

# The Facts on the Stillbirth Crisis in the United States

In 2021 the U.S. lost over 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.**

- **The stillbirth of a precious baby is an inexplicable loss of life, and an incomprehensible tragedy.**
  - Stillbirth is defined as the loss of a baby between 20 and 40+ weeks of pregnancy.
  - 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.
- **With over 21,000 babies born still each year, U.S. families are losing approximately 60 babies every day. To put that into perspective, this is the equivalent to losing 3 classes of kindergarteners each day.**
  - More babies are lost to stillbirth than infant mortality each year in this country. In 2021, stillbirth was 15x MORE likely than SIDS in the United States
  - Stillbirth prevention has a tremendous return on investment. At least 25% of stillbirths are potentially preventable – that is 5,250 babies lives per year.
- **The latest and best global data, from UNICEF 2023, show that in the last two decades, the U.S. stillbirth rate declined by a negligible 0.9% per year (over the period 2000-2021), putting our progress at 152nd out of out of 187 other countries globally.**
- **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.**
  - Efforts to improve stillbirth rates will also lead to reductions in maternal morbidity and mortality, and other adverse outcomes.
- **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.
- 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.