Herma Heart Center is an international leader for medical and surgical treatment of heart disease and congenital heart defects in children and adults. We consistently have high survival rates for all children undergoing heart surgery and among the best survival rates worldwide for treating hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Our patient-centered care focuses on our patients’ overall experience before, during and after surgery. Strict protocols and quality improvement efforts ensure we provide the best care throughout each patient’s stay with us.

**Program Highlights**
- 28 board-certified pediatric cardiologists
- 3 board-certified pediatric cardiac surgeons
- 6 board-certified pediatric cardiac critical care specialists
- 11 board-certified pediatric cardiac anesthesiologists
- 6 pediatric cardiology fellows
- 24-bed Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
- Named in the 2013 Parents magazine for Best Heart Care
- Specialists consistently ranked among the Best Doctors in America®
- Recognized worldwide for pioneering the first home monitoring program of its kind to care for infants with hypoplastic left heart syndrome
- Performed the first heart-liver transplant in Wisconsin, the 10th performed on a child in the United States
- Heart Transplant Program is ranked #2 in volume in the United States with 23 heart transplants in 2012
- Five types of artificial hearts used to care for the needs of transplant patients; one of 15 sites in the United States that participated in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved trial of the Berlin Heart Ventricular Assist Device and one of a few hospitals in the country to use a Berlin Pediatric Heart; successfully bridged 11 patients to transplant with 100 percent three-year survival rate
- Pioneered the use of virtual cross-match strategy for heart transplant patients – this can lead to better outcomes, shorter waitlist times and allows transplant physicians to risk-stratify patients eligible for heart transplant
- ABO-incompatible heart transplants offered, decreasing patients’ time on the waitlist and waitlist deaths
- One of the largest adult congenital heart disease programs in the United States with physicians specially trained to treat this population
- Specialized comprehensive diagnostic and interventional cardiac care before birth, leading to better outcomes for babies
- Coordinated care for mothers and babies when congenital heart disease is recognized in the unborn baby, including assessment, delivery and surgical management under one roof
- Offers a congenital heart surgery fellowship by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (over)
Clinical outcomes

Children’s Hospital’s commitment to quality, advancements in surgical techniques and improvements in follow-up care allows us to achieve some of the best surgical outcomes in the nation.

Heart Transplant Volume

Twenty-three pediatric heart transplants were performed in 2012. Research shows that physicians and hospitals that treat a large number of patients tend to provide better care and have improved outcomes for treatments and procedures. This is especially true of transplants.

Cardiac Transplant/Heart Failure Clinic Volume

Two specialty clinics, Heart Transplant Clinic and Heart Failure Clinic, help us to meet the special needs of children with complex cardiac conditions.

Surgical Survival by RACHS-1 Category for Congenital Heart Surgery Patients from 2008-2012

Surgeries performed at Herma Heart Center vary from straightforward procedures to very complex operations. Our survival rates for more complex surgeries (Group 5) are higher than other pediatric centers based on comparison information from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Herma Heart Center Survival Rates for Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome

Herma Heart Center specialists are recognized internationally for their successful surgical outcomes and groundbreaking home monitoring program that dramatically improves long-term survival rates for infants born with this condition.

Surgical Survival-Newborns Undergoing Congenital Heart Surgery 2008-2012

Newborns (0-30 days old) in their delicate condition have a higher risk of complications after heart surgery. Herma Heart Center has a higher survival rate for newborns undergoing heart surgery based on comparison information from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Patient Survival Curve (Kaplan-Meier) for Heart Transplants

Overwhelmingly, survival is the first and most important statistic parents ask about. In general, centers that have high survival rates for the most complex cases, including transplants, generally have high survival rates for all types of heart procedures. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin has a consistently high early survival rate for all children undergoing heart surgery.