Exercise 6 (birth defects)


1. Why do the authors use the word *prevalence* on this figure?

2. How could an ideal (not necessarily very feasible) study of incidence (as opposed to prevalence) of birth defects be designed?

3. Suppose that vitamin A protects fetuses with spina bifida or anencephaly from death in utero. What would be the impact of this protective effect on the apparent association between vitamin A and anencephaly/spina bifida in a prevalence sample of surviving babies observed at birth?

You should devote 4-5 hours to this assignment. Assignments received after the lecture on September 27th will receive a maximum mark of 50%.

Please submit your assignment electronically at epib591.eboh@mcgill.ca.

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MacMahon, Trichopoulos 1996