



## Choosing a Care Team for Your Child's Heart Surgery

Finding out that “*something’s wrong with your child’s heart*” is overwhelming news for any parent. An important decision you need to make next is where to get the pediatric cardiac care your child needs to give him or her the best chance for a healthy life.

# How to Choose a Pediatric Heart Surgery Center



- Talk to people you trust.** Start by asking your doctor where he or she would recommend you seek treatment. Ask family members about where they've had good care. Connect with other families who've been on this journey.
- Find the medical center that has the most experienced pediatric heart surgeons.** The volume of surgeries performed is a good measure of predicting results.
- Review the hospital's track record.** Looking at the overall success rates for pediatric heart surgeries can be helpful in deciding where you want to get care.

The **pediatric heart surgeons** at **Betty Irene Moore Children's Heart Center at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford** successfully **treat some of the most critically ill children** – including unborn infants and teens – in the country and the world. Performing more than 700 open-heart surgeries each year (significantly more than at other children's hospitals in the country), our subspecialty programs and renowned experts draw families seeking the best possible care for their children.

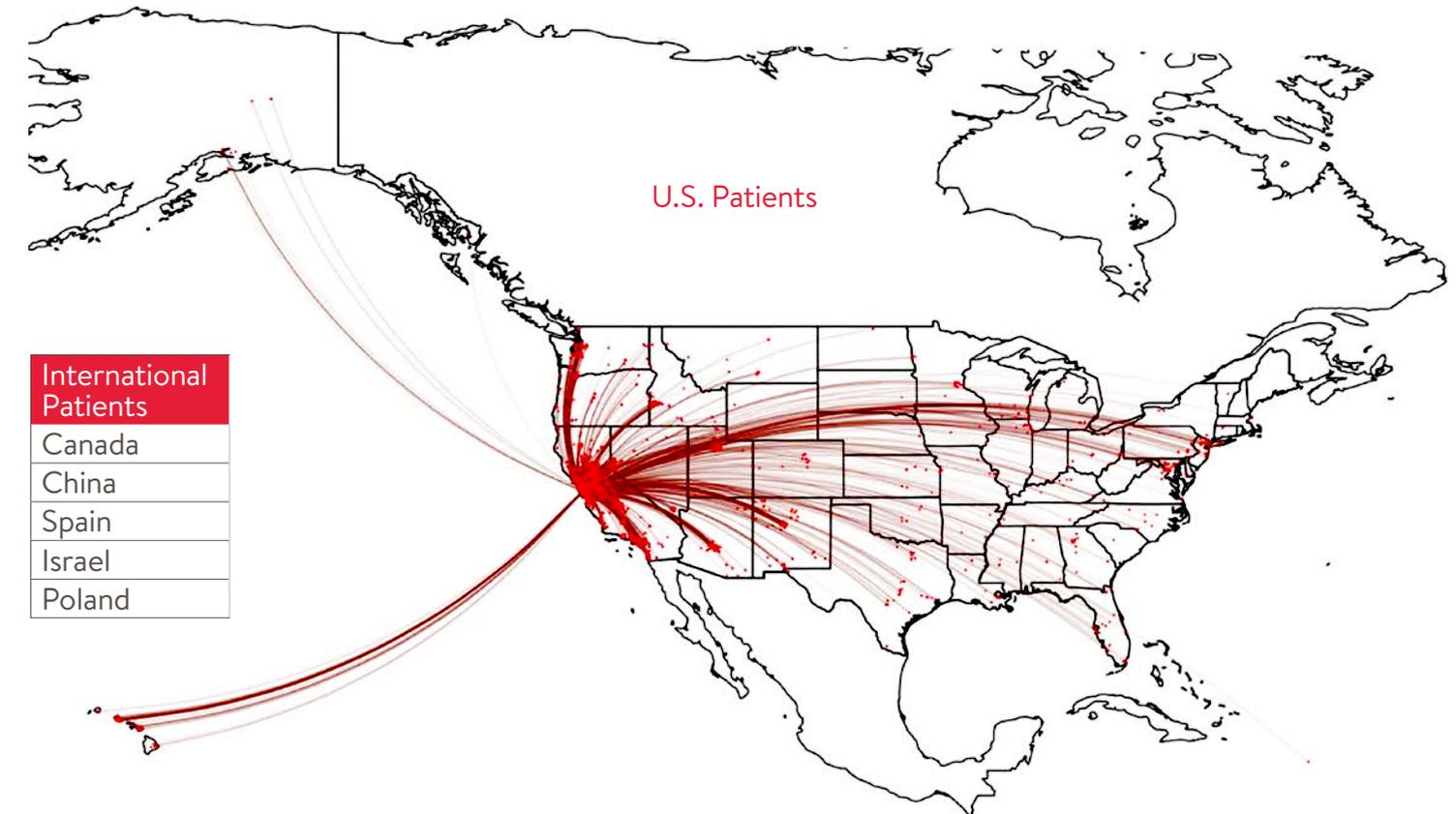
Our pediatric heart surgeons at **Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford** have more than **50 combined years of experience** and are specialized in a range of conditions and treatments from routine to complex, including **pulmonary artery reconstruction**, **heart transplant** and **single ventricle management**. And even though our pediatric heart surgeons treat the most complex cases, our **results are better**, and our **patients' lengths of stay shorter**, than at other hospitals.

