

LPA Mission Statement

LPA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with dwarfism throughout their lives, while celebrating with great pride little people's contribution to social diversity. LPA strives to bring solutions and global awareness to the prominent issues affecting individuals of short stature and their families.



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
Empowerment • Awareness • Community



For More Information

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LPA is a non-profit tax exempt 501(c)3 organization
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Contact LPA to help.

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Dwarfism Awareness

A Community Outreach Program
Sponsored by Little People of America

Dwarfism - Facts and Fiction

Bodies come in all shapes and sizes. There are about 400 different types of dwarfism. Each type of dwarfism is different than the other. Many types of dwarfism have some medical complications but most people have an average lifespan, being productive members of society.

Eighty percent of people with dwarfism have average-height parents and siblings. Some types of dwarfism are recessive (that is, carried within your genes even if you don't know it), but many are simply a genetic change at conception. Dwarfism is usually a simple genetic change, it just happens to have very visible results.

A child with dwarfism is born 1 per 10,000 births - that's 400 births per year in the United States. Very few doctors know very much about dwarfism. It is important to find a doctor who specializes in dwarfism for ongoing care, especially if there are any medical or orthopedic complications.

Dwarfism is a condition that affects bones and cartilage. Although there are exceptions, a person with dwarfism's intelligence and abilities are typical of anyone else.

October is Dwarfism Awareness Month

Little People of America launched Dwarfism Awareness Month in 2009 in an effort to raise positive awareness and share information about the lives of people with dwarfism. Many people within the dwarfism community have done great things for Dwarfism Awareness Month, including getting local politicians to recognize October as Dwarfism Awareness Month, asking local businesses to sponsor awareness month activities, and raising money to support awareness causes.

Mythbusters

People with dwarfism, other than their physical difference, are just like everyone else. They are sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. They go to school, drive cars, raise families, hold jobs and share the same hopes and dreams as everyone else. People with dwarfism are not magical; they do not fly, nor are they leprechauns, elves, fairies or any other mythological creature. They are people - people whose bones happen to grow differently.



People with dwarfism do not all know each other or look alike, nor are there towns where they all live together. People with dwarfism are not all on television. Individuals with dwarfism are employed in various professions. This includes those employed as social workers, genetic counselors, doctors, nurses, lawyers, disabilities advocates, teachers, technology professionals and many other important positions.

What is LPA?

Little People of America (LPA) is a national non-profit organization that provides support and information to people of short stature and their families. LPA is the only dwarfism support organization that includes all 400+ forms of dwarfism.

There are an estimated 65,000 people with dwarfism in the United States, and 651,700 in the world. No other organization in the world provides more resources, support and information for people with dwarfism.

Terminology

Preferred terminology is a personal decision, but commonly accepted terms are - short stature, dwarfism, little person, dwarf. And we say "average-height" instead of "normal height". People with dwarfism are different, yes, but not "abnormal".

It is unfortunate that many little people are teased and stared at throughout their lives. People with dwarfism are often stared at because their bodies look different from that of an average sized person. Little people do not appreciate when people stare and make fun of them. The word "midget" is considered highly offensive.

In the 1800's at the height of the 'freak show' era, the term midget was used to describe short statured persons who were displayed for public amusement. In the past few decades, people have used the term in a hurtful manner. Keep in mind, that just like everyone else, people with dwarfism have a name and would rather be called by their name than by a label.

