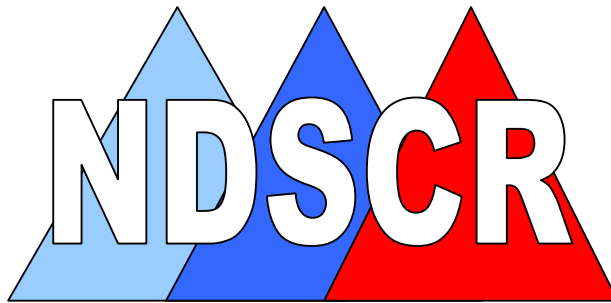


The National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register

2005 Annual Report

(data collection funded by the National Screening Committee)



Web site: www.wolfson.qmul.ac.uk/ndscr

Phone: ++44 (0) 207 882 6274 / 6220

Fax: ++44 (0) 207 882 6221

Email: ndscr@qmul.ac.uk

Foreword

This 2005 annual report contains information about the NDSCR – who we are and what we do as well as detailed data on all reported cases of Down syndrome diagnosed cytogenetically from 1989 to 2005 and cases of Edwards syndrome (trisomy 18) and Patau syndrome (trisomy 13) diagnosed in 2004 and 2005.

We would like to thank all the individuals who contribute to the NDSCR to make it such a valuable resource. We hope that we can continue to count on their collaboration.

Joan Morris – Director NDSCR
Eva Alberman
David Mutton
Haiyan Wu
Annabelle Stapleton
Beth Crane
George Savva

Executive Summary

- The NDSCR is approved to gain support under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and has ethical approval from Trent MREC.
- The NDSCR has continued to maintain a near complete record of all Down syndrome diagnoses in England and Wales in 2005.
- In 2005 there were 1,829 diagnoses of Down syndrome, of which 60% were prenatally diagnosed.
- In 2005 there were 731 Down syndrome live births rate, a live birth rate of 1.1 per 1000 (these figures are provisional as there are a large number of missing outcome forms).
- In 2005 there were 165 diagnoses of Patau and 428 diagnoses of Edward's syndrome of which 22 and 40 respectively were live births.
- At present the large number of missing outcomes is unacceptable. We hope that by working with the local screening co-ordinators we will be able to reduce this and prevent it from occurring in future years.
- Data collection by the NDSCR is funded by the National Screening Committee. The NDSCR is working with the regional and local screening co-ordinators to help them fulfil their audit function.

Contents

The NDSCR

- Introduction
- Aims of the NDSCR
- How the NDSCR works
- What data are collected
- Data completion and processing
- Data confidentiality and informed consent
- How the data are used
- The NDSCR steering committee

The data in the NDSCR

- Down syndrome cases diagnosed in 2005
- Patau and Edwards syndrome cases diagnosed in 2005
- Regional differences in cases diagnosed in 2005
- Trends over time in Down syndrome diagnoses

Appendices

- A – List of cytogenetic laboratories in England and Wales
- B – Data completeness
- C – New form
- D – NDSCR publications
- E – Useful websites

Introduction

The NDSCR is based at the Centre for Environmental and Preventive Medicine, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, Queen Mary's in London. The register is funded by the National Screening Committee.

Aims of the NDSCR

The NDSCR was started in 1989 and we aim to collect all cytogenetic or DNA reports of trisomies 21, 18 and 13 and their cytogenetic variants occurring in England and Wales. These data can then be used to help:

- monitor the Down syndrome antenatal screening and diagnostic services and the effect they have on the diagnoses of trisomies 18 (Edwards syndrome) and 13 (Patau syndrome);
- provide data on annual numbers of affected births to help those planning for their health, educational and social care;
- provide information for research into the epidemiology of Down, Edwards and Patau syndromes.

How the NDSCR works

All cytogenetic laboratories in England and Wales collaborate with the NDSCR, and provide, on standard forms, a notification of all prenatal and postnatal diagnoses of Down, Edwards and Patau syndromes. (Appendix A gives a list of all 19 laboratories and a copy of the form used in 2005 is shown in Appendix B). The form is self-copying and has 4 pages. The top copy is sent to the NDSCR by the laboratory, the 2nd (blue) and 3rd (green) are sent to the referring clinician and the 4th (pink) sheet is retained by the laboratory. The clinicians are asked to forward the 3rd (green) copy to the local screening co-ordinator, who is usually based within the Antenatal Unit at referring hospital.

