

World Birth Defects Day – March 3rd

#WorldBDDay

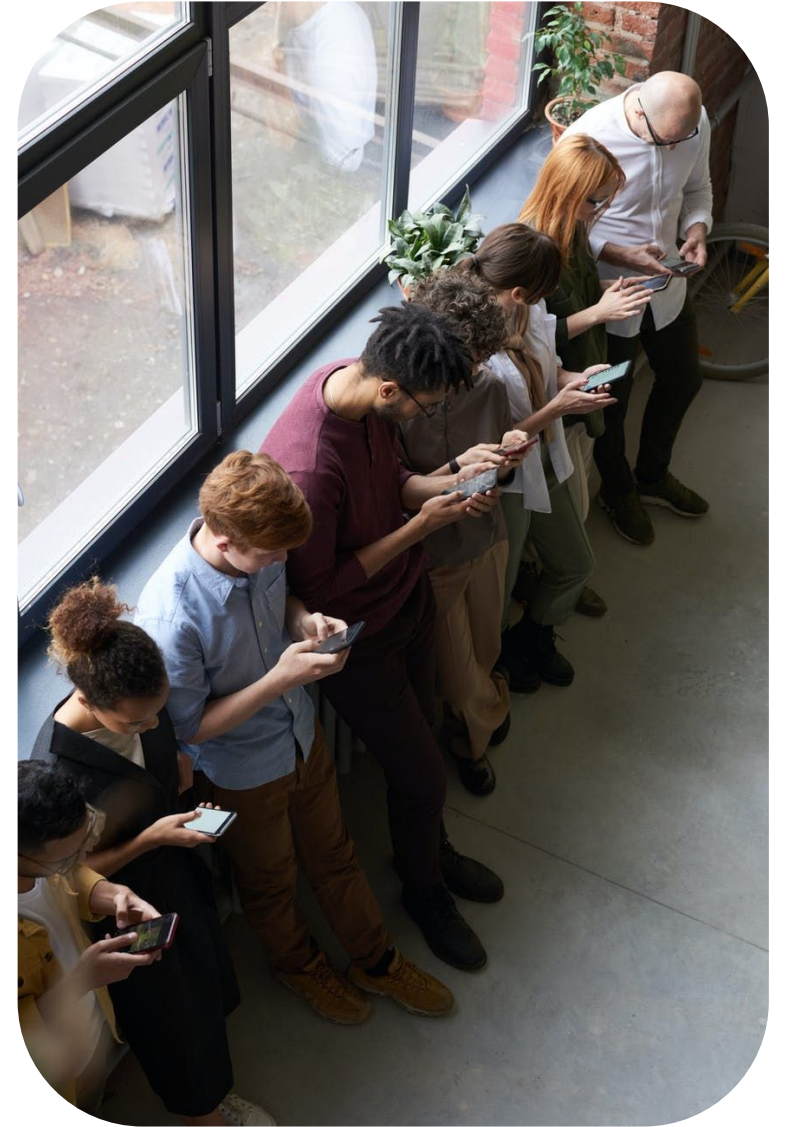
#ManyBirthDefects

1Voice





On March 3rd,
several worldwide
organizations will celebrate
World Birth Defects Day.





Birth Defects

Birth defects, or congenital anomalies, are structural or functional anomalies due to prenatally determined developmental anomalies that can be identified prenatally, at birth, or sometimes may only be detected later in infancy.

Examples of birth defects

- **Structural**
 - Heart Defects, Spina Bifida, Hypospadias, Limb Deficiency, Club Foot, Down Syndrome
- **Functional**
 - Metabolic Diseases, Hearing Loss, Thalassemia, Cystic Fibrosis, Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The focus of World Birth Defects Day is on structural birth defects, since many functional anomalies have other awareness days.

Frequency

Structural birth defects are common, costly, and critical.

Birth defects affect
nearly **8 million infants**,
or **6%** of all infants, born
globally each year.



Burden

- In many countries, birth defects are one of the **leading causes of death** in infants and young children.
- Babies who survive may have a good quality of life with appropriate treatment or care, however many infants are at an increased risk for **long-term disabilities**.

