

Prevalence of congenital anomalies

Update: March 2021

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 1981-2019 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, 1981-2019

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births		Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.		n	prev.	n	prev.
Central nervous system anomalies	1487	23,2	890	14,0	Double outlet right ventricle	102	1,6	82	1,3
Neural tube defects	677	10,6	280	4,4	Tetralogy/pentalogy of Fallot	221	3,4	193	3,0
<i>Anencephaly</i>	247	3,9	32	0,5	Single ventricle	54	0,8	39	0,6
<i>Spina bifida</i>	361	5,6	220	3,5	Atrial septal defect	624	9,7	572	9,0
<i>Encephalocele</i>	69	1,1	28	0,4	Atrioventricular septal defect	337	5,3	263	4,1
Microcephaly	185	2,9	165	2,6	Ventricular septal defects (VSD)	2173	33,9	2042	32,1
Arhinencephaly/holoprosencephaly	79	1,2	35	0,6	<i>muscular VSD</i>	815	12,7	789	12,4
Hydrocephaly	400	6,2	272	4,3	<i>perimembraneous VSD</i>	550	8,6	523	8,2
Eye anomalies	475	7,4	457	7,2	Pulmonary valve atresia/stenosis	564	8,8	533	8,4
Anophthalmia or microphthalmia	106	1,7	93	1,5	Tricuspid valve atresia/stenosis	62	1,0	41	0,6
Congenital glaucoma/buphtalmos	35	0,5	35	0,6	Bicuspid aortic valve	191	3,0	175	2,8
Congenital cataract	161	2,5	159	2,5	Aortic valve stenosis	149	2,3	140	2,2
Ear, face and neck anomalies	211	3,3	191	3,0	IAA (interrupted aortic arch/aortic atresia)	37	0,6	33	0,5
Congenital heart defects	4745	74,1	4298	67,9	Ebstein anomaly	39	0,6	30	0,5
Persistent truncus arteriosus	55	0,9	45	0,7	Hypoplastic left heart syndrome	188	2,9	123	1,9
Transposition great arteries	309	4,8	286	4,5	Coarctation of the aorta	313	4,9	299	4,7
					TAPVR (Total anomalous pulmonary venous return)	51	0,8	48	0,8

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
Respiratory system anomalies	418	6,5	293	4,6
Choanal atresia	58	0,9	55	0,9
Lung hypoplasia	187	2,9	118	1,9
CCAM (congenital cystic adenomatous malformation of lung)	22	0,3	19	0,3
Oro-facial clefts	1388	21,7	1269	20,0
Cleft palate	471	7,4	436	6,9
Cleft lip	344	5,4	314	4,9
Cleft lip and palate	575	9,0	520	8,2
Digestive system anomalies	1910	29,8	1721	27,1
Oesophageal atresia with or without trachea-oesophageal fistula	174	2,7	159	2,5
Hypertrophic pyloric stenosis	705	11,0	705	11,1
Atresia/stenosis duodenum	69	1,1	59	0,9
Atresia/stenosis of other parts of small intestine	57	0,9	53	0,8
Ano-rectal atresia/stenosis	276	4,3	215	3,4
Atresia of bile ducts	32	0,5	32	0,5
Hirschsprungs disease	102	1,6	102	1,6
Malrotation of intestines	130	2,0	89	1,4
Annular pancreas	38	0,6	34	0,5
Hernia diaphragmatic	184	2,9	140	2,2
Genital system anomalies	1296	20,2	1215	19,1
Hypospadias	1103	17,2	1093	17,2
Indeterminate sex	28	0,4	13	0,2
Urinary tract anomalies	2047	32,0	1701	26,8
Bladderexstrophy and/or epispadias	72	1,1	59	0,9
Bilateral renal agenesis including Potter sequence	96	1,5	37	0,6
Multicystic renal dysplasia	207	3,2	171	2,7

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
Hydronephrosis	547	8,5	511	8,0
Prune Belly syndrome	19	0,3	10	0,2
Atresia/stenosis of ureter	337	5,3	329	5,2
Megaureter hydroureter	241	3,8	222	3,5
Vesicoureteral reflux	236	3,7	236	3,7
Posterior urethral valves	104	1,6	99	1,6
Lobulated, fused and horseshoe kidney	90	1,4	47	0,7
Limb anomalies	4582	71,5	4301	67,7
Congenital hip dislocation and dysplasia*	2377	37,1	2375	37,4
Clubfoot, talipes equinovarus	850	13,3	733	11,5
Polydactyly	634	9,9	588	9,3
<i>polydactyly hand</i>	500	7,8	466	7,3
<i>polydactyly foot</i>	238	3,7	219	3,4
Syndactyly	333	5,2	280	4,4
<i>syndactyly hand</i>	192	3,0	155	2,4
<i>syndactyly foot</i>	126	2,0	106	1,7
Reduction defects limbs	428	6,7	347	5,5
<i>upper limb</i>	321	5,0	260	4,1
<i>lower limb</i>	158	2,5	118	1,9
Complete absence of a limb	19	0,3	4	0,1
Abdominal wall defects	325	5,1	157	2,5
Omphalocele	210	3,3	96	1,5
Gastroschisis	90	1,4	54	0,8
Chromosomal anomalies	2394	37,4	1341	21,1
Trisomy 21, Down syndrome	1073	16,7	654	10,3
Trisomy 13, Patau syndrome	106	1,7	38	0,6
Trisomy 18, Edwards syndrome	324	5,1	65	1,0
Turner syndrome 45,X	197	3,1	89	1,4
Klinefelter syndrome, 47,XXY	33	0,5	27	0,4
Triploidy	70	1,1	5	0,1
Deletions	284	4,4	254	4,0

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
Single gene disorders	1973	30,8	1769	27,8
Other				
Craniosynostosis	127	2,0	123	1,9
Congenital constriction bands/amniotic bands	51	0,8	31	0,5
Situs inversus	46	0,7	38	0,6
Congenital skin disorders	135	2,1	127	2,0
Hydrops fetalis	230	3,6	47	0,7

* from the year 2015 onwards we only register hip dislocation