What data are collected

The notification form contains details of the chromosome analysis and some information on the mother and child, including postcode of residence, mother's age, length of pregnancy, the reason for referral for diagnosis and antenatal screening information. To preserve anonymity, the data do not include full names or addresses, but include enough information to enable us to identify duplicate registrations.

Data completion and processing

Follow-up of prenatal diagnoses

We request the referring physicians to inform us of the pregnancy outcome (birth, termination or miscarriage) and the date and gestational age where a prenatal diagnosis has been made. **No direct contact is ever made with the mothers by the NDSCR.**

The data we have on outcome show that after the prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome 94% of affected pregnancies are legally terminated and 6% are continued, some miscarrying naturally and some ending as stillbirths. There is often a time lapse before we are informed of these outcomes (see below).

How the data are stored

The data are entered onto password-protected computers in locked offices. The full data are accessible only to the research team.

Validation of data

In order to ensure high levels of ascertainment, the data are matched with those held by the National Statistics Congenital Anomaly System and some of the Regional Congenital Anomaly Registers. In previous years this has shown the NDSCR data on births to be over 94% complete. Annual lists are sent to the laboratories for them to check that all cases have been registered.

Data quality

The Table in Appendix C gives the proportion of missing data on forms for the years 1989 to 2002 combined; and separately for 2003, 2004 and 2005. This is always highest in the most recent data where the clinicians have not yet been contacted. Requests for missing data are sent out regularly. The major problem is to ascertain the outcome of prenatally diagnosed pregnancies, particularly where the referral has been from a centre other than that where the mother was booked. Missing data for variables other than outcome are rare, with the exception of the numbers of previous pregnancies, a question that may not be seen as relevant to the clinicians, although it is important in terms of risk of recurrence. There have been many changes in postcodes since the start of the register and the same is true for health authority definitions. Regular recoding is carried out to keep these up-to-date.

Speed of reporting

Although most laboratories provide data within six months of the diagnoses we are hopeful that the involvement of the National Screening Committee and local screening co-ordinators will speed up the provision of outcome data, and provide more complete information on pregnancy history. We are also developing a web site to enable the laboratories in the future to complete the forms on the website if they wish.

Data confidentiality and informed consent

Personal information held on a computer system is safeguarded by the Data Protection Act 1998 and the NDSCR is registered under this Act.

The Government has made it clear that informed consent is a fundamental principle governing the use of patient identifiable information. However it also recognises that situations arise where informed consent cannot practicably be obtained. Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 provides a power to ensure that patient identifiable information needed to support essential NHS activity can be used without the consent of patients. The Act requires that the National Patient Information Advisory Group (PIAG) consider applications to use patient identifiable information without full informed consent. Since 2003, the NDSCR as a part of the British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers (BINOCAR) has been given permission to operate without informed consent. In 2005 the application of the NDSCR for ethics approval from the Trent multi-centre research ethics committee (MREC), as part of BINOCAR, was also approved.

How the data are used

Audit of Down Syndrome Screening

- All local screening co-ordinators should receive the green copy of the NDSCR form to assist them in their audit requirements.
- Annual reports are produced describing numbers of prenatal and postnatal diagnoses, and the methods of prenatal screening which led to prenatal diagnoses.
- More detailed information is regularly published in medical journals.

Feedback

- NDSCR leaflets giving information on the trends in Down syndrome diagnosis are produced annually and distributed to cytogenetic laboratories, local screening co-ordinators and clinicians.
- The NDSCR web site is regularly updated.

Recent special studies

In-house studies

- 1) By combining data from the NDSCR and data from registries who are members of EUROCAT (European Concerted Action on Congenital Anomalies and Twins) we are investigating the risk of a woman having a Down syndrome pregnancy given that she has already had a pregnancy affected with trisomy 13 or 18.
- 2) We have demonstrated that the risk of natural fetal loss in Down syndrome pregnancies

increases with the age of the mother more steeply than this risk in chromosomally normal pregnancies.

