



# Expand Sickle Cell Disease Data Collection Efforts at CDC

**FACT SHEET**

**Request:** Provide at least \$10 million in dedicated funding in fiscal year (FY) 2023 for the Sickle Cell Data Collection program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and Sickle Cell Trait (SCT)

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited, lifelong disorder affecting nearly 100,000 Americans. Individuals with the disease produce abnormal hemoglobin which results in their red blood cells becoming rigid and sickle-shaped and causing them to get stuck in blood vessels and block blood and oxygen flow to the body. SCD complications include severe pain, stroke, acute chest syndrome (a condition that lowers the level of oxygen in the blood), organ damage, and in some cases premature death. Though new approaches to managing SCD have led to improvements in diagnosis and supportive care, many people living with the disease are unable to access quality care and are limited by a lack of effective treatment options.

Sickle cell trait (SCT) is not a disease. Having SCT simply means that a person carries a single gene for sickle cell disease (SCD) and can pass this gene along to their children. People with SCT usually do not have any of the symptoms of SCD and live a normal life.

## CDC Current Activities and Funding History

CDC has established a population-based surveillance system to collect and analyze longitudinal data about people living in the U.S. with SCD. Currently eleven states participate in the data collection program, with data being collected from multiple sources (e.g., newborn screening programs and Medicaid) in order to create individual healthcare utilizations profiles. Funding through the CDC Foundation has allowed Georgia and California to collect data since 2015; additional CDC Foundation funding, along with discretionary funding from CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and \$2 million in funding provided by Congress in the FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act has allowed nine additional states (Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin) to begin their data collection programs. These eleven states are estimated to include just over 35% of the U.S. SCD population.

## Expanding CDC's SCD Surveillance and Outreach and Education Programs

Strengthening and expanding current efforts will help enable individuals living with this disease to receive adequate care and treatment. A provision in the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2018 (P.L. 115—327), which was signed into law in December 2018, authorizes CDC to award SCD data collection grants to states, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations to gather information on the prevalence of SCD and health outcomes, complications, and treatment that people with SCD experience.

Additional federal funding for CDC's SCD Data Collection Program is necessary to allow the program to be expanded to include additional states with the goal of covering the majority of the U.S. SCD population over the next five years. Surveillance is necessary to:

- Improve understanding of the health outcomes and health care system utilization patterns of people with SCD
- Increase evidence for public health programs and establish cost-effective practices to improve and extend the lives of people living with SCD