



*Where we believe  
it's who you are,  
not what you have!*

*Linda Collins, Founder*

*Have a Heart*

# *Facts*

## About Sickle Cell Disease

Sickle cell disease is found among people of African descent, the Mediterranean basin, Saudi Arabian, Latin American and Asian origin.

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**Greater than 90,000** Americans of different ethnic backgrounds have sickle cell disease.

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**1 out of 500** African Americans have sickle cell disease.

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**1 out of 10** African Americans is a carrier of the sickle cell trait.

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**1 out of 1300** Hispanic Americans have sickle cell disease.

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Sickle Cell Disease is a crippling, painful, horrendous disease that must be eradicated!!

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We must change the negative perception of individuals with sickle cell disease.

# *About*

## Have a Heart For Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation

Established in 1990 by founder Linda Collins, the Have A Heart For Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, is a not for profit organization.

Our vision is to diminish suffering and improve the quality of life for those affected by sickle cell disease.

Our four primary initiatives include:

1. Youth Development
2. Parental Support
3. Sickle Cell Screening
4. Educational Awareness

We raise awareness and provide education about sickle cell disease through seminars, reference material and educational activities. Our goal is to provide continuous education about the disease, its management, and its myriad of issues. Our strategy is to educate our youth so they can become more responsible in managing their disease as they grow older while providing support to their parents and siblings.

# *What*

## is Sickle Cell Disease?

Sickle cell disease is an inherited life long illness that affects the hemoglobin found in red blood cells. Hemoglobin is the part of the blood that carries oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body.

Red blood cells containing normal hemoglobin are soft, round and can squeeze through tiny blood vessels delivering needed oxygen to body tissues.

Red blood cells containing abnormal hemoglobin become stiff and curved in shape and are unable to pass through tiny blood vessels and deliver oxygen to body tissues. This can cause severe pain, damage to the body's organs and even death.

There are many types of abnormal hemoglobin that cause sickle cell disease, the most common is hemoglobin SS, sickle cell anemia. Other forms include hemoglobin SC and the sickle beta thalassemias.

# Mission

Have a Heart for Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation strives to diminish suffering and improve the quality of life for those individuals affected by sickle cell disease. We are committed to raising the public's awareness and providing education to patients, their families, health professionals, legislators, and the general public about sickle cell disease, its management and its challenges. Through these efforts we strive to promote positive patient relationships, thereby empowering them to effectively cope with their illness. Furthermore, we recognize our responsibility to generate funding for research and the continued advancement of medical care in treating sickle cell disease.



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