- 3) By combining data from the NDSCR and data from registries who are members of BINOCAR we are estimating the prevalence of trisomies 13 and 18 according to maternal age and gestational age.
- 4) By combining data from the NDSCR with data from registers who are members of BINOCAR and data from the Office for National Statistics, we are evaluating the completeness of these three sources of data.

Collaborative studies

- 1) We are continuing our collaboration with the National Childhood Cancer Register, to estimate the age-specific risk of leukaemia in children with Down syndrome, where we are able to provide denominator data for children on their register.
- 2) We have helped Dr Jill Ellis of the Institute of Child Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, with a study of the effect of special diets on the development of children with Down syndrome.

Future studies

- 1) In 2005 we started collecting data on whether women had been offered screening and had accepted or rejected the offer. Once more data is available we will be reporting on the completeness and efficacy of screening for Down syndrome in England and Wales.

A list of publications based on, or using NDSCR data, are given in Appendix D.

The NDSCR Steering Committee

A steering committee was established in 2004 to be an independent source for :

- a) Monitoring the progress of the register towards its overall objectives;
- b) Advising on the strategies for the use and development of the register;
- c) Advising on the undertaking and conduct of new research projects;
- d) Providing technical advice.

The membership is :

Dr Joan Morris (Chair – Director NDSCR)
Dr Jenny Kurinczuk, National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit.
Professor Charles Rodeck, Royal Free and University College Medical School
Ms Susannah Seyman, The Down's Syndrome Association.
Dr Jonathan Waters, NE London Regional Cytogenetics Laboratory

The Data in the NDSCR

Down syndrome cases diagnosed in 2005

1829 Down syndrome diagnoses were made in 2005, 1100 (60%) prenatally and 729 (40%) postnatally (Table 1 and Figure 1). The outcome of 362 of the prenatal diagnoses is as yet unknown. Assuming that their proportion terminated remains as before 2005, the likely number of Down syndrome live births in England and Wales in 2005 would have been 753 (25+ 706 + 6% of 361), a prevalence of 1.1 per 1000 in the livebirths occurring in England and Wales in 2005.

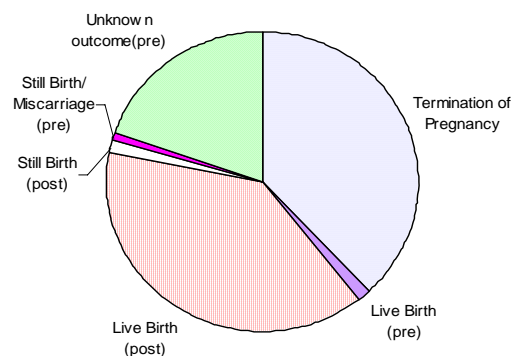
Table 1: Down syndrome cases diagnosed in 2005* by time of diagnoses and outcome

		No.	%
Prenatal	Termination of pregnancy	697	38
	Live Birth	25	1
	Still Birth / Miscarriage	17	1
	Unknown outcome†	361	20
Postnatal	Live Birth	706	39
	Still Birth	23	1
Total		1829	100

* 2005 data are provisional.

† About 6% of those with unknown outcomes are likely to result in a live birth.

Figure 1: Down syndrome diagnoses in 2005* (pre= prenatal diagnosis, post = postnatal diagnosis)



* 2005 data are provisional.

Indication for prenatal karyotyping

The indications for karyotyping reflect the occurrence of different methods of prenatal screening (Figure 2). In 52% of all prenatally diagnosed cases the indication mentioned was an early ultrasound (likely to have been a nuchal translucency (NT) measurement) with or without serum screening, in 8% it was a serum screening test result and in 36% it was an ultrasound at 15 weeks or later.

Gestational age at prenatal diagnoses

Of the 1100 prenatally diagnosed cases, 27% were diagnosed before 13 weeks, 65% before 17 weeks and only 8% over 20 weeks gestation (Table 2). This pattern reflects the type of screening that had led to the prenatal diagnosis.

