

Risk of abnormalities in the 'normal' population

- **Risk** of child dying in the first year of life (Infant mortality rate):
44 / 1,000 in 1940 to 7.2 / 1,000 in 1998
- Genetic contribution to IMR: 3% in early 1900s to 50% in 2,000
- **Risk** of chromosome abnormality in clinical pregnancy: 20%
- **Risk** of a pregnancy ending in a spontaneous abortion: 12.5%
- **Risk** of perinatal death: 1 - 3 %
- **Risk** of a child being born with some congenital malformation: 3%
- **Risk** of a child being born with a serious physical/mental handicap: 2%
- **Risk** of chronic disease due to genetic component: 10-20% of adults
- **Risk** of somatic cell genetic disorder (e.g., cancer): 25% of adults
- **Risk in lifetime** of adverse effects of genetic mutations: 1 in every 3

Causes of severe mental retardation in children

- *Known cause:*

- Chromosomal and monogenic 45%
- Intrauterine: maternal infection 2%
- Asphyxia/cerebral hemorrhage 7%
- Meningitis/encephalitis/trauma 2%

- *Unknown cause:* 34%