

Approximately 1 baby out of every 216 is born with a major birth defect in Wyoming.

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

Birth defects lead to \$2.6 billion per year in hospital costs alone in the U.S.

**Selected birth defects counts and birth prevalence, Wyoming and US**

Defects	Wyoming <sup>†</sup>		US <sup>‡</sup>	
	Average annual no. of cases	Birth prevalence*	Average annual no. of cases	Birth prevalence*
<b>Central nervous system</b>				
Anencephalus	2	0.60	1,009	2.51
Spina bifida without anencephalus	10	2.99	1,477	3.68
<b>Cardiovascular</b>				
Transposition of great arteries <sup>§</sup>	--	--	1,901	4.73
Tetralogy of Fallot <sup>§</sup>	--	--	1,574	3.92
Atrioventricular septal defect <sup>§</sup> (also known as endocardial cushion defect)	--	--	1,748	4.36
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome <sup>§</sup>	--	--	975	2.43
<b>Orofacial</b>				
Cleft lip with and without cleft palate <sup>§</sup>	--	--	4,209	10.47
Cleft palate without cleft lip <sup>§</sup>	--	--	2,567	6.39
Cleft lip/palate	48	14.37	--	--
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>				
Upper limb defect	20	5.99	1,521	3.79
Lower limb defect	41	12.28	763	1.90
Gastroschisis	9	2.69	1,497	3.73
<b>Chromosomal</b>				
Down syndrome	18	5.39	5,132	12.78

\* per 10,000 live births

<sup>†</sup> estimates based on pooled data from birth years 2001-2005

<sup>‡</sup> estimates based on pooled data from birth years 1999-2001

<sup>§</sup> data not collected to this level of specificity

-- No data available

*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.

**Wyoming’s Birth Defect Surveillance System**

Currently the state of Wyoming does not perform birth defects surveillance. In 2010 the Wyoming Health Department, Community and Public Health Division will be developing a statewide plan for birth defects surveillance. The statewide plan will establish a passive birth defects surveillance system to be initiated in 2011.

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