

FACTS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

1 IN 700 BABIES

born in the United States is born with Down syndrome - about 6,000 each year. Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition.



Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21. This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.

There are
3 types of
Trisomy 21

95%
Trisomy 21
(nondisjunction) nondisjunction
accounts for 95% of cases)

4%
Translocation

1%
Mosaicism

Down syndrome occurs in people of all demographics, including race and economic level.

People with Down syndrome have an increased risk for certain medical conditions such as:

congenital heart defects, respiratory and hearing conditions, Alzheimer's disease, childhood leukemia, and thyroid conditions. Many of these conditions are treatable, so most people with Down syndrome lead long and healthy lives.



The incidence of births of children with Down syndrome increases with the age of the mother.

But due to higher fertility rates in younger women, 80% of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35.

All people with Down syndrome experience a degree of cognitive delay, but the effect is usually mild to moderate and is not indicative of the strengths and talents that each unique individual possesses.

Some common physical traits of Down syndrome are:

- Low muscle tone small stature
- Upward slant to the eyes
- Single deep crease across the center of the palm

However, every person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees or not at all.

People with Down syndrome are valuable, active, and contributing members of their communities, schools, houses of worship, and workplaces.



Quality, welcoming, and inclusive educational programs, a stimulating home environment, good health care, and positive support from family, friends, and the community enable people with Down syndrome to lead fulfilling and productive lives.



People with Down syndrome attend school, work, worship, play, make decisions that affect themselves, have meaningful relationships, vote, and are active in their communities in a variety of ways.

