Beliefs on the causes of birth defects as perceived by mothers of children with birth defects in a tertiary care hospital in the Philippines](#). *J Community Genet*. 2022 Jan 7. doi: 10.1007/s12687-021-00543-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34993741.

Li J, Du Y, Qu F, Jing H, Yan H, Dang S. [Propensity score analysis of the association between maternal exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and birth defects in Northwestern China](#). *J Dev Orig Health Dis*. 2022 Jan 6:1-8. doi: 10.1017/S2040174421000714. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34986910.

Noergaard M, Gotfredsen DR, Sørensen AMS, Andersen JT. [Ciprofloxacin exposure and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a Danish nationwide cohort study](#). *BJOG*. 2021 Dec 26. doi: 10.1111/1471-0528.17083. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34954900.

Richter F, Kloster S, Wodschow K, Hansen B, Schullehner J, Kristiansen SM, Petersen MM, Strandberg-Larsen K, Ersbøll AK. [Maternal exposure to arsenic in drinking water and risk of congenital heart disease in the offspring](#). *Environ Int*. 2021 Dec 20;160:107051. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2021.107051. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34942407.

Wu F, Wang Z, Bi Y, Guo Z, Wang Y. [Investigation of the risk factors of anorectal malformations](#). *Birth Defects Res*. 2021 Dec 29. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1974. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34967143.

Outcomes and Longitudinal Studies

Ho PSY, Quigley M, Tucker DF, Kurinczuk J. Risk factors for death in Welsh infants with a congenital anomaly. *BMJ Paediatrics Open* 2021;5:e001205. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2021-001205.

- Full text available at <https://bmjpaedsopen.bmj.com/content/5/1/e001205.full>

Sullivan AM, Herdt M. [Characteristics and first-year mortality, by lesion level, among infants with spina bifida in the New York State Birth Defects Registry, 2008-2017](#). *Birth Defects Res*. 2021 Dec 25. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1978. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34953067.

Epidemiology and Surveillance

Holm KG, Neville AJ, Pierini A, Latos Bielenska A, Jamry-Dziurla A, Cavero-Carbonell C, Garne E, Clemensen J. [The Voice of Parents of Children With a Congenital Anomaly - A EUROLINKCAT Study](#). *Front Pediatr*. 2021 Nov 29;9:654883. doi: 10.3389/fped.2021.654883. PMID: 34912754; PMCID: PMC8667600.

Kirby RS, Browne ML. [Birth defects surveillance for public health practice](#). *Birth Defects Res*. 2021 Dec 31. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1979. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34971302.

Morris J, Orioli IM, Benavides-Lara A, de la Paz Barboza-Arguello M, Tapia MAC, de França GVA, Groisman B, Holguin J, Hurtado-Villa PM, Ibarra Ramirez M, Mellado C, Pardo R, PastoraBucardo DM, Rodríguez C, Zarantel, Limb E, Dolk H. [Prevalence of microcephaly: the Latin American Network of Congenital Malformations 2010-2017](#). *BMJ Paediatr Open*. 2021 Nov 23;5(1):e001235. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2021-001235. PMID: 34901471; PMCID: PMC8611451.

Stallings EB, Isenburg JL, Heinke D, Sherman SL, Kirby RS, Lupo PJ; National Birth Defects Prevention Network. [Co-occurrence of congenital anomalies by maternal race/ethnicity among infants and fetuses with Down](#)

[syndrome, 2013-2017: A U.S. population-based analysis.](#) Birth Defects Res. 2021 Dec 23. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1975. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34951159.

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Whittington JR, Hughes DS, Rabie NZ, Ounpraseuth ST, Nembhard WN, Chauhan SP, Magann EF. [Detection of Fetal Anomalies by Remotely Directed and Interpreted Ultrasound \(Teleultrasound\): A Randomized Noninferiority Trial.](#) Am J Perinatol. 2022 Jan;39(2):113-119. doi: 10.1055/s-0041-1739352. Epub 2021 Nov 22. PMID: 34808687.

Zhang Y, Zhang W, Xu H, Liu K. [Epidemiological Aspects, Prenatal Screening and Diagnosis of Congenital Heart Defects in Beijing.](#) Front Cardiovasc Med. 2021 Dec 20;8:777899. doi: 10.3389/fcvm.2021.777899. PMID: 34988127; PMCID: PMC8720960.

Infections, including COVID-19

Gurol-Urganci I, Waite L, Webster K, Jardine J, Carroll F, Dunn G, Frémeaux A, Harris T, Hawdon J, Muller P, van der Meulen J, Khalil A. [Obstetric interventions and pregnancy outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic in England: A nationwide cohort study.](#) PLoS Med. 2022 Jan 10;19(1):e1003884. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1003884. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35007282.

