The Congenital Heart Public Health Consortium (CHPHC) was launched in 2008 to prevent congenital heart disease (CHD) and enhance and prolong the lives of those with the disease through surveillance, population-based research, education, health promotion, advocacy and policy development.

Because the consortium is made up of various federal, national and local organizations, (including the ACC), as well as patient/family, clinical, and research voices, it is able to leverage shared interests, unique expertise and experiences to raise awareness about CHD as a public health issue.

The consortium's primary areas of focus include: increasing national awareness; enhancing surveillance throughout the lifespan of CHD patients; engaging in primary and secondary prevention research; and translating research and data into interventions and policy.

To date, the CHPHC has developed – or is in the process of developing – a number of resources targeted at health care providers, patients and their families, lawmakers and others. From a comprehensive website that serves as both a source of public information regarding CHD, as well as a communication conduit for CHPHC membership, to educational webinars on CHD issues, the consortium continues to focus on uniting resources and efforts in public health activities. In addition, the CHPHC hosts an annual meeting each year. In 2011, the CHPHC added a congressional briefing as part of its meeting in an effort to educate House and Senate lawmakers and their staff about CHD issues. This year's meeting will take place in September in Washington, DC.

In addition to the ACC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Heart Association, Adult Congenital Heart Association, March of Dimes Foundation, Alliance for Adult Research in Congenital Cardiology and National Birth Defects Prevention Network make up the CHPHC. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities and the National Institutes for Health/ serve in a federal advisory capacity.

For more information about the CHPHC, visit chphc.org.

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