



Congenital Heart Defects: Make Sure Children Get the Care They Need

Did you know?



About **40,000 babies** are born with a heart defect every year in the United States.¹ Heart defects are the most common type of birth defect.



Researchers estimate that about **1 million children** in the United States are living with a heart defect.²



Children with heart defects need to **see a pediatric cardiologist regularly** — even when they're feeling fine. But many of them aren't getting cardiac care at all.

3 Steps to Connect Children with Heart Defects to Cardiac Care

As a primary care physician, you have an important role to play in connecting children with heart defects to congenital cardiac care. Take these steps to help children with heart defects get the care they need:

- 1** Ask parents and caregivers if their child is seeing a pediatric cardiologist — and emphasize how important lifelong congenital cardiac care is.
- 2** Refer children who are not getting the care they need to a pediatric cardiologist.
- 3** At every touchpoint with children who have heart defects, continue to stress the importance of seeing a pediatric cardiologist.

To learn more, check out aap.org/CHDcare, cdc.gov/heartdefects, or chphc.org.



¹[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0735-1097\(01\)01272-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0735-1097(01)01272-4)

²<https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.115.019307>