

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Report: 8M birth defects each year

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

About 8 million children worldwide are born every year with serious birth defects, many of them dying before age 5 in a toll largely hidden from view, the March of Dimes says.

Most birth defects occur in poor countries, where babies can languish with problems easily fixed or prevented in wealthier nations, according to research released Monday by the organization.

But the researchers said some innovative programs in Iran and Chile show that effective preventions don't have to be costly.

Indeed, about 70 percent of birth defects could be either prevented, repaired or ameliorated, they concluded.

"Most people think of birth defects as something that is not preventable."

Dr. Jose Cordero

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on the perception that birth defects can't be avoided, which is refuted in a report released Monday on worldwide rates of such problems

"We were surprised by the toll," said epidemiologist Christopher Howson with the March of Dimes, which sponsored the five-year project after doctors complained that birth defects often are ignored as a public health problem.

Specialists said the report focuses much-needed attention on a concern of every parent-to-be.

"Most people think of birth defects as something that is not preventable," said Dr. Jose Cordero of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. "There are great opportunities to ensure that babies are born healthy."

About 7.9 million children a year are born with serious birth defects caused at least partly by a genetic flaw, such as heart defects, spina bifida and other neural tube defects, sickle cell anemia and Down syndrome.

Undoubtedly hundreds of thousands more are born with defects caused not by genes but by post-conception problems: mothers

infected with rubella or syphilis, which can damage their babies' brains; certain medications or alcohol; lack of dietary iodine. But too few countries count those defects for a good estimate.

At least 3.3 million children under age 5 die each year because of birth defects, and millions more are mentally or physically disabled.

Prevalence ranges from a high of 82 defects per 1,000 live births in Sudan to a low of 39.7 per 1,000 in France. The researchers cautioned that the data aren't precise enough for detailed country-by-country comparisons but cited poor maternal health care, a higher percentage of older mothers and greater frequency of marriage between relatives as leading risks in low- and middle-income countries.

Call

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

calls. Meetings between residents and police officers can offer a chance to discuss when people should call police. Pitcher also hopes managers will enforce procedures to get unruly residents out, he said.

The lesson: Call police only in emergency situations, he said.

The high numbers of calls in the select communities are not just because of a large number of apartments in one area, he said.

Residents who have low incomes and live in reduced-cost housing often use police and emergency services when others would not. For example, the residents often use emergency workers instead of visiting a doctor because many do not have insurance, Pitcher said.

One example is 192-unit Park Greenwood Apartments, located off Fry Road west of U.S. 31. Residents there called police 216 times last year, more than one call per each unit.

The high number of calls is surprising, but what the calls were for should also be analyzed, Park Greenwood Apartments manager Karen Bair said.

Police are most commonly called when someone becomes ill or when fights break out among



Police officer Aaron Wehnert patrols Village Crossing Apartments in Greenwood.

acquaintances, roommates, live-in boyfriends or girlfriends or family members, she said.

Managers at the complex can't tell people how to live their lives, but they have partnered with Greenwood police detectives. She said they hope residents can learn from meetings they host, where reasons to call police and any concerns they have about their community are discussed.

Another issue Bair addressed is a difference in renters in the past decade. Renters who used to come into apartments took pride in their community and have

bought homes. The market has changed, and many apartment complexes can't get the best renters anymore, she said.

The complex has not lessened its qualifications for renters. Managers utilize a commonly practiced three-strikes-you're-out policy, where a renter who has had three complaints against them or three violations, such as for being too noisy, is booted out, she said.

Twenty-five recent evictions should reduce the calls at Village Crossing apartments, located off Worthsville Road, west of U.S. 31,

manager Michelle Sumner said.

Last year, residents of the 136-unit community called police 261 times. The high number of calls and reported crimes, such as burglary and drug use, in the area prompted managers to evict problem residents.

New meetings with police are intended to educate people about what officers can do to help residents and how residents can be good neighbors by calling police less often, she said.

At one apartment complex, managers encourage residents to call police when they are frustrated with loud music or screaming matches, said Brenda Coons, marketing director for Edward Rose. The management company is in charge of Polo Run Apartments.

Residents of the 695-unit complex, located off Fry Road west of U.S. 31, called police 538 times last year.

The complex was second only to Westminster Apartments in the number of calls. Residents of the 438-unit community, located off County Line Road, west of U.S. 31, called police 736 times last year.

