

Prevalence of congenital anomalies

Update: February 2020

Table 1 presents detailed data for the prevalence of specific anomalies, isolated or combined with other anomalies. A child with multiple anomalies is counted more than once. The prevalence for 1981-2018 was calculated per 10 000 births for:

- 1) all types of births (total prevalence), and
- 2) for live births only (live birth prevalence)

For anomalies that can be detected prenatally, large differences are visible between total prevalence and live birth prevalence, such as for anencephaly (a lethal condition) with a total prevalence of 3.8 per 10 000 and a live birth prevalence of 0.5 per 10 000.

The prevalence of the various congenital anomalies in other European countries participating in EUROCAT can be found on [the EUROCAT network website](#).

Table 1. Total prevalence and live birth prevalence of congenital anomalies per 10 000 births, 1981-2018

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births		Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.		n	prev.	n	prev.
Central nervous system anomalies	1438	23,0	873	14,1	Transposition great arteries	299	4,8	280	4,5
Neural tube defects	658	10,5	278	4,5	Double outlet right ventricle	100	1,6	81	1,3
<i>Anencephaly</i>	238	3,8	32	0,5	Tetralogy/pentalogy of Fallot	216	3,5	190	3,1
<i>Spina bifida</i>	355	5,7	219	3,5	Single ventricle	53	0,8	38	0,6
<i>Encephalocele</i>	65	1,0	27	0,4	Atrial septal defect	605	9,7	554	8,9
Microcephaly	182	2,9	163	2,6	Atrioventricular septal defect	325	5,2	258	4,2
Arhinencephaly/holoprosencephaly	70	1,1	34	0,5	Ventricular septal defects (VSD)	2118	33,9	1994	32,1
Hydrocephaly	390	6,3	269	4,3	<i>muscular VSD</i>	772	12,4	750	12,1
					<i>perimembraneous VSD</i>	495	7,9	472	7,6
Eye anomalies	464	7,4	446	7,2	Pulmonary valve atresia/stenosis	552	8,8	521	8,4
Anophthalmia or microphthalmia	105	1,7	92	1,5	Tricuspid valve atresia/stenosis	61	1,0	41	0,7
Congenital glaucoma/buphtalmos	34	0,5	34	0,5	Bicuspid aortic valve	183	2,9	167	2,7
Congenital cataract	156	2,5	154	2,5	Aortic valve stenosis	146	2,3	137	2,2
					IAA (interrupted aortic arch/aortic atresia)	35	0,6	33	0,5
Ear, face and neck anomalies	205	3,3	185	3,0	Ebstein anomaly	39	0,6	30	0,5
					Hypoplastic left heart syndrome	184	2,9	123	2,0
Congenital heart defects	4632	74,2	4211	67,9	Coarctation of the aorta	305	4,9	291	4,7
Persistent truncus arteriosus	54	0,9	45	0,7	TAPVR (Total anomalous pulmonary		0,8		

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
venous return)	51		48	0,8
Respiratory system anomalies	409	6,6	286	4,6
Choanal atresia	57	0,9	54	0,9
Lung hypoplasia	185	3,0	118	1,9
CCAM (congenital cystic adenomatous malformation of lung)	20	0,3	17	0,3
Oro-facial clefts	1352	21,7	1237	19,9
Cleft palate	457	7,3	423	6,8
Cleft lip	337	5,4	308	5,0
Cleft lip and palate	560	9,0	507	8,2
Digestive system anomalies	1863	29,9	1683	27,1
Oesophageal atresia with or without trachea-oesophageal fistula	172	2,8	157	2,5
Hypertrophic pyloric stenosis	687	11,0	687	11,1
Atresia/stenosis duodenum	68	1,1	58	0,9
Atresia/stenosis of other parts of small intestine	55	0,9	51	0,8
Ano-rectal atresia/stenosis	270	4,3	211	3,4
Atresia of bile ducts	32	0,5	32	0,5
Hirschsprungs disease	100	1,6	100	1,6
Malrotation of intestines	122	2,0	82	1,3
Annular pancreas	37	0,6	33	0,5
Hernia diaphragmatic	176	2,8	136	2,2
Genital system anomalies	1252	20,1	1178	18,9
Hypospadias	1066	17,1	1056	17,0
Indeterminate sex	28	0,4	13	0,2
Urinary tract anomalies	1953	31,3	1624	26,2
Bladderexstrophy and/or epispadias	69	1,1	56	0,9
Bilateral renal agenesis including Potter		1,4		0,6

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
sequence	90		37	
Multicystic renal dysplasia	196	3,1	160	2,6
Hydronephrosis	520	8,3	485	7,8
Prune Belly syndrome	19	0,3	10	0,2
Atresia/stenosis of ureter	323	5,2	315	5,1
Megaureter hydroureter	227	3,6	209	3,4
Vesicoureteral reflux	224	3,6	224	3,6
Posterior urethral valves	99	1,6	94	1,5
Lobulated, fused and horseshoe kidney	88	1,4	47	0,8
Limb anomalies	4468	71,6	4208	67,8
Congenital hip dislocation and dysplasia	2352	37,7	2350	37,9
Clubfoot, talipes equinovarus	821	13,2	713	11,5
Polydactyly	608	9,7	564	9,1
<i>polydactyly hand</i>	482	7,7	449	7,2
<i>polydactyly foot</i>	224	3,6	205	3,3
Syndactyly	319	5,1	271	4,4
<i>syndactyly hand</i>	186	3,0	151	2,4
<i>syndactyly foot</i>	119	1,9	101	1,6
Reduction defects limbs	410	6,6	338	5,4
<i>upper limb</i>	306	4,9	252	4,1
<i>lower limb</i>	153	2,5	117	1,9
Complete absence of a limb	16	0,3	4	0,1
Abdominal wall defects	310	5,0	151	2,4
Omphalocele	200	3,2	93	1,5
Gastroschisis	87	1,4	51	0,8
Chromosomal anomalies	2324	37,3	1326	21,4
Trisomy 21, Down syndrome	1038	16,6	644	10,4
Trisomy 13, Patau syndrome	106	1,7	38	0,6
Trisomy 18, Edwards syndrome	308	4,9	65	1,0
Turner syndrome 45,X	189	3,0	88	1,4
Klinefelter syndrome, 47,XXY	33	0,5	27	0,4
Triploidy	68	1,1	5	0,1

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
Deletions	272	4,4	245	4,0
Single gene disorders	1880	30,1	1696	27,3
Other				
Craniosynostosis	116	1,9	112	1,8
Congenital constriction bands/amniotic bands	49	0,8	29	0,5
Situs inversus	45	0,7	37	0,6
Congenital skin disorders	131	2,1	123	2,0
Hydrops fetalis	208	3,3	47	0,8