

EU – Ukraine Webinar Series on Spinal Dysraphisms



NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS - SPINA BIFIDA – UKRAINE Information Package

January, 2024

INTERNATIONAL “OMNI-NET FOR CHILDREN” CHARITABLE FUND

CARE AND PREVENTION OF CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



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To: Participants of the EU – Ukraine Webinar Series on Spinal Dysraphisms
From: OMNI-Net Ukraine
Re: Mutual Dialogue and Sharing Outline of OMNI-Net Activities

January 24, 2024

Dear European Colleagues:

We are pleased that you participate in the EU – Ukraine Webinar Series on Spinal Dysraphisms Urology-related themes. We hope that these events will not only be informative, but will provide opportunities for a mutual dialogue among all of us.

On behalf of OMNI-Net we are pleased to share with you an outline of our programs and activities in Ukraine. We also welcome you to contact us directly by writing to our Informational Specialist Ms. Diana Akhmedzhanova, omninetukr@gmail.com.

With best regards,

Wladimir Wertelecki, M.D.
Director, OMNI-Net Ukraine

Member of:
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics;
American Society of Pediatric and Pediatric Research;
American Academy of Pediatrics.

Corresponding Member of:
Academy of Medicine, Buenos Aires, Argentina;
Academy of Sciences, Ukraine.

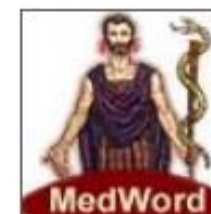
Doctor Honoris Causa of:
Mohyla Academy University, Ukraine
Lviv Medical University, Ukraine.

More information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wladimir_Wertelecki



HELP LOCATE & GIVE CARE TO UKRAINIAN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Help families and children in Ukraine with serious developmental disabilities such as Spina Bifida, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) ...



Our Sites:



About OMNI-Net Ukraine

http://ukraineomni.org/en/about_eng/

[OMNINET-MEDWORD LLC International](#) 

 [OMNI-Net in EU](#) 

[OMNI-Net and National Institutes of Health](#) 

[Українською мовою](#) 

PLEASE, GET IN TOUCH **DIRECTLY**
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEAR FROM YOU

OMNINETUKR@GMAIL.COM

OMNI-мережа в Україні

OMNI-NET UKRAINE



SPINA BIFIDA
 ONGOING EPIDEMIC
HIGHEST PREVALENCE RATES IN EUROPE

EUROCAT REPORTS

Morris JK, et al. Prevention of Neural Tube Defects in Europe: A Public Health Failure. *Front Pediatr.* 2021 Jun 24;9:647038. doi: 10.3389/fped.2021.647038. PMID: 34249803; PMCID: PMC8264257.

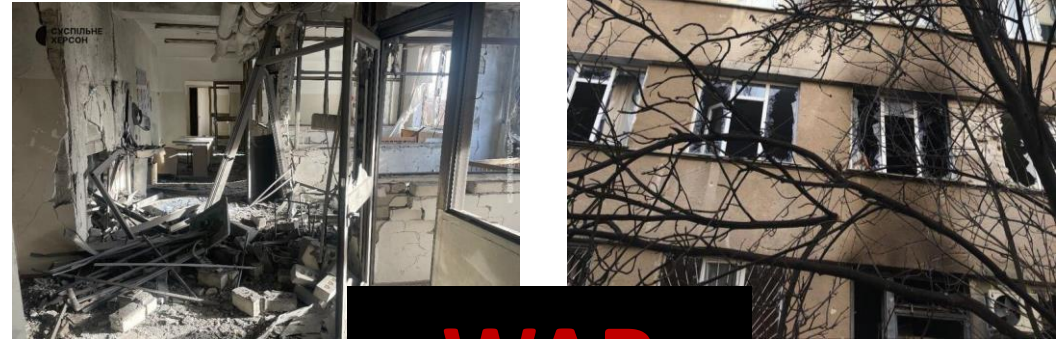
- OMNI-Net Resource Centers
- Support Academic Centers