A high number of calls from Polo Run residents does not necessarily indicate a problem, since many of the calls were for noise reports, she said.

Calls from the complex also were to report burglaries, drug use and theft, according to police records.

Shot

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

would pay when they plat, or officially record, a lot for a new business or home.

Developers and builders pay \$30 per apartment, \$75 for residential lots, \$500 for commercial lots and \$1,000 for industrial lots. Commissioners said in August that they expect the fee would bring in \$185,000 per year.

In the past, Morpew said, the corporation couldn't afford to send someone on trips to other states and countries to recruit new businesses and to talk to the people who help select a city for a business to expand into. She said money from the fee gives her that option.

Morpew said she is planning only one or two trips this year because she wants to start slow.

The trips are planned through Indy Partnership, a group of government and economic development officials from central Indi-

ana, who work together to promote the area.

The group plans trips throughout the year to places like Chicago, New York, California and China.

By traveling with the group, county officials can promote their area to businesses and to consultants who help companies plan where to relocate or build a new facility, she said.

First though, Morpew said, she wants to set aside money for the corporation.

She didn't know exactly how

much would be put aside, but she said the savings could help with large projects or unexpected expenses.

She planned to work with the corporation's board members to develop the \$385,000-per-year budget.

The budget is funded with the new fee money and dues paid by private businesses and members and from taxpayer money from Franklin, Greenwood and the county.

The Daily Journal is a member of the corporation.

Dog

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The family lived in a neighborhood across the street from the Cragens' Foxberry Trace subdivision on Smith Valley Road, Cragen said.

When the Lewises decided not to give the dog back, the two families went to court to decide if the pooch was Schnapps or Shaggy.

Tonia Lewis believed the dog had been abandoned by its family, according to Greenwood attorney Lewis Gregory, who represented Lewis, an acquaintance, for free.

The family found the dog in bad shape in June and made several efforts to find the owner, Lewis said. They called the animal shelter, had the dog scanned for an identification chip, put ads in area newspapers and hung notices at area veterinary clinics, she said.

Lewis had the dog groomed and made sure it had its shots and was neutered.

"It became a member of their home," Gregory said.

After weeks of checking with the local animal shelter, Lewis said people working at the shelter told her the dog could probably be theirs.

Lewis said that when she went trick-or-treating, the family didn't act like they knew the dog, so she was surprised when she got a call later that night from the Cragens.

She decided to try to keep custody of the dog because she believed it had been neglected and abandoned, and her children had developed strong attach-

ments to the pup, who even slept with the kids, Lewis said.

Though both families had been checking in with the animal shelter about the pet, somehow their calls were never connected, Cragen said.

Cragen brought pictures of the family with the dog and video of the pooch to court but was warned that it might not be enough evidence to prove they owned the puppy.

Since the white dog wasn't found with his identification tags and collar and he didn't have an ID chip, Cragen said they had to figure out another way to prove it was Schnapps.

Cragen knew that his missing dog was a purebred and wondered if he could use DNA testing to prove that the white pup in question was related to the mother and father dogs used by the Indianapolis breeder.

Though Cragen got some laughs when he raised the question in court, Magistrate Court Judge Richard Tandy agreed that Lewis had to make the pet available for DNA testing if the process existed, Cragen said.

Cragen eventually found a center that did doggy DNA testing at

the University of California and sent off for the \$525 kit, which cost \$175 per dog.

The pup and his mother and father were brought in for the test, which had to be performed by a certified veterinarian and witnessed by a police officer or animal control officer.

A few weeks later the test results came back, proving that the white dog in question was Schnapps.

At a Jan. 24 hearing, Tandy ruled the pooch should be returned to the Cragens after they paid Lewis \$1,166.32 for her time boarding and caring for the dog.

Tandy said he had never heard of dog DNA testing and was unaware of any other cases using it in Johnson County.

"I guess modern technology's caught up with us here," Tandy said.

Given the original cost of the dog, DNA testing kits, and attorney and court fees, Cragen estimated that the family will have paid about \$3,000 to get Schnapps back.

But Cragen said it's not about the money.

The case was about making sure Schnapps could be returned to his family because it was the

right thing to do, he said.

"It's not a very smart business decision," Cragen said. "(But) if you're a dog owner, you know you don't want somebody else to have your dog."

