

SICKLE CELL DISEASE

FACTS AND STATS



WHAT?

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder in which red blood cells may become sickle-shaped and harden. For a baby to be born with sickle cell disease, both parents must carry a sickle cell trait. Sickle cell disease is not contagious, and there is no universal cure.

The Facts

- About **1 in 13** African Americans carry the sickle cell trait and many do not know they have it
- Estimated **100,000** in U.S. have SCD
- Approximately **2,000** babies born with SCD annually in the U.S.
- On average, diagnosis is made at **birth**
- **8%** of African Americans are carriers
- Latinos have the **second** most common incidence in the U.S.

The blockage of blood flow caused by sickled cells leads to complications including:

- Chronic severe and unpredictable pain
- Anemia
- Frequent infections
- Swelling in extremities
- Fatigue
- Delayed growth
- Vision problems/blindness
- Lung tissue damage
- Kidney disease
- Stroke
- Shortened life expectancy

WHERE?

- Sickle cell disease is a global health problem

Staying healthy with sickle cell disease involves:

- Pain management
- Blood transfusions
- Self-care including eating well, exercising and drinking water

The search for a cure...

Bone marrow (stem cell) transplants can, in some cases, cure sickle cell disease, but not all individuals are eligible for this procedure and there are associated risks. Read more about this NIH initiative:

www.curesickle.org