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In this issue of the journal some informative data about the thalassemia prevention program in Iran have been provided by Miri et al. Based on their data the birth rate of thalassemia has decreased from 834 to 239 cases between 1996 and 2009. It means that a great success has been achieved by Iranian health authorities in controlling this disease. Miri divided 14 years of the prevention programs to three phases: the screening period (1996-1999), the stability period (2000-2005) and the success period (2006-2009).

The success rate of prevention according to the presented data is 82% but we still observe more than 200 new cases of thalassemia annually. Based on some recent information (unpublished data) the number of new cases of thalassemia is still more than 200 annually and we believe that during the last 5 years we have not had more success or improvement in the trend of prevention. The failure to progress in controlling thalassemia in recent years should be evaluated by health care authorities to find the causes of the program failure in some provinces. We need more research in this field to better understand the epidemiology of thalassemia in different parts of IRAN in order to implement the needed modifications in the national program.

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