

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 [†]		US [‡]	
	Average annual no. of cases	Birth prevalence*	Average annual no. of cases	Birth prevalence*
Central nervous system				
Anencephalus	--	--	859	2.1
Spina bifida without anencephalus	--	--	1,460	3.5
Cardiovascular				
Transposition of great arteries [§]	--	--	1,252	3.0
Tetralogy of Fallot [§]	--	--	1,657	4.0
Atrioventricular septal defect [§] (also known as endocardial cushion defect)	--	--	1,966	4.7
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome [§]	--	--	960	2.3
Orofacial				
Cleft lip with and without cleft palate [§]	--	--	4,437	10.6
Cleft palate without cleft lip [§]	--	--	2,651	6.4
Cleft lip/palate	--	--	--	--
Musculoskeletal				
Upper limb defect	--	--	1,454	3.5
Lower limb defect	--	--	701	1.7
Gastroschisis	--	--	1,871	4.5
Chromosomal				
Down syndrome	--	--	6,037	14.5

* per 10,000 live births

† estimates based on pooled data from birth years 2004-2006

-- No data available

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. The Wyoming Department of Health , Community and Public Health has developed a statewide plan for birth defects surveillance, which has not been implemented.

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