Table 2: Down syndrome cases diagnosed prenatally according to gestational age at diagnoses in 2005*

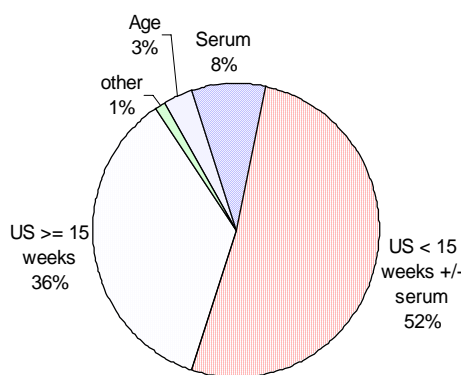
Gestational age (wks)	No.	%
<13	295	27
13-	211	19
15-	204	18
17-	216	20
19-	77	7
21+	95	9
Total	1100	100

* 2005 data are provisional.

Tissue used for karyotyping

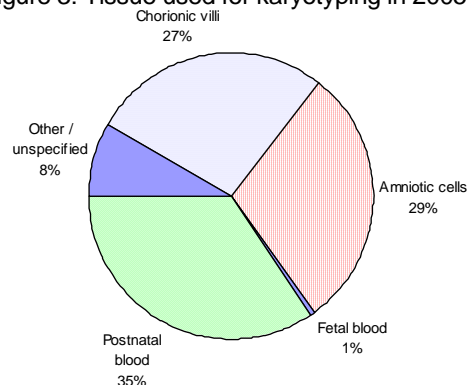
Although in 2005 amniocentesis remained the most common method of sampling fetal cells, chorionic villus sampling was almost as common (Figure 3). The median time from CVS sampling to termination of pregnancy was 7 days compared with 9 days for amniocentesis. 91% of all terminations following CVS were within 14 days of the procedure compared with 79% for amniocentesis.

Figure 2: Indication for prenatal karyotyping in 2005*



* 2005 data are provisional.

Figure 3: Tissue used for karyotyping in 2005*



*2005 data are provisional.

Maternal age at diagnosis

The mean age of the mother at the time of diagnosis of fetal Down syndrome was 37 and 64% (989/1550) of the mothers of known age were between 35 and 44 years (Table 3).

Table 3: Down syndrome cases diagnosed in 2005* according to maternal age at diagnosis

Maternal age (years)	No.	%
<20	28	2
20-	78	4
25-	126	7
30-	292	16
35-	568	31
40-	421	23
45+	37	2
missing	279	15
Total	1829	100

* 2005 data are provisional.

Patau and Edwards syndrome cases diagnosed in 2005

As expected, over 90% of both the Patau and Edwards syndrome diagnoses were made prenatally (Table 4), with only a small proportion of all diagnoses being live births.

Table 4: Patau and Edwards syndrome cases by time of diagnoses and outcome in 2005*.

	Syndrome	
	Patau No.(%)	Edwards No. (%)
Termination (pre)	94 (57)	228 (53)
Live Birth (pre)	3 (2)	2 (0)
Still Birth/ Mis(pre)	5 (3)	11 (3)
NK ⁺ outcome(pre)	42 (25)	144 (34)
Live Birth(post)	19 (11)	38 (9)
Still Birth(post)	2 (1)	5 (1)
Total	165(100)	428 (100)

* 2005 data are provisional; * NK: unknown
pre: prenatal diagnosis; post: postnatal diagnosis

The main indications for karyotyping were an ultrasound scan after 15 weeks (around one half) or an early ultrasound (likely to have been an NT measurement) with or without serum screening (around one third) (Table 5).

Table 5: Prenatally diagnosed Patau and Edwards syndrome cases in 2005: Percent of different indications for karyotyping

Indication for Karyotyping	Syndrome	
	Patau (%)	Edwards (%)
Serum screening alone	2	4
Ultrasound < 15 weeks +/- serum	39	38
Ultrasound 15+ weeks	56	57
Maternal age alone	2	3
Other	1	0

Total	100	100
-------	-----	-----

* 2005 data are provisional.

Regional differences in cases diagnosed in 2005

Table 6 shows the patterns of diagnoses of Down syndrome across England and Wales, according to the mothers region of residence. The proportion of cases diagnosed prenatally varies from 45% in North East GRO to 70% in East of England GRO. Women in the regions with a higher proportion of referrals due to an ultrasound scan before 15 weeks (probably nuchal translucency measures in the first trimester) were more likely to have had a CVS than an amniocentesis.