The Packard Children's Hospital cardiology and heart surgery programs have been nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report consistently over the last 10 years. Visit [heartoutcomes.stanfordchildrens.org](http://heartoutcomes.stanfordchildrens.org) to see a complete list of national organizations that have access to our hospital's results in heart surgery and related areas.

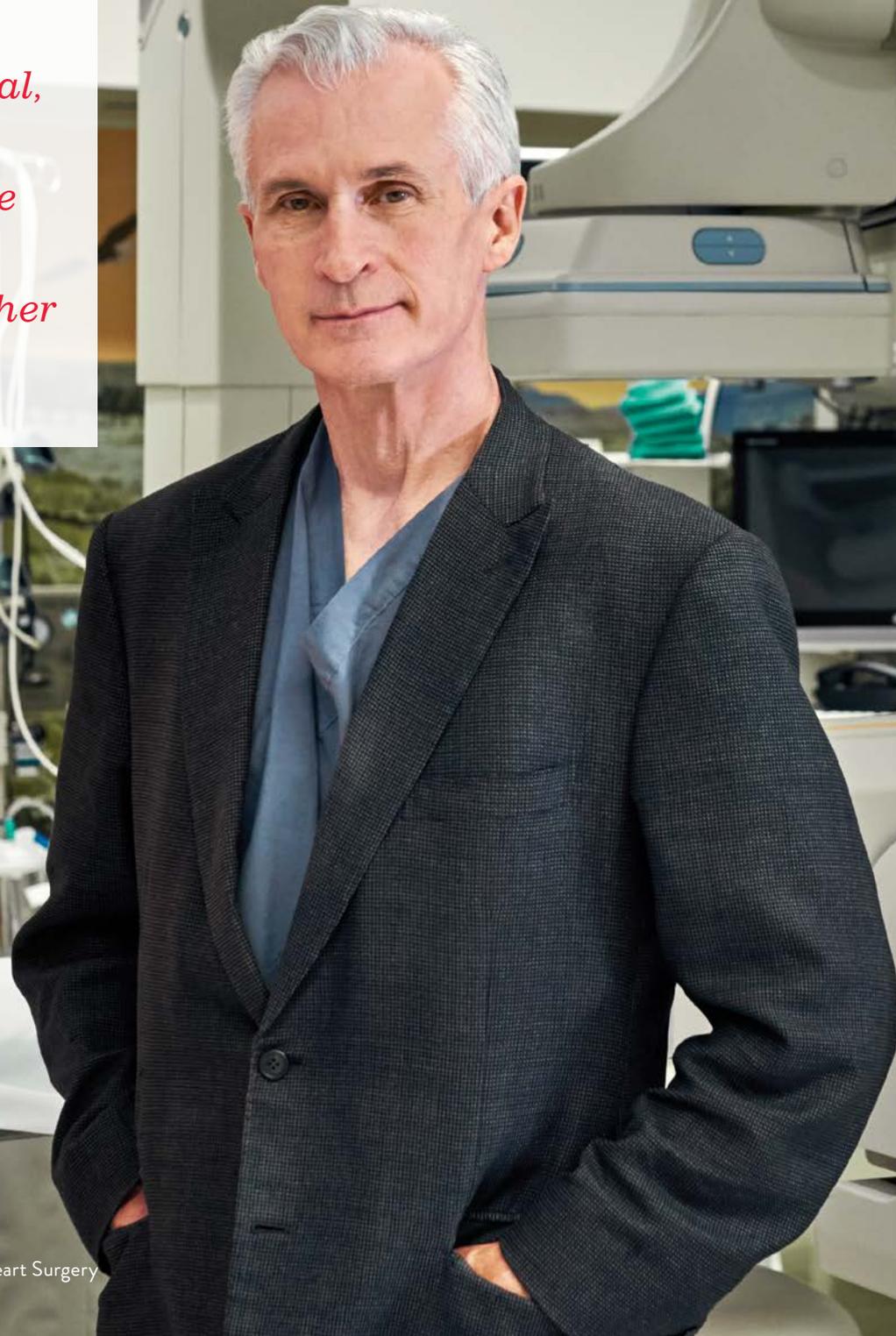
*"Our pediatric heart surgeons have more than 50 combined years of experience and are specialized in a range of conditions and treatments from routine to the most complex."*

