



SICKLE CELL CLINIC

Trait

What is Sickle Cell Trait?

- Every person has two hemoglobin genes. One gene is given by your mom and one gene is given by your dad. People with sickle cell trait have one normal hemoglobin gene and one sickle cell hemoglobin gene.
- About one out of every 12 African-Americans has sickle cell trait.

Does Sickle Cell Trait Cause Health Problems?

- Most patients with sickle cell trait do not have sickle cell problems.
- Only in extreme cases (severe heat, dehydration, or high altitudes) does sickle cell trait cause problems.
- Sickle cell trait patients do not develop sickle cell anemia.

Will I pass on sickle cell trait?

- If you have sickle cell trait, you will pass one of your genes to a child.
- There is a 50% chance that you will give your child the sickle cell gene and a 50% chance you will give your child the normal gene.
- To better understand your chances for having a child with sickle cell anemia, you will need to know the genetics of your partner.