In 2007, 4.1% of all births in Canada, including stillbirths, were affected by one or more congenital anomalies. It is estimated that major congenital anomalies affect an estimated 3% of all births.\(^1\) It is also estimated that this rate increases to 7% by the second year of life.\(^2\)

Children can be born with multiple congenital anomalies that can range from mild to severe to life threatening. Infants born with severe anomalies (e.g., anencephaly, trisomy 13, trisomy 18, or inoperable congenital heart defects) often die. Not all congenital anomalies are serious, and many can be corrected with treatment.
