NCBDDD is committed to helping individuals with congenital heart defects in each phase of life, through public health tracking, research, prevention, and intervention.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
Congenital heart defects are common, costly, and critical conditions that affect people throughout their lives.

- Every 15 minutes, a baby is born with a congenital heart defect in the United States.
- In 2013, hospital costs exceeded $6 billion to care for children with congenital heart defects.
- More than 2.4 million U.S. children and adults are living with congenital heart defects.
- About 20-30% of people with congenital heart defects have other physical problems or problems with achieving skills, learning, or understanding.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?
NCBDDD is learning more about congenital heart defects through public health tracking and research to develop interventions to help prevent congenital heart defects and improve the lives of those living with these conditions.

- NCBDDD has worked with programs to evaluate and conduct newborn screening for critical congenital heart defects and conducted a cost-effectiveness analysis.
- About 1 in 4 babies with congenital heart defects have critical congenital heart defects that might be identified through screening by pulse oximetry.
- NCBDDD funds 14 of 43 state programs to track birth defects, including congenital heart defects.
- Pooling data across states helps us see the national picture. For example, we know that more than 1,600 U.S. babies are born with tetralogy of Fallot (a critical congenital heart defect) each year.
- NCBDDD funds several research centers across the nation to help understand the causes of birth defects, including congenital heart defects.
- For example, we found a 2-fold increased risk for hypoplastic left heart syndrome (another critical congenital heart defect) in babies of mothers who took opioid pain medications early in pregnancy.

- NCBDDD expanded tracking to look at health issues and needs for people of all ages living with congenital heart defects.
- NCBDDD launched CH STRONG, a survey of adults living with congenital heart defects.

While we have learned a lot, much work remains. For more information on congenital heart defects, visit www.cdc.gov/heartdefects.