now a new study has shown that around 2000 cases of serious birth defects such as spinal bifida could have been prevented if the UK government had followed advice to fortify flour with folic acid 78 countries including the United States had folic acid to cereal grain and flour with many health experts believe in the UK should follow suit with more here is our health correspondent Dominic Hughes spinal bifida occurs when a baby is still in the womb and is known as a new or tube defects which could also affect the brain

**12/18/2015 04:07:29**

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very often in these cases lead to termination stillbirth the death of a newborn baby or very serious disability some protection can come from Foley cast it naturally present in some foods cereals and whole milk bread but it's hard to consume enough bit computing natural sources so the Department of health has been advising pregnant women to take for the cast to supplement since 1990 to the new search suggest that as many as 28 % of women ignore that advice and don't take phone Kassig while pregnant in 1998 the authority's in the United States started adding folic acid to flour for bread and since then has seen a dramatic ball and babies develop the neural tube defects if the UK had adopted a similar policy researchers say that since 1998 more than 2000 cases would have been avoided is getting to win in the basically healthy before they're pregnant but we have around

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Thank you see things countries to lump and it is always a tool to need not fear a sustained the heated campaign I've been a new gleaming means the effects are only as I even again in the government has nearly head of successive governments have been advised to follow the US example and introduce a catsuit allow for Brett most recently known to favour Palmer of Health in England says it still considering the latest recommendations