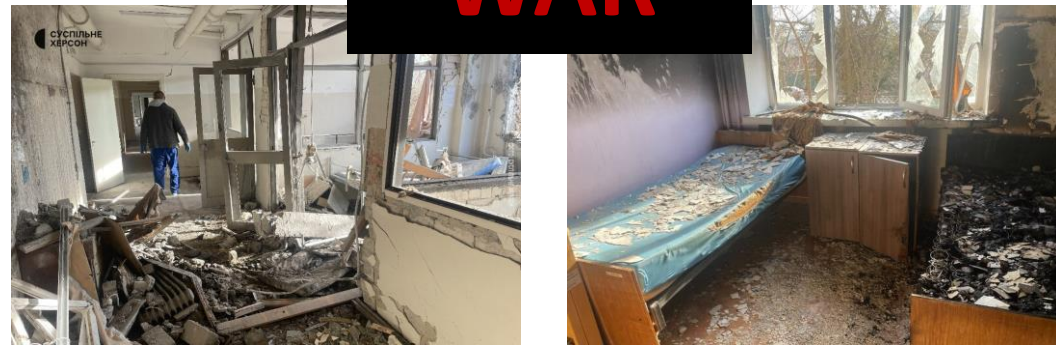
KHMELNYTSKYI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



KHERSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



WAR



VOLYN PERINATAL CENTER



RIVNE DIAGNOSTIC CENTER



KHMELNYTSKYI PERINATAL CENTER



VOLYN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL





Brief Reports

High Rates of Neural Tube Defects in Ukraine

Nataliya Yuskiv,³ Clark O. Andelin,² Svitlana Polischuk,³ Oleksandr Shevchuk,⁴ Zoryana Sosynyuk,⁴
Tetyana Vihovska,³ Lyubov Yevtushok,⁴ Godfrey P. Oakley, Jr.,² and Wladimir Wertelecki^{1*}

¹University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama

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Received 12 December 2003; Accepted 13 February 2004

21 per 10 000 live births
Goal: reduce to < 5

BACKGROUND: Oral consumption of synthetic folic acid can prevent neural tube defects (NTDs), which are some of the most severe congenital anomalies. The prevalence of NTDs in Ukraine and other countries of the former U.S.S.R. has not been well studied. We determined the prevalence of NTD-affected pregnancies in Northwestern Ukraine as background for policy decisions related to flour fortification in this country.

METHODS: The Ukrainian-American Birth Defects Program was established in 1999 and conducts population-based surveillance of birth defects in several oblasts (states) of Ukraine. We determined the prevalence of NTDs in the Volyn and Rivne oblasts of Northwestern Ukraine for three years, 2000–2002. **RESULTS:** There were 75,928 births in the two oblasts in 2000–2002. There were 159 cases of NTDs among live births, stillbirths, and induced abortions. The prevalence of NTDs in the two oblasts in Northwestern Ukraine is 2.1 per 1000 births.

CONCLUSIONS: The prevalence of NTD-affected pregnancies we found in Northwestern Ukraine is almost four times what it should be. This prevalence suggests that population folate deficiency is widespread in Ukraine. Universal folic acid fortification of flour milled in Ukraine is urgently needed to end this epidemic of birth defects. Such fortification would be expected to prevent folate deficiency anemia, heart attacks, and strokes. *Birth Defects Research (Part A) 70:400–402, 2004.* © 2004 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

2000-2002
75 928 births
159 NTD

**EPIDEMIC OF SPINA BIFIDA
HIGHEST RATES IN EUROPE**

2010

PEDIATRICS®

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Malformations in a Chernobyl-Impacted Region

Wladimir Wertelecki

Pediatrics 2010;125:e836-e843; originally published online Mar 22, 2010;