Lipkind HS, Vazquez-Benitez G, DeSilva M, Vesco KK, Ackerman-Banks C, Zhu J, Boyce TG, Daley MF, Fuller CC, Getahun D, Irving SA, Jackson LA, Williams JTB, Zerbo O, McNeil MM, Olson CK, Weintraub E, Kharbanda EO. [Receipt of COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy and Preterm or Small-for-Gestational-Age at Birth - Eight Integrated Health Care Organizations, United States, December 15, 2020-July 22, 2021.](#) MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022 Jan 7;71(1):26-30. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7101e1. PMID: 34990445.

Marchand G, Patil AS, Masoud AT, Ware K, King A, Ruther S, Brazil G, Calteux N, Ulibarri H, Parise J, Arroyo A, Coriell C, Cook C, Ruuska A, Nourelden AZ, Sainz K. [Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of COVID Maternal and Neonatal Clinical Features and Pregnancy Outcomes to June 3rd 2021.](#) AJOG Glob Rep. 2022 Jan 3:100049. doi: 10.1016/j.xagr.2021.100049. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35005663; PMCID: PMC8720679.

Shuffrey LC, Firestein MR, Kyle MH, Fields A, Alcántara C, Amso D, Austin J, Bain JM, Barbosa J, Bence M, Bianco C, Fernández CR, Goldman S, Gyamfi-Bannerman C, Hott V, Hu Y, Hussain M, Factor-Litvak P, Lucchini M, Mandel A, Marsh R, McBrian D, Mourad M, Muhle R, Noble KG, Penn AA, Rodriguez C, Sania A, Silver WG, O'Reilly KC, Stockwell M, Tottenham N, Welch MG, Zork N, Fifer WP, Monk C, Dumitriu D. [Association of Birth During the COVID-19 Pandemic With Neurodevelopmental Status at 6 Months in Infants With and Without In Utero Exposure to Maternal SARS-CoV-2 Infection.](#) JAMA Pediatr. 2022 Jan 4:e215563. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.5563. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34982107.

Recommendations from readers

Ho PSY, Quigley M, Tucker DF, Kurinczuk J. Risk factors for death in Welsh infants with a congenital anomaly. BMJ Paediatrics Open 2021;5:e001205. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2021-001205. Full text available at <https://bmjpaedsopen.bmj.com/content/5/1/e001205.full>

Li, J., Du, Y., Qu, F., Jing, H., Yan, H., & Dang, S. [Propensity score analysis of the association between maternal exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and birth defects in Northwestern China.](#) Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, 2022:1-8. doi:10.1017/S2040174421000714

Zhao D, Yan M, Guo L, Liu D, Zhang R, Yan H, Qu P, Dang S. [Cooking stoves and risk of congenital heart disease in Northwest China: A case-control study.](#) Sci Total Environ. 2021;8:151564. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.151564.

News from 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 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, **534 trainees** from **71 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

ICEPH 2022: 16th International Conference on Epidemiology and Public Health, 3-4 March 2022, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. <https://waset.org/epidemiology-and-public-health-conference-in-march-2022-in-rio-de-janeiro>

Euro Pediatrics 2022 – 2nd Global Experts Meeting on European Pediatrics, 4-6 April 2022, Rome, Italy - Exploring knowledge, translation & innovations in Pediatrics. <https://frontiersmeetings.com/conferences/europediatrics/>

Global Experts Meeting on Pediatrics & Neonatology, 25-27 April 2022, Las Vegas, USA - Recent advancements and emerging technologies for Pediatrics. <https://frontiersmeetings.com/conferences/pediatrics/>

16th Congress of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health, 25-28 May 2022, Ghent, Belgium - Challenging times, are we ready? Novel approaches to sexual and reproductive health. <https://escrh.eu/event/16th-esc-congress/>

ATINER 8th Annual International Conference on Public Health, 20-23 June 2022, Athens, Greece. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics and researchers from all areas of Public Health and related disciplines. <https://www.atiner.gr/publichealth/call>

International Conference on Epidemiology & Public Health, 25-25 July 2022, Toronto, Canada - New Challenges, Innovations & Current Trends in Epidemiology & Public Health. <https://scientificwisdom.org/conferences/epidemiology-publichealth.html>

EAPS 2022 - 9th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies, 7-11 October 2022, Barcelona, Spain - Shaping the Future of Child Health. <https://eaps2022.kenes.com/>

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