

About 1 out of every 33 babies is born with a major birth defect.

Birth defects cause one in five deaths among infants less than a year old.

Birth defects lead to \$2.5 billion per year in hospital costs alone in the U.S.

Selected birth defects counts and birth prevalence, Oklahoma and US

Defects	Oklahoma [†]		US [‡]	
	Annual no. of cases	Birth prevalence*	Annual no. of cases	Birth prevalence*
Central nervous system				
Anencephalus	13	2.56	1,009	2.51
Spina bifida without anencephalus	19	3.74	1,477	3.68
Cardiovascular				
Transposition of great arteries	27	5.31	1,901	4.73
Tetralogy of Fallot	21	4.13	1,574	3.92
Atrioventricular septal defect (also known as endocardial cushion defect)	24	4.76	1,748	4.36
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome	13	2.60	975	2.43
Orofacial				
Cleft lip with and without cleft palate	68	13.34	4,209	10.47
Cleft palate without cleft lip	41	8.07	2,567	6.39
Musculoskeletal				
Upper limb defect	20	3.86	1,521	3.79
Lower limb defect	10	2.01	763	1.90
Gastroschisis	31	6.06	1,497	3.73
Chromosomal				
Down syndrome	67	13.10	5,132	12.78

* per 10,000 live births

[†] estimates based on pooled data from birth years 2001-2005

[‡] estimates based on pooled data from birth years 1999-2001

Note: Due to variability in the methods used by state birth defects surveillance systems and differences in populations and risk factors, state prevalence estimates may not be directly comparable with national estimates or those of other states.

Preventing birth defects

- The causes of about 70% of birth defects are unknown.
- Many birth defects happen during early pregnancy, often before a woman knows she is pregnant.
- Addressing health risks and behaviors before pregnancy can reduce the risk of poor birth outcomes, including some birth defects.
- All women who could become pregnant should take 400 micrograms of folic acid every day to help prevent serious defects of the baby's brain and spinal cord.

Oklahoma's Birth Defect Surveillance System

The Oklahoma Birth Defects Registry (OBDR) began operation in 1992, in Oklahoma County. In 1993, Tulsa and Cleveland Counties were added. Statewide surveillance of birth defects was established in 1994. The mission of the OBDR is to provide statewide surveillance of birth defects to reduce the prevalence of birth defects through prevention education, monitoring trends and analyzing data.

How birth defects data are used in Oklahoma

The OBDR has several prevention efforts to reduce birth defects in Oklahoma: folic acid education for women of childbearing age; recurrence prevention of neural tube defects (spina bifida and anencephaly); and preconception training for health care workers. Data is analyzed to monitor trends, identify changes or clustering of birth defects, evaluate potential effects of environmental contaminants and provide geospatial analysis. The OBDR conducted a statewide needs assessment of birth defects and is utilizing the information to establish a system of referral for families of children with birth defects to programs and services.

Program information:

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Web site:
http://www.ok.gov/health/Child_and_Family_Health/Screening_Special_Services_and_Sooner_Start/Oklahoma_Birth_Defects_Registry_/index.html