DOI: 10.1542/peds.2009-2219

2014



THE JAPANESE
TERATOLOGY SOCIETY

doi:10.1111/cga.12051

Congenital Anomalies 2014; **54**, 125–149 125

INVITED REVIEW ARTICLE



WHO Birth Defects Surveillance Systems Registry Survey



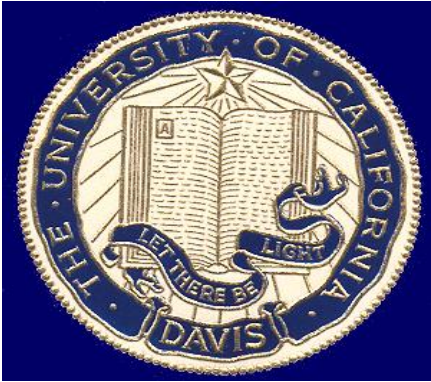
EU Science Hub

JOINT RESEARCH CENTER

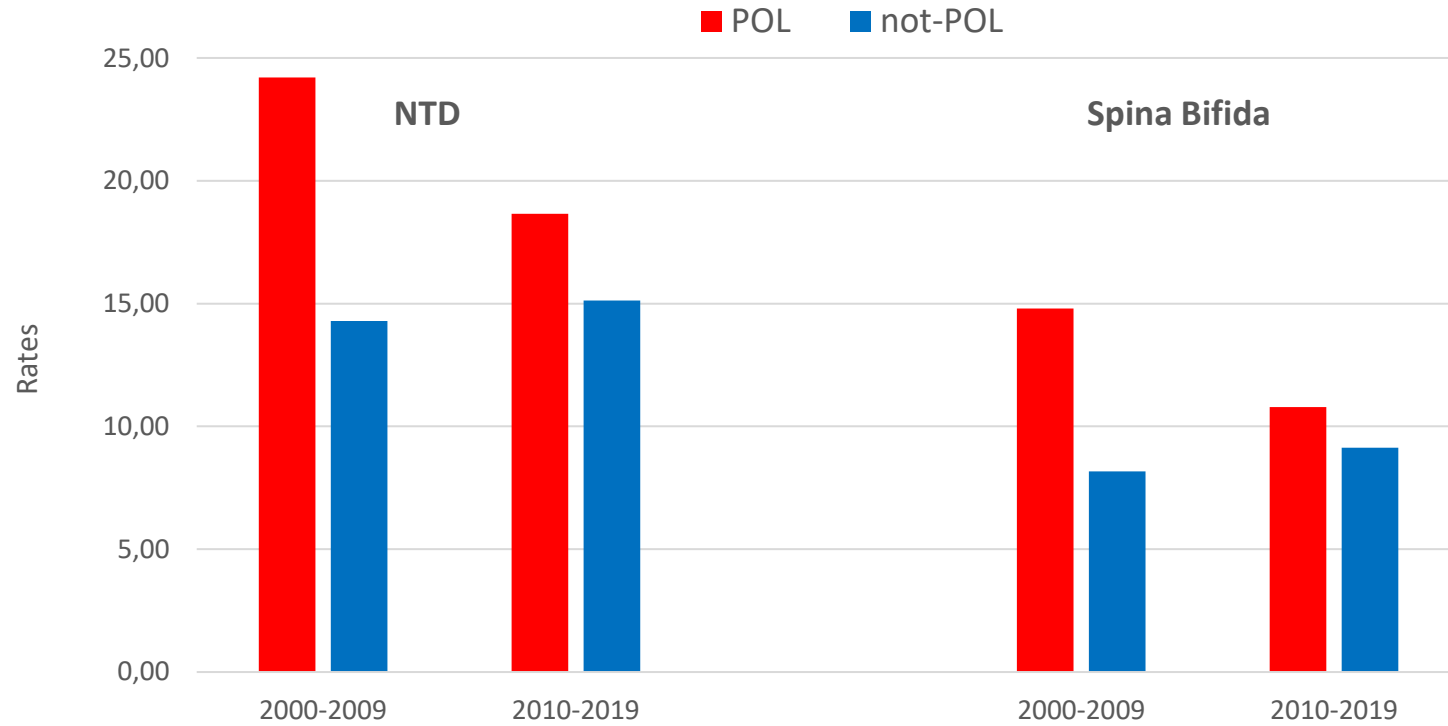
The JRC in Ispra (Italy)

