

# CHD Facts

**Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week**

**February 7-14**

## WHAT IS A CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT (CHD)?

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

## HOW MANY BABIES ARE BORN WITH A CHD?

CHDs are the most common birth defect. Approximately 40,000 babies are born yearly in the United States with a CHD. That is about 1 in 100 babies that will be born with heart defects.

## ARE THERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHD?

There are approximately 35 different types of CHD. Some are mild, while others are severe. Many occur without any other problems. Some CHDs happen in combination with different birth defects, growth and developmental problems.

## WHAT CAUSES A CHD?

The cause of many heart defects is still unknown. Factors like maternal health conditions, maternal infections, exposure to toxins like tobacco and alcohol, certain medications, and some genetic conditions can also contribute to CHD.

## HOW IS A CHD TREATED?

Most heart defects can be corrected or helped with surgery, medicine or other interventions. Advancement in medicine and in the treatment of heart defects have enabled half a million US children with heart defects to survive into adulthood.



For more information on CHDs visit our website and the websites of our partner organizations

