



Anencephaly Investigation

Central Washington, 2010-2015

Advisory Committee Meeting
March 12, 2015

Cathy Wasserman, PhD, State Epidemiologist for Non-Infectious Conditions

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY



Surveillance Update

- We continue to track pregnancies affected with neural tube defects.
- We will have our next updated number of confirmed cases in the 3-county area as well as updated state numbers based on vital records and 2014 rates when we next meet in April.

Investigation Update

- To date, we've completed 11 interviews and have another scheduled.
- Two women have declined to participate
- Remaining women we continue to try to contact for an interview.

Investigation Update

- We continue to work on obtaining comparison data collected as part of the National Birth Defects Prevention Study.
- We have looked at the water supply for the 53 pregnancies identified to date. Our records indicate that 80% of these women are on public water supplies.

Prevention Update

- Provider Outreach continues
- DOH is working with a public relations firm to purchase air time and disseminate radio novelas in Spanish. These novelas are focused on preconception health messages and were developed and tested by the Oregon Dept of Health.
- Folic Acid fortification of corn masa flour

To provide comments or questions,
please contact:

Cathy Wasserman, PhD MPH
State Epidemiologist for Non-Infectious Conditions
Washington State Department of Health
PO Box 47890
Olympia, WA 98504-7890
cathy.wasserman@doh.wa.gov