

Did you Know?

- ♥ *Congenital heart defects (CHDs) are problems with the heart's structure that are present at birth.*
- ♥ *CHDs are the most common birth defects globally. CHDs occur in about 1% of births*
- ♥ *Nearly 40,000 infants in the U.S. are born each year with CHDs.*
- ♥ *CHDs are as common as autism and about twenty-five times more common than cystic fibrosis.*
- ♥ *Approximately two to three million individuals are thought to be living in the United States with CHDs. Because there is no U.S. system to track CHDs beyond early childhood, more precise estimates are not available.*
- ♥ *CHDs are the most common cause of infant death due to birth defects.*
- ♥ *Approximately 25% of children born with a CHD will need heart surgery or other interventions to survive.*
- ♥ *Over 85% of babies born with a CHD now live to at least age 18. However, children born with more severe forms of CHDs are less likely to reach adulthood.*
- ♥ *Surgery is often not a cure for CHDs. Many individuals with CHDs require additional operation(s) and/or medications as adults.*
- ♥ *People with CHDs face a life-long risk of health problems such as issues with growth and eating, developmental delays, difficulty with exercise, heart rhythm problems, heart failure, sudden cardiac arrest or stroke.*
- ♥ *Most causes of CHDs are unknown. Only 15-20% of all CHDs are related to known genetic conditions.*



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