Trends over time in Down syndrome Diagnoses

Since the register started collecting data on 1st January 1989 the total number of Down syndrome diagnoses has increased steadily partly due to increasing maternal age and partly because of the increase in prenatal diagnosis. The proportion diagnosed prenatally has risen from 30% in 1989 to 60% in 2005, and the numbers from 321 to 1084 in 2005. (Table 7 and Figure 4) Since the rate of natural fetal loss in Down syndrome is very high, the potential losses in those diagnosed and subsequently terminated early must be adjusted for before looking at the maternal age-related risk and having a Down syndrome birth. When this is done it is evident that although the numbers of Down syndrome diagnoses are rising annually, the maternal age-related risk of having a Down syndrome birth has remained constant since 1989.

There was an increase in the proportion of mentions of a serum test only as an indication for karyotyping from only 6% in 1989 to just under 40% from 1993 to 1996 (Table 8). This proportion then decreased with the introduction of nuchal translucency measurements as a screening test. In 2005 a serum test only was mentioned as an indication for prenatal diagnosis in 8%, with 52% mentioning an ultrasound before 15 weeks (with or without serum screening). The use of maternal age alone as an indication for karyotyping is decreasing steadily, and in 2005 it was given as an indication in only 3% of prenatal diagnoses.

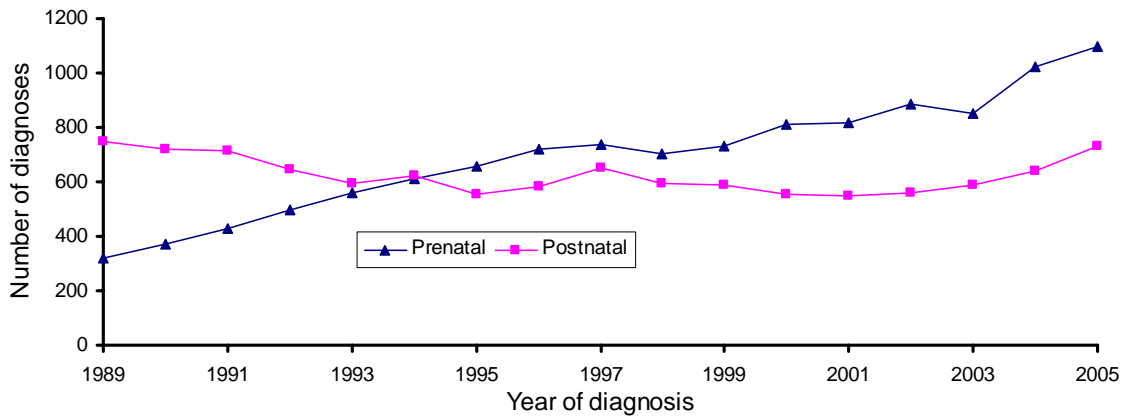
As the screening tests are being done at earlier gestations, an increasing number of women are having chorionic villus sampling (CVS) instead of amniocentesis, the ratios being 18% CVS to 77% amniocentesis in 1989, and 46% to 50% respectively in 2005. (Table 8)

Table 6: Down syndrome diagnoses in 2005 according to Government Regional Office (GRO)*

Government Regional Office	No. of diagnoses	% of prenatal diagnoses	% of Indication for Karyotyping				% of tissue sampled	
			Serum	Ultrasound <15 weeks +/- serum		Age only reason	CVS	Amnio
				Ultrasound 15+ weeks				
North East	55	45	16	28	48	8	14	71
North West	199	47	7	37	44	11	22	74
Yorkshire and the Humber	118	51	33	33	28	5	31	69
East Midlands	125	57	12	47	34	6	39	59
West Midlands	172	60	23	36	35	4	25	72
East of England	182	70	7	50	43	0	50	48
London	359	66	4	69	25	1	64	33
South East	299	63	1	66	30	2	59	38
South West	161	63	4	48	44	2	47	47
Wales	91	59	10	39	45	6	26	68
Unknown	68	57	0	39	55	5	58	37
Total	1,829	60	8	52	36	3	46	50

