

MEMORANDUM

To: **Diane Aye, Brian Toal**  
 Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health  
 Connecticut State Department of Public Health and Addiction Services

From: **Holger Hansen**  
 Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
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Re: Birth defects in Stratford

Connecticut birth defects surveillance data by town are available for 1985. They are presented as numbers of affected newborns and as rates per 1,000 live births (43,968 live births in Connecticut, 578 in Stratford):

	Connecticut		Stratford	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Anencephalus (ICD-9 740)	8	.2	-	-
Spina bifida (741)	16	.4	-	-
Other CNS anomalies (742)	59	1.3	1	1.7
Anomalies of eye (743)	24	.5	-	-
Anomalies of ear (744)	61	1.4	1	1.7
Heart defects (745)	169	3.8	1	1.7
Other heart anomalies (746)	118	2.7	2	3.5
Other circulatory defects (747)	222	5.0	2	3.5
Respiratory system defects (748)	63	1.4	-	-
Cleft lip and palate (749)	61	1.4	3	5.2
Alimentary tract anomalies (750)	153	3.5	2	3.5
Digestive system anomalies (751)	50	1.1	-	-
Genital organ anomalies (752)	353	8.0	9	15.6
Urinary system anomalies (753)	59	1.3	1	1.7
Musculoskeletal deformities (754)	225	5.1	3	5.2
Limb anomalies (755)	220	5.0	5	8.7
Musculoskeletal anomalies (756)	104	2.4	3	5.2
Anomalies of integument (757)	306	7.0	-	-
Chromosomal anomalies (758)	75	1.7	-	-
Other anomalies (759)	31	.7	-	-
<b>Total newborns with birth defects</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>57.1</b>

No birth defect stands out as particularly excessive in Stratford. The two- to three-fold higher incidence of cleft lip and palate, genital organ anomalies, limb anomalies and musculoskeletal anomalies is balanced by lower incidence of other types of defects. The total incidence of birth defects in Stratford did not differ from the state as a whole in 1985.

cc: A. Bracker, M. Grey, M. Hodgson, E. Storey