



How Much Do You Know About Birth Defects?



By ABEHA CHOUDHRY

In January, to honor National Birth Defects Prevention Month, I surveyed 20 John Dewey High School students about how much they know about birth defects. Here is what I found:

- 10% said, “I know a lot.”
- 65% said, “I know a little.”
- 10% said, “I’ve just heard of birth defects.”
- 10% said, “I don’t know about birth defects.”

Photo by Olivia Augustin

How much do *you* know about birth defects, and how to prevent them? To learn, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects.

Service Matters

What you do outside of school matters a lot. Interning or volunteering can give you valuable experience, contacts, and credentials, which can give your college application (and overall knowledge) a serious edge. To get started, check out the potential volunteer opportunities in these three Brooklyn-area hospitals:

→ **NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island** -- 2601 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235

nyhealthandhospitals.org/coneyisland/about-volunteering

→ **Maimonides Medical Center** -- 4802 10th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219

health.maimonidesmed.org/Main/Volunteer.aspx

→ **New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital** -- 506 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215

nyp.org/brooklyn/volunteer-opportunities/volunteer-programs/junior-volunteer-program

☐ To learn more about how you can serve outside of school, **talk with your school counselor.**

Scholarships

A scholarship is money given to you to pursue your future goals at a college of your choosing. The best part of a scholarship is that the money awarded to you will not need to be repaid, unlike a student loan! You can start searching for scholarships right now by going to studentscholarships.org/2017scholarships.php.