

## Prevalence of congenital anomalies

Update: July 2023

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 1981-2021 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, 1981-2021**

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births		Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.		n	prev.	n	prev.
<b>Central nervous system anomalies</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>13.8</b>	Tetralogy/pentalogy of Fallot	230	3.4	200	3.0
Neural tube defects	710	10.6	286	4.3	Single ventricle	55	0.8	39	0.6
<i>Anencephaly</i>	254	3.8	32	0.5	Atrial septal defect	688	10.3	635	9.5
<i>Spina bifida</i>	394	5.9	226	3.4	Atrioventricular septal defect	359	5.4	269	4.0
<i>Encephalocele</i>	75	1.1	28	0.4	Ventricular septal defects (VSD)	2355	35.2	2204	33.1
Microcephaly	199	3.0	172	2.6	<i>muscular VSD</i>	927	13.8	898	13.5
Arhinencephaly/holoprosencephaly	87	1.3	35	0.5	<i>perimembraneous VSD</i>	612	9.1	580	8.7
Hydrocephaly*	267	4.0	162	2.4	Pulmonary valve atresia/stenosis	618	9.2		0.0
<b>Eye anomalies</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>7.1</b>	Tricuspid valve atresia/stenosis	65	1.0	42	0.6
Anophtalmia or microphthalmia	105	1.6	91	1.4	Bicuspid aortic valve	223	3.3	204	3.1
Congenital cataract	171	2.6	169	2.5	Aortic valve stenosis	168	2.5	156	2.3
<b>Ear, face and neck anomalies</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>2.9</b>	Hypoplastic left heart syndrome	202	3.0	123	1.8
<b>Congenital heart defects</b>	<b>5126</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>4616</b>	<b>69.3</b>	Coarctation of the aorta	324	4.8	309	4.6
Persistent truncus arteriosus	58	0.9	46	0.7	TAPVR (Total anomalous pulmonary venous return)	57	0.9	53	0.8
Transposition great arteries	322	4.8	297	4.5	<b>Respiratory system anomalies</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Double outlet right ventricle	111	1.7	87	1.3	Choanal atresia	59	0.9	56	0.8
					Lung hypoplasia	189	2.8	119	1.8

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
<b>Oro-facial clefts</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>1324</b>	<b>19.9</b>
Cleft palate	499	7.4	457	6.9
Cleft lip	366	5.5	329	4.9
Cleft lip and palate	600	9.0	539	8.1
<b>Digestive system anomalies</b>	<b>1256</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>15.9</b>
Oesophageal atresia with or without trachea-oesophageal fistula	184	2.7	167	2.5
Atresia/stenosis duodenum	91	1.4	79	1.2
Atresia/stenosis of other parts of small intestine	60	0.9	56	0.8
Ano-rectal atresia/stenosis	295	4.4	231	3.5
Hirschsprung's Disease	107	1.6	107	1.6
Malrotation of intestines	140	2.1	97	1.5
Hernia diaphragmatic	190	2.8	144	2.2
<b>Genital system anomalies</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>19.7</b>
Hypospadias	1200	17.9	1190	17.9
<b>Urinary tract anomalies</b>	<b>2291</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>28.8</b>
Bladderexstrophy and/or epispadias	74	1.1	60	0.9
Bilateral renal agenesis including Potter sequence	101	1.5	37	0.6
Multicystic renal dysplasia	221	3.3	182	2.7
Hydronephrosis	635	9.5	595	8.9
Atresia/stenosis of ureter	392	5.9	383	5.7
Megaureter hydroureter	282	4.2	261	3.9
Vesicoureteral reflux	271	4.0	271	4.1
Posterior urethral valves	118	1.8	113	1.7
Lobulated, fused and horseshoe kidney	103	1.5	56	0.8
<b>Limb anomalies</b>	<b>4802</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>4485</b>	<b>67.3</b>
Congenital hip dislocation and dysplasia**	2435	36.4	2433	36.5
Clubfoot, talipes equinovarus	907	13.5	769	11.5

Congenital anomaly	All births		Live births	
	n	prev.	n	prev.
Polydactyly	684	10.2	636	9.5
<i>polydactyly hand</i>	542	8.1	506	7.6
<i>polydactyly foot</i>	273	4.1	253	3.8
Syndactyly	352	5.3	296	4.4
<i>syndactyly hand</i>	202	3.0	162	2.4
<i>syndactyly foot</i>	137	2.0	115	1.7
Reduction defects limbs	453	6.8	358	5.4
<i>upper limb</i>	341	5.1	270	4.1
<i>lower limb</i>	167	2.5	120	1.8
<b>Abdominal wall defects</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Omphalocele	233	3.5	102	1.5
Gastroschisis	99	1.5	60	0.9
<b>Chromosomal anomalies</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>21.1</b>
Trisomy 21, Down syndrome	1162	17.3	685	10.3
Trisomy 13, Patau syndrome	120	1.8	40	0.6
Trisomy 18, Edwards syndrome	348	5.2	65	1.0
Turner syndrome 45,X	218	3.3	97	1.5
Triploidy	95	1.4	15	0.2
Deletions	315	4.7	279	4.2
<b>Single gene disorders</b>	<b>2168</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>1924</b>	<b>28.9</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Craniosynostosis	145	2.2	141	2.1
Congenital constriction bands/amniotic bands	55	0.8	31	0.5
Situs inversus	57	0.9	46	0.7
Congenital skin disorders	152	2.3	142	2.1
Hydrops fetalis	276	4.1	49	0.7

\* hydrocephaly associated with NTD excluded

\*\* from the year 2015 onwards we only register hip dislocation