

Neural tube defect prevalence 7.0 per 10,000 in HIV-exposed

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(HealthDay)—The prevalence of neural tube defects (NTDs) is 7.0 per

10,000 live births in HIV-exposed pregnancies, which is similar to the prevalence in the general population, according to research published in the Jan. 10 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Jennita Reefhuis, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues estimated the overall prevalence of NTDs and prevalence of NTDs in HIV-exposed pregnancies during 2013 to 2017 for 15 jurisdictions using linked data from two CDC surveillance programs for HIV/AIDS and birth defects.

The researchers found that among women with diagnosed HIV infection, the prevalence of NTDs was 7.0 per 10,000 live births. This prevalence was similar to that in the [general population](#) from these 15 jurisdictions (7.0 per 10,000 live births) and the U.S. estimated prevalence based on data from 24 states (approximately 8 per 10,000 [live births](#)).

"Continued efforts to collect information on pregnancies affected by maternal HIV infection are needed to understand the association between HIV treatment and birth defects and other pregnancy outcomes," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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