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Background

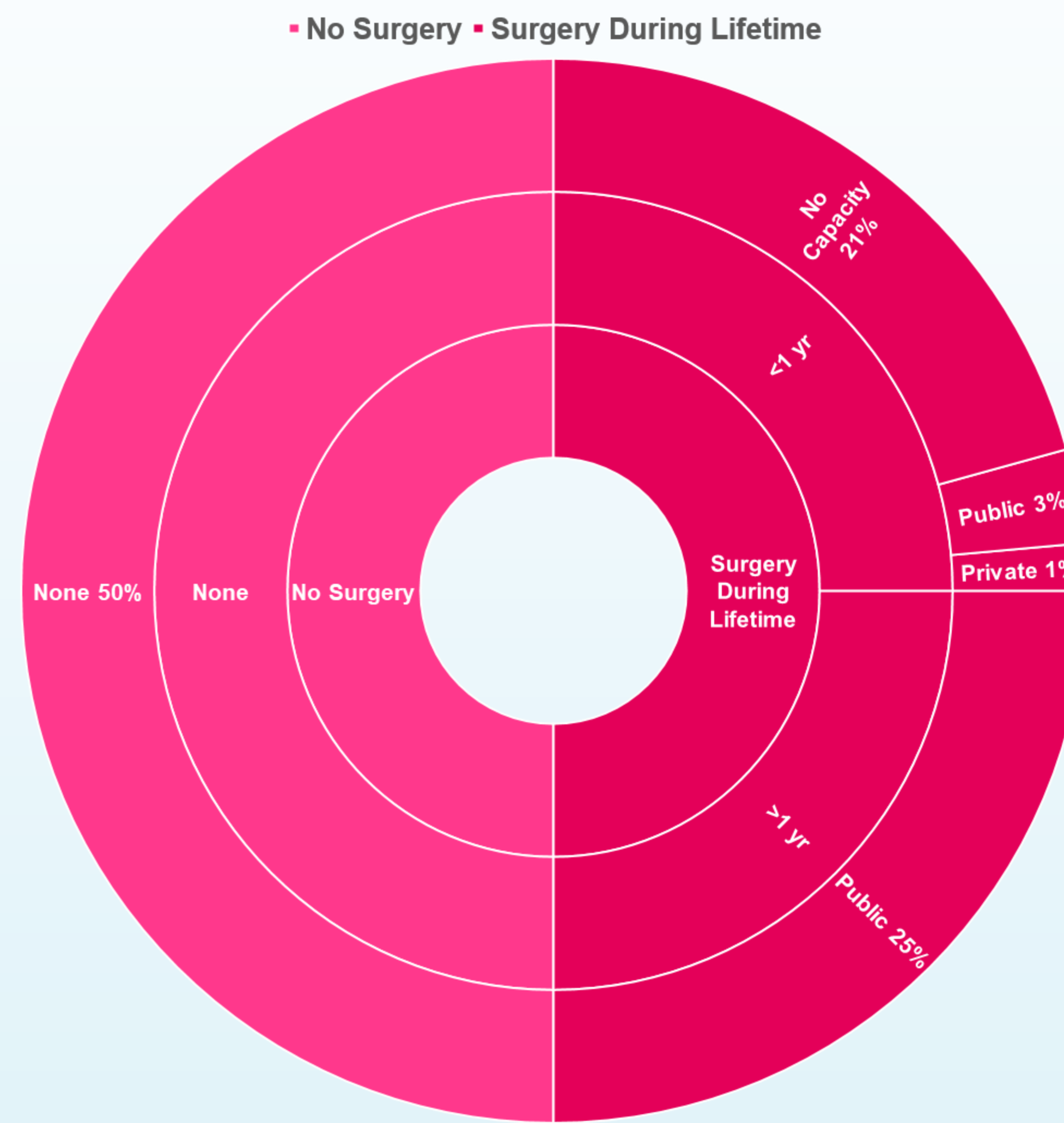
The mission of Fundacion Estrellita de Belen (FEdB) is to offer lifesaving solutions to children with CHD who are born and living in Venezuela. We do this by connecting services and resources for medical treatment and heart-healthy care. As a US-based non-profit charity registered in Florida, FEdB operates with an annual budget of \$25,000. Our funding comes entirely from local charity drives conducted via social media along with other online and in-person fundraising events.

FEdB was founded by a CHD survivor born in Venezuela to support CHD children through collaborative care. Every year 4200 children are born with CHD in Venezuela. Of this number, half will require interventional surgery at some point in their life. The reality is that 820 of these children will die without immediate surgery. The current political and socio-economic climate in Venezuela has left care for these children to the private sector, without funding.

UNICEF Sustainable Development Goals (1)



Childhood CHD Demographics In Venezuela (4200 Patients Annually) (2)



Methods

FEdB provides aid to these children and caregivers through funding for basic care and treatment, medical supplies, and nutritional supplements not subsidized by the government of Venezuela. Through a partnership with leading private local clinics, FEdB pays for low budget procedures and consultations (EKG included) as well as providing funds and supplies for medications and nutritional needs necessary to sustain these children.



Results

Currently FEdB funds an average of 200 cardiac appointments annually with 14 ablation procedures completed since 2020. FEdB has shipped over 100 boxes of supplies that include surgical and medical supplies as well as nutritional supplements donated by US medical facilities and private donors. FEdB has a small staff of seven professionals managing the day-to-day operations and communications with families and caregivers in Venezuela. Four volunteers in Venezuela coordinate distribution of supplies as well as solving logistical issues arising from transportation to/from rural and remote regions of the country.

Finally, FEdB has used its network of providers to assist four children to travel and receive care outside of Venezuela, specifically in the US and Spain.



Conclusion

Since its inception in 2020, FEdB has changed the lives of over 500 children by bringing cardiac care to a group that would not have otherwise had the possibility of treatment.

Partners



Acknowledgements

(1) UNICEF (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved August 7, 2023, from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

(2) Data from Dr. Ivan Machado Hernandez, Chief of Cardiology Services, Faculty of Medicine, University Central of Venezuela