Families travel to Packard Children's Hospital from all over the country and the world to seek care for their children's cardiac needs.

Patients Traveling to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for Pediatric Cardiac Care 2015–2018\*



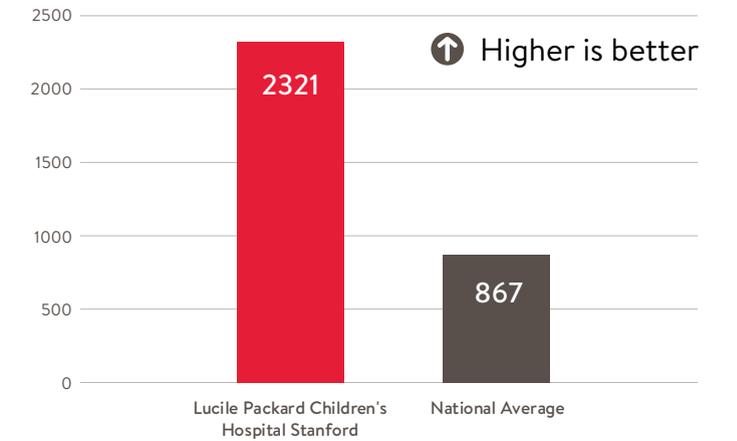
*"At Packard Children's Hospital, we've performed significantly more pediatric heart surgeries than other peer hospitals."*



From 2015 through 2018, the Heart Center at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford performed more than **2,300 pediatric cardiac surgeries**. At other hospitals across the country, that number was an average of 867.

