**RESULTS**

- Birth prevalence of CARS was 4.11 per 1,000 births for 2000–2011 \((n=2,993, 95\% \text{ CI } 3.97–4.26)\).
- Stable temporal trend for CARS \((p=0.2; 2000: 3.88 [n=226, 95\% \text{ CI } 3.39–4.42]; 2011: 4.23 [n=261, 95\% \text{ CI } 3.73–4.77])\).
- Most common CARS anomalies were:
  - Orofacial clefts (32.8 percent),
  - Severe congenital heart disease (31.4 percent), and
  - Digestive malformations (22.0 percent).
- Of the six individual anomalies, only gastroschisis was significantly higher in 2011 than in 2000 \((p=0.02)\).

**CONCLUSION**

The prevalence of CARS in New Zealand is comparable to rates observed for the English EUROCAT registers; however, the stable trend contrasts to the decreases seen for Europe.

The requirement for paediatric surgical services for congenital conditions is not presently monitored for New Zealand. This study highlights the continued need for these services; in particular, the increasing need for urgent post-delivery surgery for babies born with gastroschisis.

This study reports CARS as diagnosed at birth, and consequently may underestimate prevalence. Extension of the indicator criteria from birth to diagnosis up to one year of age, and identification of terminations of pregnancy for fetal anomaly, warrant further investigation.