Lewis said she believed the Cragens gave up their rights for the dog when they didn't appear to be looking for it.

"I didn't think it was right," Lewis said. "I thought we ought to stand up for the dog."

FRANKLIN

Thelma Lois Bell

Thelma Lois Bell, 79, passed away Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006, at Franklin United Methodist Community.

She was born May 7, 1926, in Russell County, Ky., to the late Jesse Monroe and Mary Ethel (Williams) Brown. She married Eugene Bell. He survives. Other survivors include a son, the Rev. Richard (Susan) Bell; a daughter, Beth (Todd) Bell Duncan; a sister, Lela Joyce Puckett; and a grandson, Mitchell Duncan.

Thelma had been a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Greenwood and Workbasket Home Extension Club.

Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Franklin United Methodist Community. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Franklin United Methodist Community. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Arrangements are entrusted to Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Franklin United Methodist Community, 1070 W. Jefferson St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Online condolences may be made to the Bell family at www.wilsonstpierre.com.

GREENWOOD

Randy K. Spurlock

Randy K. Spurlock, 47, of Greenwood, passed away Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006.

He was born Sept. 22, 1958, to Hermon and Norma S. (Allen) Spurlock. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Tracy J.



SPURLOCK

(Grooms); his son, Andrew J.; his parents, Hermon and Norma S. (Allen) Spurlock; his brother, Hermon M. Spurlock; his grandmother, Cleda P. Allen; and his mother- and father-in-law, Larry and Gloria Grooms.

Randy was an engineer at Johnson Controls.

He was a member of Lakeview Church, where he was involved in many activities.

Services will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Friday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lakeview Church.

INDIANAPOLIS

Richard W. Stahl

Richard W. Stahl, 75, died Monday, Jan. 30, 2006. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Arrangements are pending at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home.

GREENWOOD

Victoria Storey

Victoria Storey, 51, died Monday, Jan. 30, 2006. She was a resident of Greenwood.

Arrangements are pending at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home.

Franklin

Thelma Lois Bell, 79

Greenwood

Randy K. Spurlock, 47

Victoria Storey, 51

Indianapolis

Richard W. Stahl, 75

Whiteland

Robert H. Vaught, 80

WHITELAND

Robert H. Vaught

Robert H. Vaught, 80, died Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at Franklin United Methodist Community. He was a resident of Whiteland.

He was born Jan. 21, 1926, in Whiteland to the late Lawrence and Ada (Baughman) Vaught. He married Rose Mary (Wright) Vaught on April 17, 1949. She survives. Other survivors include three daughters, Brenda (Alan) Smith of Whiteland, Mary (J.R.) Patrick of Whiteland and Shirley (Kenny) Holt of Greenwood; one brother, Don (Virginia) Vaught of Whiteland; one brother-in-law, James Tinkle of Greenwood; six grandchildren, Angie Boltz, Brady Vermeulen, Kristie Gentry, Amanda Patrick, and Trevor and Caroline Holt; and nine great-grandchildren, Ashley and Ammariah Arthur, Brett, Brayton and Griffin Gentry, Nathaniel Boltz, and Mali, Kali and Riley Vermeulen. He was preceded in death by a sister, Betty Tinkle.

He was a U.S. Army veteran. He worked for Chrysler Corp. for 37 years as a process engineer, retiring in 1981.

He was a member of Community Congregational Church, Jubilee Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite.

He enjoyed fishing, gardening, boating and traveling to Florida in the winter.

The Rev. Art Stratton will conduct a funeral service at 11 a.m. Thursday at Jessen Funeral Home, Franklin Chapel, 197 E. Jefferson St. in Franklin. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial, with military graveside rites, will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 9135 N. Meridian St., Suite B4, Indianapolis, IN 46209; or Community Congregational Church, 4592 N. Hurricane Road, Franklin, IN 46131.

Information: 346-6155

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

KEEPSAKES

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Weekday copies are 50 cents, and Weekend copies are \$1 each, and can be picked up at the newspaper office or delivered to your home for a nominal fee.

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Rachael Hope Valentine

January 31, 2006

"I love you in a place that has no space or time. I love you for my life. You are a friend of mine."

—Loren Russell

Loving you as always,
Mom, Dad, Staci, Vijay, Jatin, and Michael

