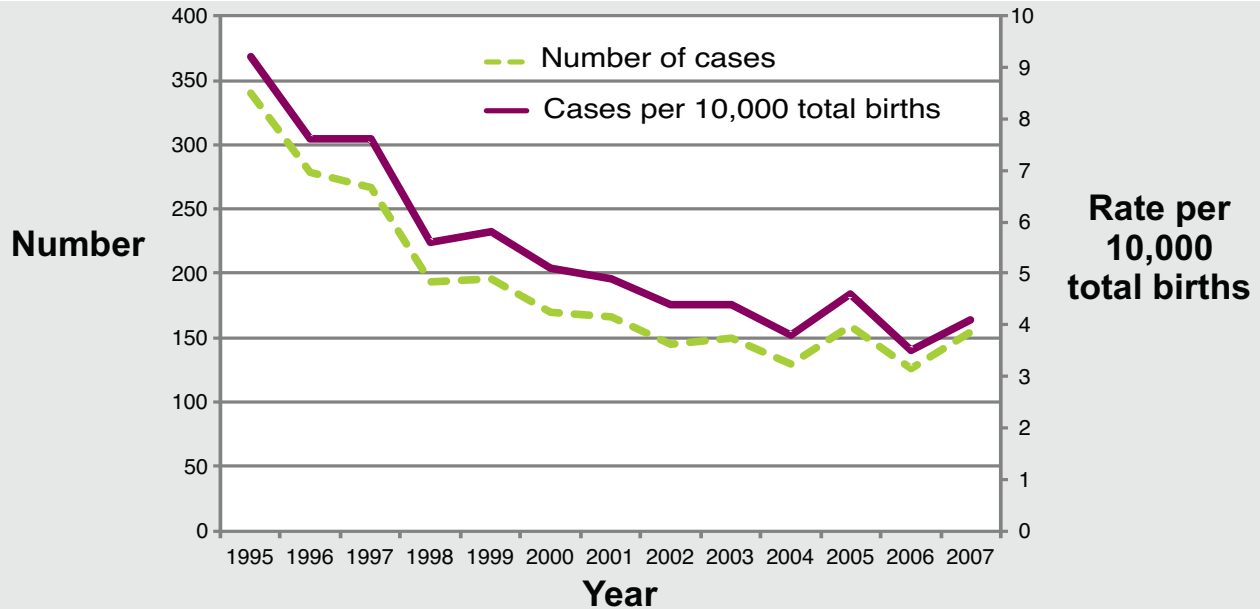




5.3.6 Common Congenital Anomalies - Rate of Neural Tube Defects, Canada, 1995 to 2007*



*Nova Scotia data were not available before 1996.

Graphic created by CICH using data from: *Perinatal Health Indicators for Canada 2011. Years 1998 to 2007. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2012 and Canadian Perinatal Health Report, 2008 Edition. Years 1995 to 1997. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2008.*

In 1999, in Canada, six babies were born with neural tube defects per 10,000 total births, a decline from 11.1 per 10,000 births in 1989. Between 1995 and 2007, the rate of neural tube defects in Canada decreased by about half, to 4.1 from 9.2 per 10,000 total births. Most of the decline occurred between 1995 and 2004, and there has not been a clear trend in rates since. Despite this, much of the decline is attributed to policy-making and education initiatives surrounding the role of folic acid in preventing babies from developing neural tube defects.

