

CHD FACTS

Produced by Little Hearts, Inc. SM

Reference: March of Dimes

WHAT IS A CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT (CHD)?

Congenital means it is present at birth. Heart defects begin in the early part of the pregnancy when the baby's heart is forming.

HOW MANY BABIES ARE BORN WITH A CHD?

Approximately 40,000 babies are born each year in the United States with a congenital heart defect (CHD). That equates to 1 out of 100 babies born have a heart defect.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE BIRTH DEFECT

Congenital heart defects.

IS THERE A PRENATAL TEST FOR CHD?

An echocardiogram can accurately detects many heart defects, however, this test is performed by a specialized doctor and not an obstetrician. However, some heart defects can be detected though routine ultrasound.

HOW MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHD ARE THERE?

There are approximately 35 different types of congenital heart defects.

HOW ARE CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS TREATED?

Today, most heart defects can be corrected or helped with surgery, medicine or devices, such as artificial valves and pacemakers. In the last 25 years, advances in treatment of heart defects have enabled half a million U.S. children with significant heart defects to survive into adulthood.

WHAT CAUSES A CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT?

Unfortunately, they have not determined what causes heart defects, however, it is guessed that genetic and environmental factors play a role.



A non-profit organization for families affected by a congenital heart defects

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