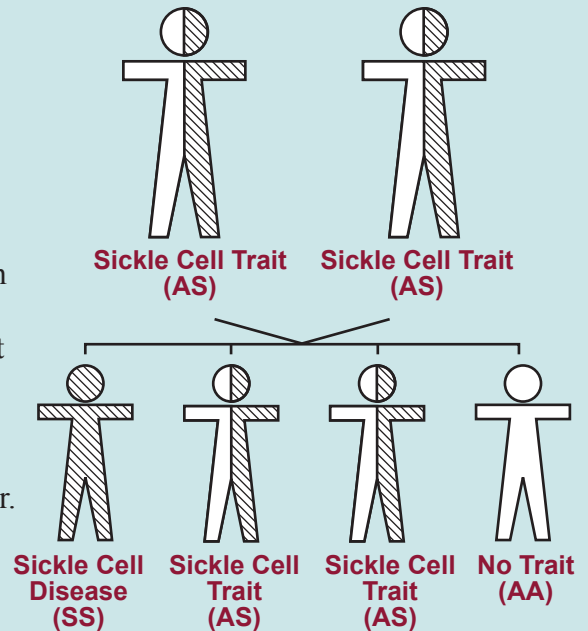


- If both parents have sickle cell trait there is a 25 percent (1 in 4) chance **with each pregnancy** of having a child with sickle cell **disease**. Sickle cell disease is a lifelong illness that can result in serious health problems.
- This document does not provide information on other types of hemoglobin trait such as hemoglobin C or beta thalassemia trait. It is not intended to replace counseling by a trained health care professional or genetic counselor. Questions about personal health concerns or treatment should be discussed with your doctor. For more information, visit our website at www.stjude.org/sicklecell.



Fact Sheet

Sickle Cell Trait

It is possible for a person of any race or nationality to have sickle cell trait, but it is very common in African-Americans. About one (1) out of every 12 African-Americans has sickle cell trait. It also affects Hispanics, and people whose ancestors came from Africa, Latin America, Asia, India, and the Mediterranean region.

- Sickle cell trait affects the red blood cells.
- All red blood cells contain hemoglobin, which carries oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body.
- People with sickle cell trait have both normal hemoglobin A and abnormal hemoglobin S in their red blood cells.



- People who do not have sickle cell trait or any other abnormal hemoglobin have red blood cells that contain only hemoglobin A.

... cell trait do not develop