

**Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology**  
**Discussion questions for Lecture 13, 2007**  
**Neural Tube Defects**  
**Guest lecturer: Dr. James Mills**

Mills JL, Signore C. Neural Tube Defect Rates before and after Food Fortification with Folic Acid. *Birth Defects Research (Part A)* 70:844–845 (2004)

Rader JI, Schneeman BO. Prevalence of Neural Tube Defects, Folate Status, and Folate Fortification of Enriched Cereal-Grain Products in the United States. *Pediatrics* 2006;117;1394-1399

Brent RL, Oakley GP. The Folate Debate. *Pediatrics* 2006;117;1418-1419

1. What data would you need to decide whether or not to increase the level of food fortification if you were the public health official making the decision? Are the data available?
2. What would be your concerns regarding adverse effects and how would you monitor for them?