

# The Facts on the Stillbirth Crisis in the United States

**In 2020 the U.S. lost 21,000 babies to stillbirth, according to the CDC.**

Stillbirth prevention efforts through legislation is not only for the hundreds of thousands of expectant parents in this country who have lost a baby to stillbirth but offers the opportunity for a bipartisan effort to acknowledge the silent crisis of stillbirth in this country and do more to prevent preventable stillbirths through awareness and funding.

## There are proven solutions to save babies NOW.

- With **21,000 babies** born still each year, US families are losing nearly **60 babies every day**. To put that into perspective, this is the equivalent of the **deaths of three kindergarten classrooms each day**.
- The stillbirth of a precious baby is an **inexplicable loss of life**, and an incomprehensible tragedy.
- Stillbirth is one of the **most common adverse pregnancy outcomes** and despite medical advances, stillbirth rates have hardly changed over the past 30 years. In the last two decades, the U.S. stillbirth rate declined by a **negligible 0.4% per year**, putting our progress at 183rd out of 195 countries globally.
- At least **1 in 4** stillbirths are potentially preventable. Many of these deaths are happening in otherwise healthy, low-risk pregnancies.
- Women who experience a stillbirth are more likely to die after delivery and severe morbidity is nearly **5 times more common** than in women whose babies are born alive.
- **No pregnancy is immune**. Stillbirths occur to women of all races, ethnicities, income levels, and ages.
- There are longstanding and **persistent racial and ethnic disparities** with Black families experiencing stillbirths at **two times the rate** of their White counterparts. With 1 out of every 97 Black pregnancies ending in stillbirth. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Indigenous women are also at greater risk of losing their babies.
- At least **25%** of stillbirths are preventable – that is 5,250 babies lives per year.
- Stillbirth prevention has a **tremendous return on investment**. Efforts to improve stillbirth rates will also lead to reductions in maternal morbidity and mortality, and other adverse outcomes.
- A stillbirth is far more than a difficult life event that occurs at a single moment in time. Stillbirths are truly devastating and have impacts that are **wide reaching and lifelong**.
- More babies are lost to stillbirth than infant mortality each year in this country.
- Stillbirth is **15 times MORE likely than SIDS** in the United States.
- On March 15, 2023 the Stillbirth Working Group of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) released "**Working to Address the Tragedy of Stillbirth: Report of Working Group to NICHD Council**". Based on key findings in each area, the WG developed a set of recommendations to guide future efforts to improve recordkeeping, data collection, and analysis about stillbirths; to address disparities in stillbirth risk; to better support families after a stillbirth occurs; and ultimately to reduce the U.S. stillbirth rate through research and prevention efforts.