

Children dying preventable deaths from congenital heart disease

December 16 2016

A Voice for The Invisible Child

Childhood Heart Disease and the Global Health Agenda

4th in a Series
of 4 Briefs from
Children's HeartLink



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year. When children with CHD receive timely treatment, 85 percent can survive into adulthood to live healthy, productive lives. Sadly, 90 percent of the children with CHD live in poor regions with little or no access to care. Increasing access to care saves children's lives. Credit: Children's HeartLink

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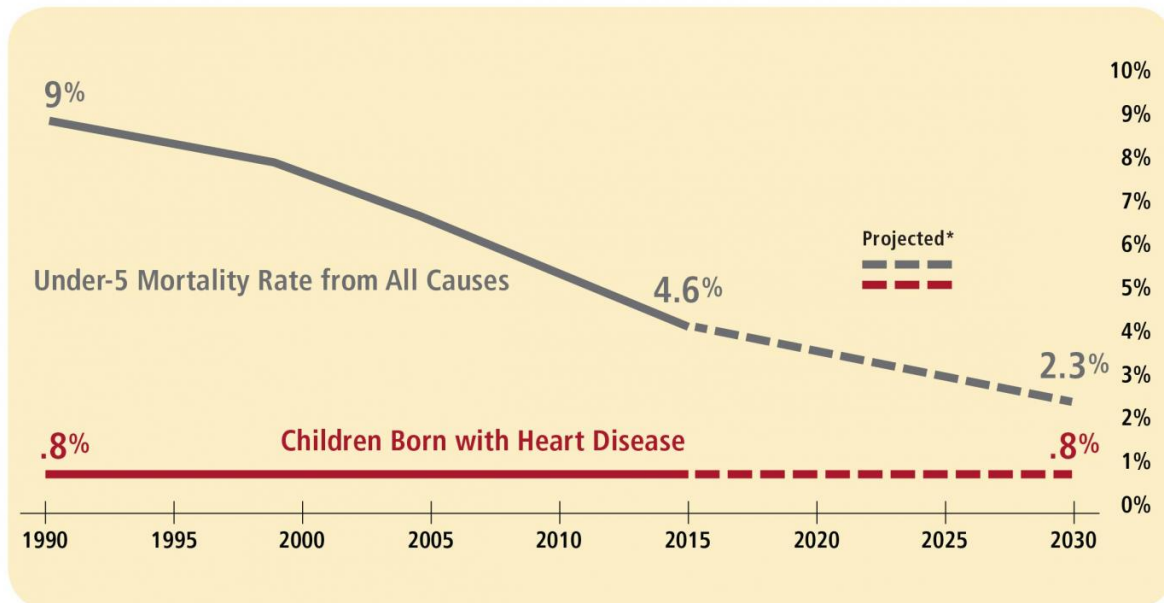
In its new report, [A Voice for the Invisible Child](#), and echoed in this week's *The Lancet*, Children's HeartLink calls for the needs of [children with heart disease](#) to be included in efforts to strengthen health systems around the world. Specifically, priorities must be made to build a pediatric cardiac workforce, collect data on CHD in national health surveys and cause of child death statistics, and finance health coverage in a way that protects families from impoverishment when they seek care.

Brian Atwood, former Administrator of USAID, urges leaders in global health and development: "Increasing access to pediatric cardiac care is a lofty but not insurmountable goal. It is an achievable goal, grounded in health system sustainability and equity. It will save children's lives."

Since the turn of the millennium, child deaths have been cut in half thanks to improved public health and poverty reduction efforts. It is predicted that the number will halve again by 2030. That is the year that the UN Sustainable Development Goals call for the world to end preventable child deaths. This target will not be met without addressing [congenital heart disease](#). As the overall rate of [child deaths](#) decreases,

the burden of children born with heart disease will become more apparent.

Decreasing U5MR Will Reveal the Constant Burden of Heart Disease



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Provided by Children's HeartLink

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