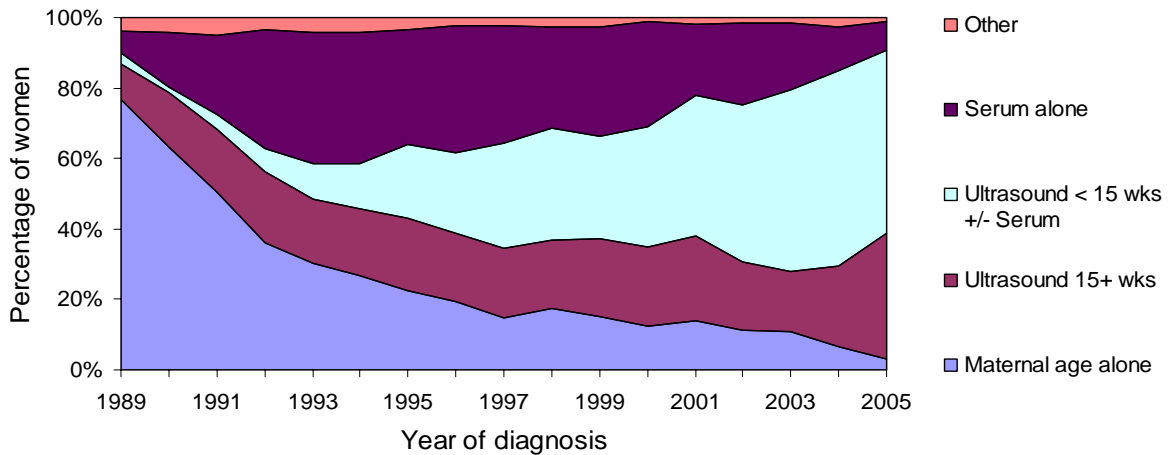
* 2005 data are provisional.

Figure 4: The number of prenatal and postnatal diagnoses according to year of diagnosis



2005 data are provisional.

Figure 5: Indication for karyotyping according to year of diagnosis



2005 data are provisional.

Table 7: Down syndrome diagnoses and outcomes in England and Wales from 1989 to 2005*

Year	No. diagnoses	% prenatal	No. liveborn	No. TOP	No. Misc*/ Still	No. Unknown outcome
1989	1067	30	750	293	16	8
1990	1095	34	738	328	17	12
1991	1144	38	735	369	31	9
1992	1146	44	662	442	24	18
1993	1155	48	622	507	18	8
1994	1234	50	638	542	29	25
1995	1214	54	579	578	32	25
1996	1304	55	606	651	31	16
1997	1390	53	667	658	40	25
1998	1297	54	632	609	21	35
1999	1315	55	606	642	31	36
2000	1365	59	591	686	23	65
2001	1365	60	571	666	30	98
2002	1448	61	590	686	41	131
2003	1441	59	625	657	31	127
2004	1666	61	661	697	59	249
2005	1829	60	731	697	40	361
Total	22475	52	11004	9708	514	1248

* Only miscarriages after prenatal diagnosis are included.

* 2005 data are provisional.

Table 8: Down syndrome prenatal diagnoses 1989 to 2005*

Year	No. of prenatal diagnoses	% of Indication for Karyotyping				Median gestational age (wks)	% of tissue sampled	
		Serum	Ultrasound		Age only reason		CVS	Amnio
			<15 weeks +/- serum	15+ weeks				
1989	321	6	3	10	77	16	18	77
1990	374	16	2	15	63	16	16	76
1991	430	23	4	18	50	17	15	73
1992	500	34	7	20	36	17	11	79
1993	558	39	10	18	30	17	17	77
1994	613	39	13	19	27	17	23	69
1995	660	35	21	21	22	16	25	69
1996	721	37	23	19	19	16	30	65
1997	739	35	30	20	15	16	35	61
1998	704	30	32	19	18	16	35	61
1999	729	32	29	22	15	16	33	60
2000	811	31	34	23	12	16	37	59
2001	819	20	40	24	14	15	45	52
2002	888	23	44	19	11	15	43	55
2003	850	19	52	17	11	15	47	52
2004	1024	12	56	23	7	15	47	51
2005*	1100	8	52	36	3	15	46	50

* 2005 data are provisional.