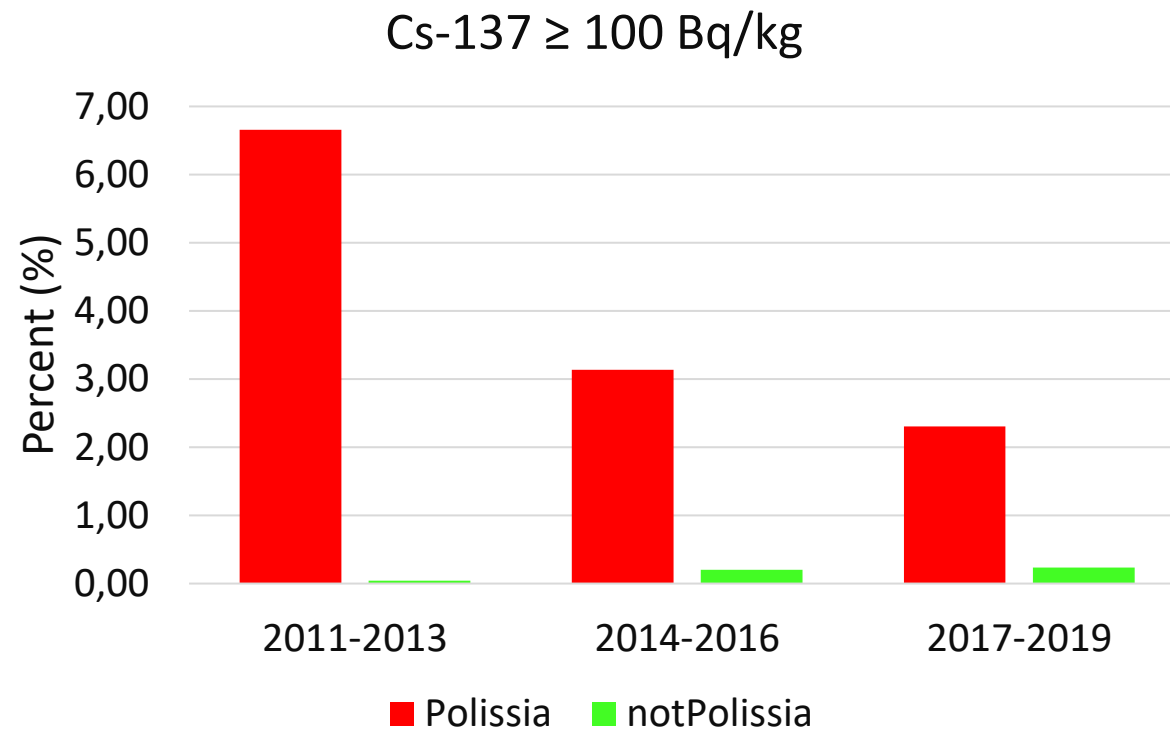
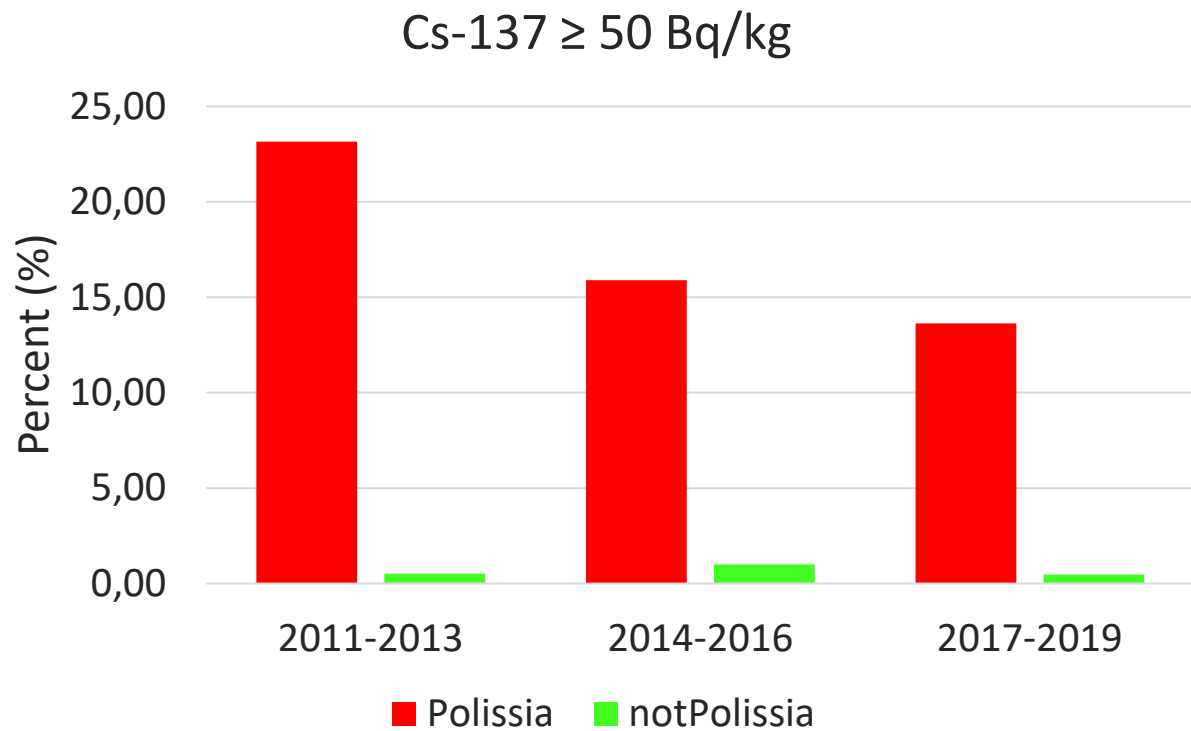


