

**Table 1 Annual rates of spina bifida and other neural tube defects (NTD) in Oman 1991–2006 and percentage changes in the rates after the initiation of folate supplementation for pregnant women (1990) and the initiation of flour fortification (1996)**

Year	Spina bifida			NTD	
	Rate per 1000 births	% change from 1990	% change from 1996	Rate per 1000 births	% change from 1996
1991	2.34	0	-	-	-
1992	2.35	0	-	-	-
1993	4.15	+0.77	-	-	-
1994	3.07	+0.31	-	-	-
1995	4.03	+0.72	-	-	-
1996	3.06	+0.31	-	-	-
1997	2.11	-0.10	1	1.70	1
1998	0.78	-0.66	-0.63	2.21	+0.30
1999	1.50	-0.36	-0.29	2.39	+0.41
2000	0.78	-0.66	-0.63	2.21	+0.30
2001	0.83	-0.64	-0.61	2.28	+0.34
2002	0.71	-0.69	-0.66	2.00	+0.18
2003	0.80	-0.66	-0.62	2.41	+0.42
2004	0.97	-0.59	-0.54	2.96	+0.74
2005	0.78	-0.66	-0.63	2.52	+0.48
2006	0.29	-0.88	-0.86	1.89	+0.11

*Adapted from the annual health statistics of the Ministry of Health, Oman.*