Appendix A

List of Cytogenetic Laboratories in England and Wales

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Northern Genetics Service | 11. Norwich Molecular and Cytogenetics Service |
| 2. Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital | 12. South Western Regional Genetics Service |
| 3. Cheshire and Merseyside Genetics Service | 13. NW Thames Regional Genetics Service |
| 4. Yorkshire Regional Genetics Service | 14. NE Thames Regional Genetics Service |
| 5. North Trent Genetics Service | 15. SW Thames Regional Genetics Centre |
| 6. Nottingham Genetics Service | 16. Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust |
| 7. Leicestershire Genetics Centre | 17. Wessex Clinical Genetics and Laboratory Service |
| 8. West Midlands Regional Genetics Service | 18. Cardiff, Wales |
| 9. Oxford Regional Genetics Service | 19. TDL Genetics (Cytogenetics Services up till 20/02/04) |
| 10. East Anglia Regional Genetics Service | |

Appendix B

Data Completeness

The following table shows the completeness of the different data items for the years 1989 to 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. We are still following up the missing data for 2003 and 2004. The data from 1989 to 2002 are included for comparison purposes to demonstrate the levels we are aiming to achieve for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 data.

Table B1: Completeness of data from 1989 to 2005*

Data Item	Percentage complete			
	1989-2002	2003	2004	2005*
Reason for referral for karyotyping	100	100	100	97
Type of tissue karyotyped	100	100	99	95
Sex of fetus (some DNA based diagnoses such as FISH and q-PCR do not include sex chromosome analysis)	100	98	97	97
Maternal age	97	92	91	85
Gestational age at sample for prenatal diagnosis	100	100	100	100
Outcome of pregnancy [†]	97	90	85	80
Gestational age at outcome for prenatal diagnosis	84	70	67	56
Number of previous pregnancies	68	64	64	55
Post Codes (some information)	92	97	92	89
(complete postcodes)	84	89	90	87

* 2005 data are provisional.

[†] A large proportion of the missing outcomes are from one single large private cytogenetic laboratory in London, which analyses samples from women throughout the South East of England. Excluding this lab this percentage complete would be 97%, 96%, 94% and 88% respectively.