OMNI-Net – CIFASD Working Group



POPULATION TEMPORAL TRENDS AND PREVALENCE (PER 10000 LIVEBIRTHS)





Percentage of pregnant women with incorporated Cs-137 \geq 50 Bq/kg and 100 Bq/kg in Polissia and notPolissia during three time periods.

2023-10-10aLO

FOR MORE DETAILS:



Spina Bifida **Care** – In Ideal, in Practice and in Reality

Wladimir Wertelecki

OMNI-NET, Ukraine



Worldwide Perspective - Spina Bifida - Ideal Care - Realities - Prospects

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFtIK5c0hLw>

February 24, 2022

WAR

February 24, 2022 **WAR**

WE NEED HELP

February 24, 2022 **WAR**

WE NEED HELP

YOU COULD HELP PERSONALLY



OUR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEEDS YOUR HELP



2022

At 23:50 on **March 29**, several explosions sounded during the **air raid alarm in Khmelnytskyi**. The city, for the first time since the full-scale war, was subjected to a missile strike. The target of the Russians was an infrastructure facility. According to Mayor Oleksandr Simchyshyn, there were no casualties, a fire broke out at the scene of the attack, which was localized.^[1]

On **June 25**, in the **Khmelnytsky** region, air defense forces shot down two Russian missiles. The wreckage of one of the missiles fell in a forest in Kamyanets-Podilskyi district.^[2]

In the morning of July 24, during another rocket attack, several explosions occurred, 3 cruise missiles of the Russian army were shot down by air defense forces over the **Khmelnytsky** region.^[3]

On **October 6**, the Russians conducted another missile attack on the region, with no casualties.^[4]

On **October 10**, a massive missile strike hit the center, three missile strikes caused casualties among the population.

**WE ARE UNDER
CONSTANT ATTACK**

the **Khmelnytsky** region. In the regional capital, there were power outages in the city for two days. There were no missile strikes shot down over the territory of the region.^[5]

On the morning of **October 22**, during the air raid alarm, Russian forces launched a missile strike on energy infrastructure. In several settlements of the region, the power went out.^[6]

On **October 31**, a Russian missile was shot down over the territory of the **Khmelnytskyi** region. The wreckage hit private housing, there were no casualties.^[7]

On **November 15**, two missiles struck **Khmelnytskyi**. The Russian missiles hit energy infrastructure, part of the city was left without electricity.^[8]

On **December 31**, the Russians conducted two missile attacks on **Khmelnytskyi**, part of the city was left without electricity, more than 8 people were wounded.^[9] As a result of injuries, one girl died. 8 civilian cars, 13 residential buildings and warehouses were also damaged.^[10]

OMNI-NET NEEDS YOUR HELP

SPINA BIFIDA

CARE

PREVENTION

FREE CATHETER DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES



NEED CATHETERS? CONTACT US:
omninetukr@gmail.com

Appeal to **PROFESSIONALS** to Help **PERSONALLY** - **Directly**

HELP LOCATE & GIVE CARE TO UKRAINIAN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Help families and children in Ukraine with serious developmental disabilities such as Spina Bifida, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) ...

The banner features a blue and yellow background with two photos: a crying child and a woman holding a baby. Yellow asterisks are in the top right and bottom left corners.

WAR

DIRECT SUPPORT:



<https://t.ly/3Jfg>



GOALS - PREVENTION AND CARE OF NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

WE NEED YOUR **PERSONAL** HELP

WE NEED YOUR **INSTITUTIONAL** HELP

UKRAINIAN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP THEM

PLEASE! - DIRECT DONATIONS TO



<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-ukrainian-children-with-disabilities>

PLEASE, GET IN TOUCH **DIRECTLY**
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