



### 5.3.5 Common Congenital Anomalies - Neural Tube Defects



#### Open Neural Tube Defects

**Examples:**

- Anencephaly
- Encephalocele
- Spinal Bifida - the most common type



#### Closed Neural Tube Defects

**Examples:**

- Lipomyelomeningocele
- Lipomeningocele
- Tethered Cord

*Graphic created by CICH using information from <http://www.chg.duke.edu/diseases/ntd.html>*

Neural tube defects are a group of congenital abnormalities of the central nervous system that result when the bony structure that encloses the spinal cord (the vertebra) does not close completely. The causes of neural tube defects are multifactorial and are influenced by geography, ethnicity, genetics, and nutrition.

