



## International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

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### What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

#### **Microcephaly and Zika Virus:**

We want to share with you five important links, periodically updated, from the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN), the European Centers for Disease Control (ECDC), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

a. *Case Definition and Surveillance of Microcephaly:*

[http://www.nbdpn.org/docs/NBDPN\\_Case\\_Definition-SurveillanceMicrocephaly2016Apr11.pdf](http://www.nbdpn.org/docs/NBDPN_Case_Definition-SurveillanceMicrocephaly2016Apr11.pdf)

We support the use of this document from the National Birth Defects Prevention Network for the purpose of developing or refining your case definition for microcephaly, or for analyzing your data. The document is available on the CDC/NBDPN websites. The two important pieces of this document relate to (1) identifying cases that are explained by co-occurring conditions (such as NTDs or craniosynostosis) or documented causes (such as CMV infection or a chromosomal anomaly); and (2) determining severity of the cases, based on a head circumference that is below the 3rd percentile by infant sex and gestational age.

b. *Slides for "Surveillance of Microcephaly"*

Webinar: [http://www.nbdpn.org/docs/Conducting\\_Surveillance\\_for\\_Microcephaly\\_Final\\_022616.pdf](http://www.nbdpn.org/docs/Conducting_Surveillance_for_Microcephaly_Final_022616.pdf)

These slides were recently presented at a webinar by Dr. Janet Cragan at CDC, and they are consistent with the document above relating to case definition and surveillance/abstraction.

c. *ZIKA resources on NBDPN website at:* <http://www.nbdpn.org/zikvbd.php>

d. *ZIKA resources on European CDC website*

at: [http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/zika\\_virus\\_infection/Pages/index.aspx](http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/zika_virus_infection/Pages/index.aspx)

e. *ZIKA resources on CDC website at:* <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

The **Teratology Society Annual Meeting** will be held on 25-29 June 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. Please visit

<http://www.teratology.org/meetings/2016/> for further information.

### News from the ICBSR Centre and Executive Committee

**43<sup>rd</sup> ICBSR Annual Meeting:** to be held in Magdeburg, Germany, from 18 to 21 September 2016. The ICBSR Centre received 30 abstracts. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee reviewed and edited them, and Authors have been notified about acceptance and presentation format.

Please don't forget to make your hotel reservation directly at Herrenkrug Parkhotel ([empfang@herrenkrug.de](mailto:empfang@herrenkrug.de)), mentioning: "ICBSR 2016 – Clearinghouse". A block of rooms at preferential rate is available until July 11, 2016. Information on registration fee, hotel rates and hotel contacts are available in the Annual Meeting area of the ICBSR website [www.icbsr.org](http://www.icbsr.org). A registration form, that will help us to organize logistics and social events, is available in the same area. Please fill in the form and send it to [centre@icbsr.org](mailto:centre@icbsr.org) by June 30, 2016.

**ICBSR Mortality Study:** two-thirds of participating programs provided their data. The Principal Investigators received this first set of files, just to have a look at the data quality and format. The missing programs are kindly requested to send data ASAP at [centre@icbsr.org](mailto:centre@icbsr.org), since the Principal Investigators need to have the full data-set for starting the data analysis.

**ICBSR Global Gastroschisis project:** a proposal and data collection spreadsheets for a new ICBSR collaborative project on Global Gastroschisis have been disseminated among member registries. Programs will have options for providing data for single maternal ages (depending on availability) and/or maternal age categories. Programs will also have the option of using all live births as a denominator (for population-based systems) or a sample of live birth controls (for hospital-based systems). Interested registries are requested to submit their data no later than 1 July, 2016. This will allow performing at least some preliminary analyses that could be shown and discussed during our Annual Meeting in Magdeburg.