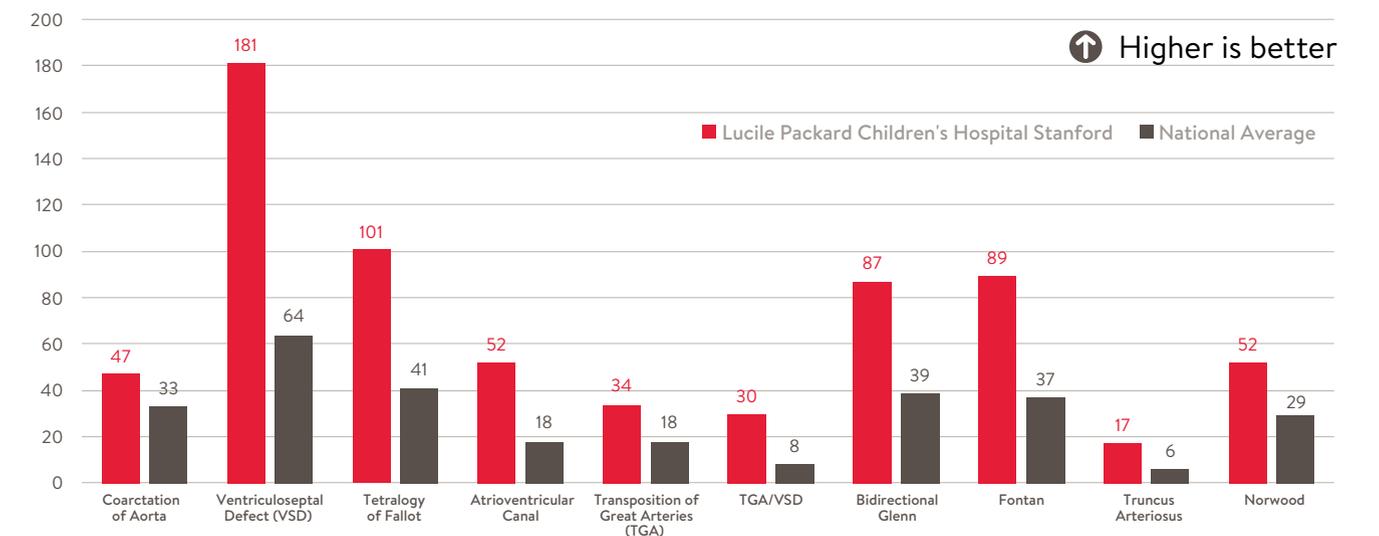
The medical teams who perform a higher number of pediatric heart surgeries are better equipped to care for your child as they see a wider range of heart problems than pediatric heart surgeons who perform only a handful of procedures per year.

Number of Cardiac Surgeries Performed 2015–2018\*



At Packard Children's Hospital, **we've performed significantly more than the average number of heart surgeries** for these 10 childhood heart conditions, compared with all hospitals nationally. These procedures are referred to as "benchmark operations"; surgical centers use them for making comparisons.

Volume of Cardiac Surgery by Specific Surgery Type July 2015–June 2018\*



In 2018, pediatric heart surgery **survival rates** at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford were **better than the national average** for 2015 to 2018.

Overall Survival Following Cardiac Surgery\*

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford 2018	National Aggregate 2015-2018
97.5%	97.2%

↑ Higher is better

Even though our pediatric heart surgeons treat the most complex cases, our results are better than national averages.

And in the chart below, you can see that Packard Children's Hospital met or exceeded almost all national averages for the 10 benchmark pediatric heart surgeries.

Survival Rate for Types of Cardiac Surgery July 2015-June 2018\*

Benchmark Surgery	Survival Rate	
	Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford	National Average
Coarctation of Aorta	98%	99%
Ventriculoseptal Defect (VSD)	99%	99%
Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF)	100%	100%
Atrioventricular Canal (AVC)	100%	97%
Transposition of Great Arteries (TGA)	100%	97%
TGA/VSD	100%	95%
Bidirectional Glenn	97%	98%
Fontan	100%	99%
Truncus Arteriosus	89%	89%
Norwood	83%	85%

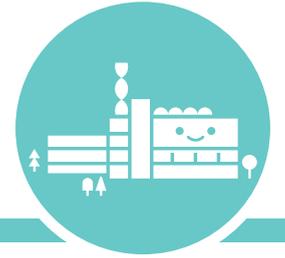
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## Getting Treatment



- ❑ **Plan for your child's birth.** If you are expecting a baby who requires cardiac care, an interdisciplinary team will partner with you and your obstetrician to ensure that your child starts strong. Members of this team include **pediatric cardiologists**, **pediatric cardiothoracic surgeons**, **high-risk obstetricians**, **neonatologists** and **genetic counselors**.

If your child will require a procedure shortly after birth, we recommend you deliver your baby at Packard Children's Hospital so that every necessary resource is available.

- ❑ **Learn about the procedure your child will have in advance**, so you'll know what to expect afterward. Activity level, appetite, and growth should eventually return to normal after surgery. While rare, the most common complications after surgery include bleeding, irregular heartbeat, difficulty with feeding, and infection. We have processes and tools in place to help address these complications.
- ❑ **Ask questions at every stage** and participate in the medical team's daily rounds, at which time your child's progress is reviewed. In addition to the medical team, numerous staff members can offer information, support, and advice. They include case managers, chaplains, child life specialists, child psychiatrists, dietitians, financial counselors, interpreters, rehab specialists, schoolteachers and social workers.
- ❑ **Bond with your child.** For all children but especially for babies, holding, cuddling, and stroking them are vital to creating a relationship with them. We will do our best to enable you to provide comforting touch, and to speak to your child often, when holding is not possible. Some children will be too fragile to be held before or immediately after surgery.

