Cleft lip and palate are among the most common birth defect affecting children in North America. It can occur in 1 to every 600 births.

The incomplete formation of the upper lip or the roof of the mouth can occur individually, or both defects may come together. The condition(s) can vary in severity and may involve one side, unilateral, or both sides, bilateral.

A cleft, or separation of the upper lip and or the roof of the mouth, occurs very early in the development of young unborn child.