

SAMHS INFO BULLETIN



Compiled by Corporate Communication

NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME DAY 20 OCTOBER 2012

National Down Syndrome Day is commemorated to create awareness about Down syndrome and to communicate facts about the condition.

Facts about Down syndrome:

- It is also known as Trisomy 21 referring to genetic defect of chromosome 21.
- People with Down syndrome have mild to moderate intellectual disability and a particular set of facial and hand characteristics damage.
- The cause of Down syndrome is not related to age, race, religion or socio-economic situations, but can be discovered during pre-natal screening such as amniocentesis in the period 15-20 weeks of pregnancy.
- One in 1 000 babies born in developed countries and 1 in 650 babies born in developed countries is affected by Down syndrome.
- 80 percent of children affected by Down syndrome are born from mothers under the age of 35, although women over the age of 35 are at a higher risk of having a child with Down syndrome.

- Although Down syndrome cannot be cured, there is a variety of medical care to treat problems associated with the disease.
- Children with Down syndrome can be included in normal schools with regular academic procedures and are able to do paid work.
- People with Down syndrome can live up to the age of 50 to 55.

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