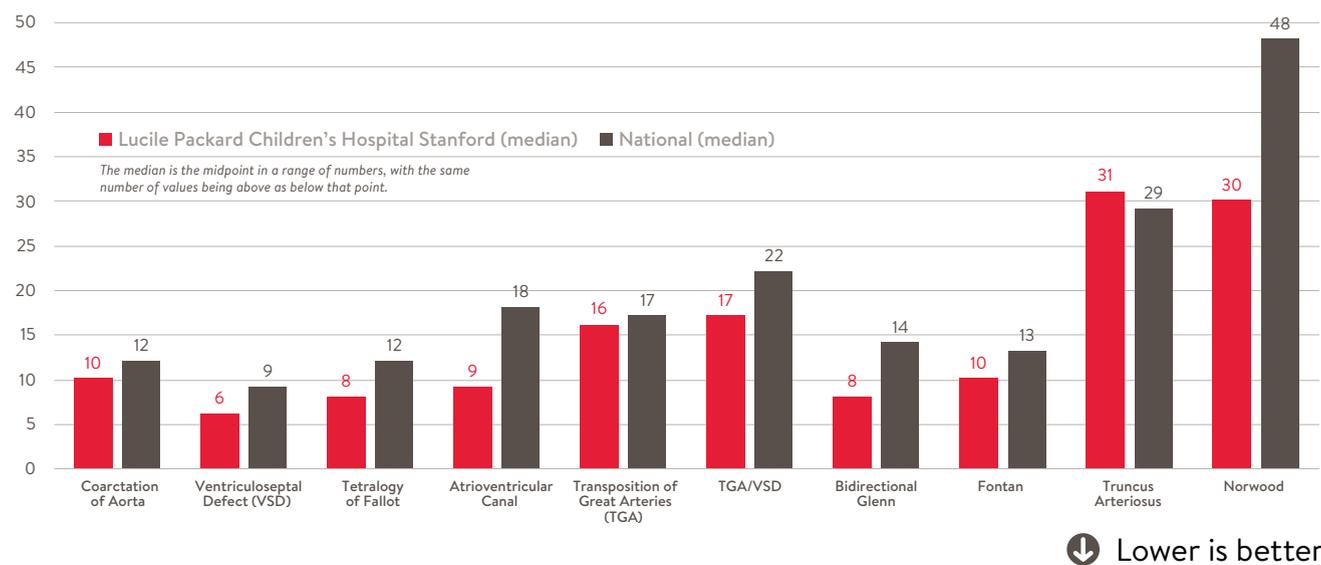
## Going Home



Your care team will work with you to decide when is the right time to go home, based on your child's health. There's no one magic number for that date, but at Packard Children's Hospital we're proud of our efforts to get you home as quickly as possible.

This chart shows the median number of days typically spent in the hospital for these procedures.

Typical Days Spent in the Hospital for Types of Cardiac Surgery June 2015–July 2018\*



*"Our patients stay in the hospital for fewer days for almost all pediatric cardiac surgery procedures than at other hospitals across the country."*

## Follow-up Care and Beyond



After your child's surgery, your physician will give a progress report to your child's cardiologist.

- The team will arrange for an office visit with your child's doctor to occur after you take him/her home.
- As your child gets older, we'll work with you to ensure a smooth transition from childhood to adult heart care.
- Our **Adult Congenital Heart Disease program** provides a unique approach to care with a team of doctors who specialize in caring for adolescents and adults with congenital heart disease.

Visit [heart.stanfordchildrens.org](http://heart.stanfordchildrens.org) to learn more about why thousands of families choose us for the advanced care their children need, and what we can do for your family.

\* Source: Data Analyses of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Heart Surgery Database, Duke Clinical Research Institute, December 2018



## Contact Us

For more information, visit  
[heart.stanfordchildrens.org](http://heart.stanfordchildrens.org)  
or call (650) 721-2121