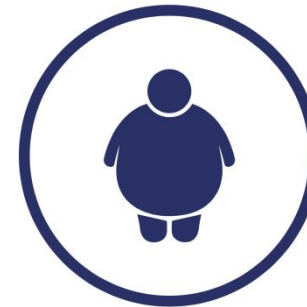
Their quality of life matters!



Causes and Prevention

- Although about 50% of structural birth defects cannot be linked to a specific cause, there are some known causes or risk factors.
- Non-genetic known causes or risk factors can be mitigated or removed before conception or early pregnancy to prevent some birth defects.

Examples: insufficient folate status, poorly managed diabetes, obesity, lack of protection against infectious diseases, some teratogenic medications, smoking, alcohol



The Goal

The main goal of the **day** is to use our collective voice to reach more people through news, messages, and fact sheets.

We hope this will spur more efforts to expand birth defects **surveillance, prevention, care, and research** worldwide.



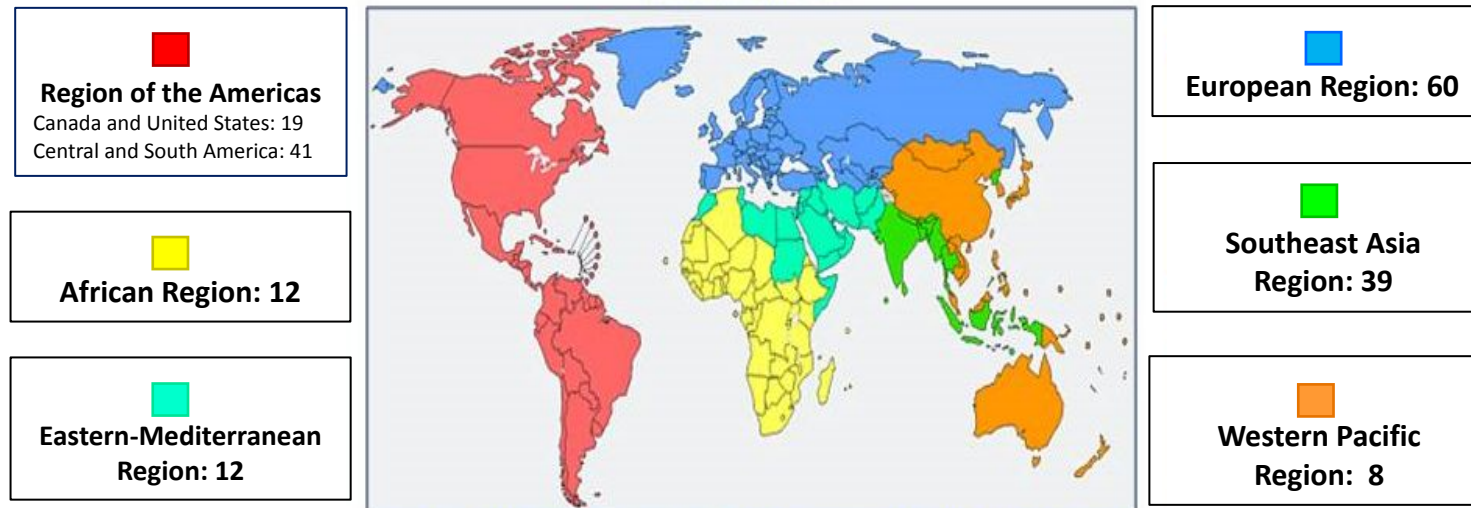


Become a Recognized World Birth Defects Day Partner Organization

Application form available at:
<https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/>

Increase YOUR visibility!

World Birth Defects Day Partners by World Health Organization Region (191)



List of WBDD Partners available at www.worldbirthdefectsday.org

What can you do to observe the day?



- **Organize a meeting** to increase knowledge on birth defects prevention and care.
- **Add your voice** to raise awareness through your partner and news channels.
- Use the hashtag **#WorldBDDay** on your Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts
- **Encourage** other organizations to join the WBDD movement.
- **Check updates on:**
<https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/>



Your energy is greatly needed!

Tweet, retweet, share and comment. **Make noise!**

It will increase the reach of worldwide messages and expand knowledge and awareness.



Stay
connected

There's more to
come!

