

September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month

What do you know about sickle cell disease? Here are two quick facts: It is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that affects hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen through the body. And it affects nearly 100,000 Americans and more than 20 million people worldwide.

Want to know more? Now is a perfect time. Each September, people living with [sickle cell disease](#), along with their caregivers, advocates, healthcare providers, and others, come together for Sickle Cell Awareness Month. They work to raise public knowledge about the disease and dispel myths and stigmas surrounding it. The observance month also brings attention to the ongoing need for research, better care practices, new treatments, and cures.

Over the years, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has supported research efforts that have helped make important discoveries possible, and it continues to build on its legacy of finding new treatments, cures, and personalized care for people living with sickle cell disease.

This year, the NHLBI will observe the month with a special focus on the topic, *Advancing Sickle Cell Disease Research*. Weekly themes will highlight NHLBI's investment (past, present, and future) in sickle cell disease research and how those efforts have helped lengthen the lives of people with the disease and provided hope for cures.

Visit sicklecell.nhlbi.nih.gov to find educational resources and information on NHLBI's sickle cell disease research efforts. Here you'll find a digital toolkit with resources provided by the NHLBI *Blood Diseases and Disorders Education Program* for your use in helping to bring greater visibility to sickle cell disease this September and throughout the year.