

DOWN SYNDROME

WHAT IS DOWN SYNDROME

There are hundreds of thousands of people in the United States living with Down syndrome today. With improved standards of living and health care, and inclusion in family and community life, that number grows as people with Down syndrome now live into their sixties. From birth, through childhood, and into adulthood, it is the privilege of Down Syndrome Indiana, Inc. to serve individuals with Down syndrome and their families by providing support, guidance, and a sense of community.



First and foremost, there is nothing a parent could have done to cause or prevent Down syndrome. Down syndrome is a chromosomal condition, named for Langdon Down, the physician who first described it. Approximately 1 in 691 babies born in the world are born with Down syndrome. It occurs in all races, and at all socioeconomic levels.

The majority of people with Down syndrome have trisomy 21, or the three entire copies of chromosome 21, which occurs randomly. You may have heard that older women are more likely to have a baby with Down syndrome. While it is true that the chance to have a baby with Down syndrome increases with age, the majority of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under 30.

For more information about Down syndrome please visit dsindiana.org. You may also contact the Down Syndrome Indiana, Inc. office at (317) 925-7617 or email: info@dsindiana.org.

