

The Ongoing Silent Epidemic of Stillbirth

The United States is suffering from an ongoing silent epidemic: stillbirth. Stillbirth is the death of a baby in utero before or during delivery at 20 or more weeks. The most common cause of stillbirth includes placental issues, umbilical cord accidents, infections, and genetic or anatomic abnormalities.

Stillbirth is preventable, and with increased investment in research, such as is authorized in the Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act we can work to ensure that another family doesn't experience the pain of leaving the hospital without their newborn.

The Problem: Stillbirth is more common in the United States than is expected, approximately **23,000 babies** are stillborn each year. COVID-19 has only increased the risk of stillbirth.

- Every day, **65 families** leave the hospital **without a baby in their arms**
- There is a **90% increase** of stillbirth risk for individuals delivering with COVID-19
- Fetal death certificates are the only national source of stillbirth data in the U.S., but **not all stillbirths are recorded and not all information provided is correct**

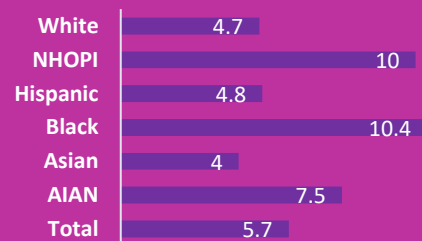
Stillbirth in the U.S. = Loss of Three Kindergarten Classes a Day



Racial and Ethnic Disparities are Prevalent: Research shows that stillbirth rates are significantly impacted by race, regardless of the mother's income, education, or maternal/fetal age. Black individuals are two times more likely to experience a stillbirth than White individuals. In 2019, for every 1,000 births to:

- White mothers - **4.7 babies** were stillborn
- Black mothers - **10.4 babies** were stillborn

U.S. Stillbirth Rates Per 1,000 Births



Solutions are Available: *At least 25 percent* of stillbirths are preventable

- Compared to other countries, the U.S. ranks **48 out of 49** in progress in reducing the rate of stillbirth
- **10% of stillbirths** are due to genetic causes
- As many as **75% of US stillbirths could be prevented** when compared to other developed countries
- [*Count the Kicks*](#) is an evidence-based campaign that has helped save babies in 26 states by educating expectant parents to track fetal movement in the third trimester.

Preventable Stillbirths

