

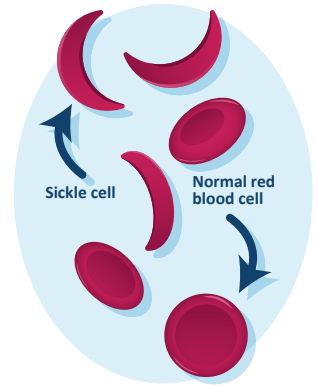
Sickle Cell Progress in Michigan

A Decade of Change (2015-2025)

Where Michigan Started

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the most common inherited blood disorder in Michigan. It was added to the state's newborn screening panel in 1987. Newborn screening is required by law to help find conditions early to support a baby's health. Since then, more than 2,200 Michigan babies have been diagnosed with SCD through screening. Today, about 4,000 people in Michigan are living with SCD.

More than ten years ago, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) set out to better understand the experiences of people living with SCD. The goal of that work was to find gaps in health care and support services. Since then, and with invaluable insight from individuals living with SCD, caregivers, advocates and providers, Michigan has worked to address these gaps through statewide activities aimed at improving the SCD care system.



The Progress Made



Expanded Services

With the help of policymakers, MDHHS secured funding to improve SCD care in Michigan. This support helped more clinics provide specialized care, led to the development of an SCD Center of Excellence, expanded access to important services, and increased coverage through Children's Special Health Care Services. Efforts focused on making the shift from pediatric to adult care easier, increasing access to care teams, expanding transcranial doppler screening options, and providing new therapies or treatments for people with SCD.



Better Data

With support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MDHHS partnered with the Susan B. Meister Child Health Evaluation and Research Center at the University of Michigan to create the Michigan Sickle Cell Data Collection Program. This program tracks health data to guide policy changes and improve care for people with SCD.



Renewed Approach

MDHHS is improving its commitment to SCD with an updated strategic plan, set to be shared in 2025.

Shaping the Future

As MDHHS continues to amplify the voices of people living with SCD, it is clear that there is still more work to do to support impacted Michiganders. For more information about these programs, email genetics@michigan.gov or visit Michigan.gov/SickleCell.

By working together, we aim to:

- Listen to patients and health care providers to understand their needs.
- Support policies and funding to expand SCD care.
- Make resources, education, treatment and support easier to access.