

# Birth Defects Awareness Month

**120,000 babies are affected by birth defects each year**

Every 4 ½ minutes in the US, a baby is born with a birth defect

- Birth defects are structural changes present at birth that can affect almost any part or parts of the body.
- They may affect how the body looks, works, or both.
- Birth defects can vary from mild to severe

A birth defect can be found before birth, at birth, or any time after birth.  
Most birth defects are found within the first year of life.



## Examples

- Heart Defects
- Cleft Lip or palate - when there's an opening or split in the lip or roof of the mouth
- Spina Bifida - when the spinal cord doesn't develop properly
- Clubfoot - when the foot points inward instead of forward
- Down Syndrome - causes delay in physical and mental development
- Sickle Cell Disease - occurs when the red blood cells become misshapen
- Cystic Fibrosis - damages the lungs and digestive system