Appendix D

NDSCR Publications

1. Mutton DE, Alberman E, Ide R, Bobrow M. Results of first year (1989) of a national register of Down's syndrome in England and Wales. *BMJ* 1991; **303**:1295-7
2. Mutton DE, Ide R, Alberman E, Bobrow M. Analysis of National Register of Down's syndrome in England and Wales: trends in prenatal diagnosis. *BMJ* 1993; **306**: 431-2.
3. Morris JK, Mutton DE, Ide R, Alberman E, Bobrow M. Monitoring trends in prenatal diagnosis of Down's syndrome in England and Wales, 1989-1992. *J Med Screen* 1994; **1**: 233 -7.
4. Alberman E, Mutton D, Ide R, Nicholson A, Bobrow M. Down's syndrome births and pregnancy terminations in 1989 to 1993: preliminary findings. *Br J Obstet Gynaecol* 1995; **102**: 445-7.
5. Huang T, Watts HC, Wald NJ, Morris JK, Mutton D, Alberman E. Reliability of statistics on DS notifications. *J Med Screen* 1997; **4**: 94-97. Subsequent letter in same journal.
6. Williamson P, Harris R, Church S, Fiddler M, Rhind J. Prenatal genetic services for Down's syndrome: access and provision. Steering Committee of the National Confidential Enquiry into Counselling for Genetic Disorders. *Br J Obstet Gynaecol* 1996; **103**:676-83.
7. Smith-Bindman R, Waters J, Mutton D, Alberman E. Trends in the effectiveness and efficiency of prenatal Down syndrome (DS) screening in England and Wales, 1989-1999. *J Med Genet* 2001: Supplement 1 SP33.
8. Mutton DE, Alberman ED, Hook EB. (The National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register and the Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists) Cytogenetic and epidemiological findings in Down syndrome: 1993. *J Med Genet* 1996; **33**: 387-394.
9. Hook EB, Mutton DE, Ide R, Alberman ED, Bobrow M. The natural history of Down syndrome conceptuses diagnosed prenatally which are not electively terminated. *Am J Hum Genet* 1995; **57**: 875-881
10. Morris JK, Wald NJ, Watt HC. Fetal loss in Down's syndrome pregnancies. *Prenat Diagn* 1999; **19**:142-145
11. Morris JK, Alberman E, Mutton D. Is there evidence of clustering in Down syndrome? *Int J Epidem* 1998; **27**: 495-498.
12. Mutton D, Bunch K, Draper G, Alberman E. Children's cancer and Down syndrome. Abstract in *J Med Genet* 1997; **34**: Supplement 1, S65.
13. Hook EB, Cross PK, Mutton DE. Female predominance (low sex ratio) in 47, +21 mosaics. *Am J Med Genet* 1999; **84**:316-319.
14. Vrijheid M, Dolk H, Armstrong B, Abramsky L, Bianchi F, Fazarinc I, Garne E, Ide R, Nelen V, Robert E, Scott JES, Stone D, Tenconi R. Chromosomal congenital anomalies and residence near hazardous waste landfill sites. *Lancet* 2002; **359**, 320-3.
15. Morris JK, Mutton DE, Alberman E. Revised estimates of the maternal age specific live birth prevalence of Down's syndrome. *J Med Screen* 2002; **9**,2-6
16. Alberman E. The National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register (NDSCR) *J Med Screen* 2002; **9**, 97-98 (Editorial)
17. Morris JK, Wald NJ, Mutton DE, Alberman E. Comparison of models of maternal age-specific risk for Down syndrome live births. *Prenat Diagn* 2003;**23**:252-8.
18. Smith-Bindman R, Chu P, Bacchetti P, Waters JJ, Mutton D, Alberman E. Prenatal screening for Down syndrome in England and Wales and population-based birth outcomes. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2003; **189**(4): 980-5.
19. Alberman E, Huttly W, Hennessy E, McIntosh A. The use of record linkage for auditing the uptake and outcome of prenatal serum screening and prenatal diagnostic tests for Down syndrome. *Prenat Diagn* 2003 Oct; **23**(10): 801-6.
20. Kovaleva NV, Mutton DE. Epidemiology of double aneuploidies involving chromosome 21 and the sex chromosomes. *Am J Med Genet* 2005; **134A** (1):24-32.
21. Morris JK, de Vigan C, Mutton DE, Alberman E. Risk of a Down syndrome live birth in women of 45 years of age and older. *Prenat Diagn* 2005; **25**:275-8.
22. Morris JK, Mutton DE, Alberman E. Recurrences of free trisomy 21: Analysis of data from the National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register. *Prenat Diagn* 2005; **25**:1120-8.
23. Savva GM, Morris JK, Mutton DE, Alberman E. Maternal age-specific fetal loss rates in Down syndrome pregnancies. *Prenat Diagn*. 2006;**26**:499-504.
24. Crane B, Morris JK. Changes in maternal age in England and Wales – Implications for Down syndrome. *Down syndrome research and practice* 2006;**10**: 41-43.
25. Morris JK, Mutton DE, Alberman E. The proportions of Down's syndrome pregnancies detected prenatally in England and Wales from 1989 to 2004. *J Med Screen* 2006;**13**:163-5.

Appendix E

Other Useful Websites:

DS Medical Interest Group

www.dsmig.org.uk

Down syndrome Association, UK

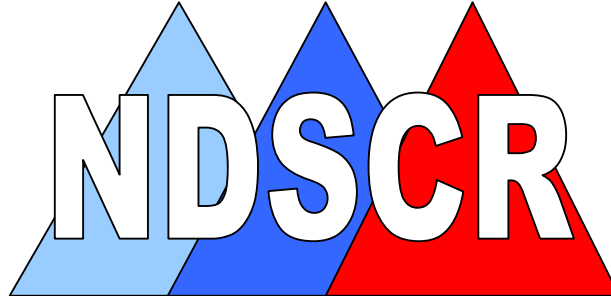
www.dsa-uk.com

Down Syndrome Health Issues

www.ds-health.com

Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists

www.cytogenetics.org.uk



(data collection funded by the National Screening Committee)

Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine
Centre for Preventive and Environmental Medicine
Barts and The London
Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry
Charterhouse Square
London, EC1M 6BQ

Web site: www.wolfson.qmul.ac.uk/ndscr

Phone: ++44 (0) 20 7882 6274 / 6220

Fax: ++44 (0) 20 7882 6221

Email: ndscr@qmul.ac.uk