

**Public Health
State Service Center**

LOCATIONS

NEW CASTLE COUNTY:

NORTHEAST

1624 Jessup Street, Wilmington
(302) 577-3536

PORTER

511 West 8th Street, Wilmington
(302) 577-3521

MIDDLETOWN

214 N. Broad Street, Middletown
(302) 378-5200

KENT COUNTY:

WILLIAMS

805 River Road, Dover
(302) 739-4728

SUSSEX COUNTY:

MILFORD

11-13 Church Street, Milford
(302) 422-1331

PYLE

Route 13, Frankford
(302) 732-9512

GEORGETOWN

544 S. Bedford Street, Georgetown
(302) 856-5225

SEAFORD

350 Virginia Avenue, Seaford
(302) 628-2031



Delaware Health & Social Services

Division of Public Health

P.O. Box 637

Dover, DE 19903

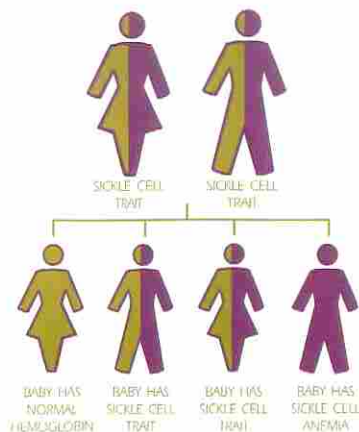
Toll Free in Delaware:

(800) 464-4357

Document Number 35-05-20/02/06/17

Why Should I Know If I Have Sickle Cell Trait?

Chances of Inheriting Sickle Cell Anemia





WHAT IS SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR DISEASE ?

Sickle cell trait is an inherited blood condition. We receive all our genes from our parents when we're born. Sickle cell trait occurs when a newborn receives one abnormal gene from one of its parents. However, sickle cell disease occurs when a newborn receives an abnormal gene from each parent.

A person with sickle cell trait is well, usually does not know he or she has the condition, and could unknowingly pass a gene to the offspring. A person with sickle cell disease will have symptoms.

WHO IS AT RISK FOR HAVING SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR DISEASE ?

Sickle cell disease and trait are conditions found in many races, although most commonly in African-Americans. One out of 12 African-Americans has sickle cell trait.

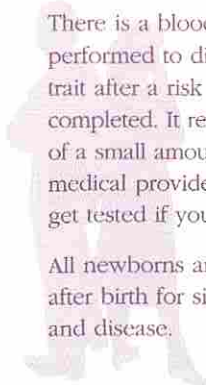


Sickle cell disease is found in people whose ancestors came from Africa, Central and South America, or from countries around the Caribbean Sea such as Puerto Rico, Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica. Others found with this disease have ancestors from Mediterranean Sea countries such as Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Arabia, Iran, Israel and Pakistan. American and Asian Indians are also known to have the disease.

HOW DO YOU TEST FOR SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR DISEASE ?

There is a blood test that is performed to discover Sickle cell trait after a risk assessment is completed. It requires withdrawal of a small amount of blood. Your medical provider can help you get tested if you need to be.

All newborns are tested shortly after birth for sickle cell trait and disease.



AM I AT RISK FOR HAVING A BABY WITH SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR DISEASE ?

If both you and your partner have sickle cell trait, you are at a high risk for having a child with sickle cell disease. It is important that you talk to your medical provider (doctor or nurse).

If you have sickle cell trait, you will not get sickle cell disease, but you may be at risk for having a baby with the disease. If you or your partner have two normal genes, then no child born to the two of you will have sickle cell disease.

Even if you already have children who do not have sickle cell disease, you still might have a baby in the future with the disease, if you and your partner both have the trait.

