

ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

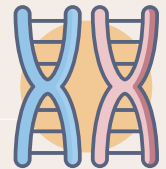
FOR PARENTS | FAMILIES | MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS | COMMUNITY



Down syndrome occurs at conception. People from all different backgrounds and ages have children with Down syndrome.

Our bodies are made up of trillions of cells. In each cell there are tiny structures called chromosomes. The DNA in our chromosomes determines how we develop.

Most people have 23 pairs of chromosomes in each of their cells (46 in total). People with Down syndrome have **47 chromosomes** in their cells. They have an extra chromosome 21, which is why Down syndrome is also sometimes known as trisomy 21.



There is no national data collection on the number of people with Down syndrome in Australia.

According to Western Australia data, there are **13,000 - 15,000** individuals with Down syndrome in Australia as of 2019.



Applying these numbers to the Australian population, **every 10,000 people there are 5.14 people with Down syndrome.** This is similar to other countries like the UK.



Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition.



Approximately **1 in every 1100** babies born in Australia will have Down syndrome.



Each year there are approximately **290 new babies** who have Down Syndrome.



ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

FOR PARENTS | FAMILIES | MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS | COMMUNITY

THE INCIDENCE OF BIRTHS OF CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME **INCREASES** WITH THE AGE OF THE MOTHER.



The chance of a woman conceiving a child with Down syndrome varies from



1 in 1400 for a woman 20 years of age to 1 in 30 at age 45 years.



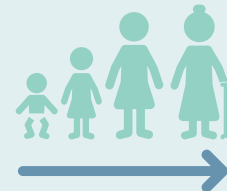
Younger women have babies more frequently, so the majority of babies born with Down syndrome are born to women **under 35 years of age.**



People with Down syndrome are living **longer and healthier** lives than they have in the past.



Life expectancy of people with Down syndrome has dramatically **increased** over the past 50 years



With the average life expectancy of a person with Down syndrome in Australia **being 60 years of age**

