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Eppie Lederer

Personal Memo Form
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

MAR 23 1989

RISKS at BIRTH.

Those numbers seem very high; but it's a tricky question: or should I say, what is the question?

Probably every one of us is walking around with genetic factors that give us predisposition to some, resistance to other diseases. Half the population has an I.Q. below or = 100. I don't see what that has to do with surrogacy!

In terms of what is commonly understood as "birth defect" I would have put the risk in the range of 3-5%; but this does not include, e.g., the 10% of babies with low birth weight mostly preventable with better health care.

You ought to ask the March of Dimes for their "official" figures. * see P.S.

All the above is for live births ("children born"). If you include still births and earlier gestational losses, the figures are of course much higher! See enclosed.

Yours, John.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY NEW YORK 10021

(x)(z) $\bar{x}$..

Personal Memo from

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

P.S.

* Some of their publications cited "malformations detectable at birth" up to 20% but I am sure this includes many conditions that are not disabling (and excludes the predispositions that give problems only in later life.)

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