



5.3.2 Common Congenital Anomalies - Down Syndrome



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Most children with Down syndrome have an extra copy of the 21st chromosome, meaning that instead of two of these chromosomes, they have three, which is referred to as Trisomy 21. About 95% of people with Down syndrome have Trisomy 21. People with Down syndrome have wide variations in mental abilities, behaviour, and development, and their symptoms can range from mild to severe.¹

While the chance of having an infant with Down syndrome increases with maternal age, a baby with Down syndrome can be born to women of any age. It is estimated 80% of children with Down syndrome are born to women younger than 35 years of age.¹

¹ Your Child with Down Syndrome. Canadian Down Syndrome Society. http://www.cdss.ca/images/pdf/brochures/english/your_child_with_down_syndrome_english.pdf

