

Down Syndrome Fact Sheet

Down syndrome is the most common chromosomal abnormality.

Down syndrome occurs in approximately one in 800 live births.

In the US alone, approximately 5000 babies are born with Down syndrome each year.

People with Down syndrome have an extra 21st chromosome.

Between 85% and 95% of persons who receive a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome choose to terminate the pregnancy, based on information available to them.

Most persons with Down syndrome have some degree of mild to moderate cognitive disability.

Some people with Down syndrome go on to college after high school.

Advances in medicine and education; along with powerful grass roots parent organizations, have dramatically changed the potential of persons with Down syndrome.

As medical research has emphasized windows of opportunity for learning specific skills, educators have developed methods for augmenting the natural learning to maximize the potential of each child with Down syndrome.

About half of babies with Down syndrome have congenital heart defects; many requiring complex surgery.

Some teens with Down syndrome have obtained driver's licenses.

In the 1980's, with the advent of inclusion in public schools, employment in the private sector, and integration in sports and social organizations, much of society began to see or know someone with Down syndrome.

Good information and access to appropriate resources dramatically improves the success of children with Down syndrome.