



Congenital malformations 2021

Prevalence of malformations has remained stable

MAIN FINDINGS

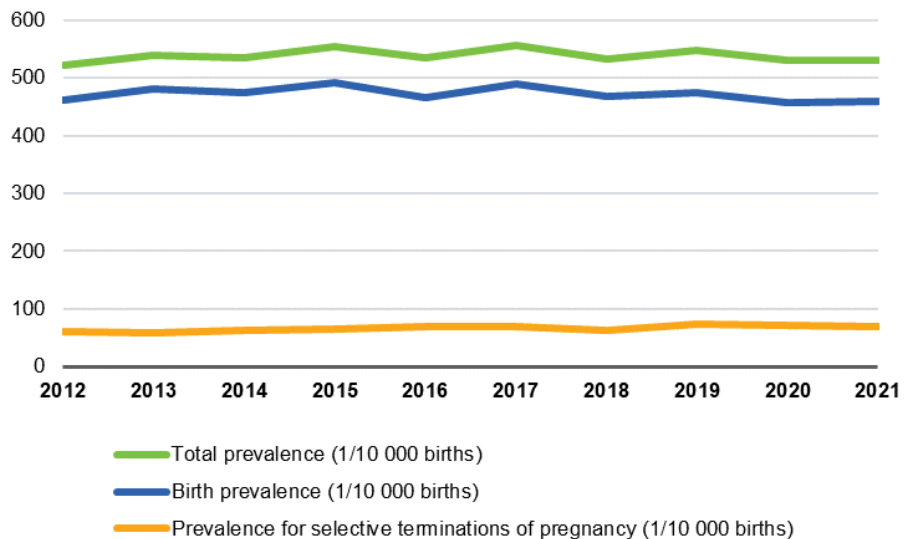
- Congenital malformations were detected in 4.6 per cent of live born infants.
- Malformations were diagnosed in 17.0 per cent stillbirths and infant deaths.
- In 2021, 349 pregnancies were terminated due to major congenital malformations.

In Finland, major congenital malformations were found in a total of 2,287 stillborn and live born infants in 2021. Malformations were diagnosed in 4.6 per cent of live born and 7.9 per cent of stillborn infants. Of infants who were stillborn or died during their first year of life, a total of 17.0 per cent were diagnosed with a congenital malformation.

The total prevalence of malformation cases (per births and terminations of pregnancy performed for fetal indications) was 530/10,000 births in 2021. In 2012–2021, the annual total prevalence of malformation cases was on average 538/10,000 births, or an average of 2,835 cases a year.

In 2021, 349 pregnancies were terminated because of fetal malformations. The prevalence of terminations of pregnancy for fetal indications was 70/10,000 births in 2021, whereas this figure was on average 66/10,000 births a year in 2012–2021. Of major congenital malformation cases, 13.2 per cent were terminations of pregnancy for fetal indications in 2021, and this proportion has changed little in 2012–2021.

Figure 1. Prevalence of cases with major congenital malformations (1/10,000 births) in 2012–2021 (births and selective terminations of pregnancy are included in the total prevalence).



www.thl.fi/statistics/congenitalmalformations

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Appendix Tables

Appendix Table 1. Number of cases with internationally monitored congenital anomalies (all births and selective terminations of pregnancy) 2012–2021

Appendix Table 2: Total prevalence of internationally monitored congenital anomalies (births and selective terminations of pregnancy due to major congenital anomalies 1/10 000 births) 2012–2021

Appendix Table 1. Number of cases with internationally monitored congenital anomalies (all births and selective terminations of pregnancy) 2012–2021

Anomaly	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2012–2021 Mean
Nervous system	200	160	178	174	163	164	131	128	148	145	159
Anencephaly	32	21	24	23	18	21	15	17	20	15	21
Spina bifida	21	14	20	25	21	24	16	20	16	19	20
Heart defects	1 233	1 228	1 196	1 191	1 135	1 117	951	959	938	956	1 090
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS)	21	22	30	22	20	25	17	25	20	17	22
Coarctation of aorta	51	47	63	47	59	49	31	49	40	48	48
Respiratory system anomalies	60	56	44	43	43	38	31	44	38	31	43
Cleft lip with or without cleft palate	58	69	65	54	45	31	45	49	36	32	48
Cleft palate	73	63	58	58	63	47	47	53	57	58	58
Oesophageal atresia / stenosis	16	26	28	19	23	23	23	23	19	22	22
Gastroschisis	24	22	12	17	18	12	15	11	14	13	16
Omphalocele	35	31	26	28	30	30	35	35	20	44	31
Renal agenesis / dysgenesis, bilateral	6	5	6	11	2	5	3	2	3	3	5
Trisomy 21	148	158	161	155	178	154	146	169	161	146	158
Trisomy 13	17	18	8	14	12	14	20	16	17	13	15
Trisomy 18	44	39	48	42	56	55	48	47	42	42	46

Appendix Table 2: Total prevalence of internationally monitored congenital anomalies (births and selective terminations of pregnancy due to major congenital anomalies 1/10 000 births) 2012–2021

Anomaly	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2012–2021 Mean
Nervous system	46	35	39	36	36	39	32	35	36	35	37
Anencephaly	5	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4
Spina bifida	4	2	4	5	4	5	3	4	3	4	4
Heart defects	283	278	264	260	257	273	237	258	250	240	260
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS)	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	6	4	3	4
Coarctation of aorta	9	8	11	8	11	10	7	11	9	10	9
Respiratory system anomalies	10	11	8	8	8	8	7	10	9	7	9
Cleft lip with or without cleft palate	10	12	12	10	8	6	9	11	8	6	9
Cleft palate	12	11	11	10	12	9	10	12	12	12	11
Oesophageal atresia / stenosis	3	5	5	3	4	5	5	5	4	5	4
Gastroschisis	4	4	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3
Omphalocele	6	5	5	5	6	6	7	8	4	9	6
Renal agenesis / dysgenesis, bilateral	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Trisomy 21	25	27	28	28	34	31	31	37	35	29	30
Trisomy 13	3	3	1	3	2	3	4	4	4	3	3
Trisomy 18	8	7	8	8	10	11	10	10	9	8	9