

Stillbirth Fact Sheet



Stillbirth is one of the most common adverse pregnancy outcomes, complicating 1 in 160 deliveries in the United States¹.

- **Fetal death, fetal demise, stillbirth, and stillborn** all refer to a fetus that is born without signs of life.
- Specifically, a stillbirth is the death or loss of a fetus before or during delivery after 20 weeks of pregnancy. A **miscarriage** also describes pregnancy loss, but is usually defined as loss of a fetus before the 20th week of pregnancy².
- **Stillbirth** is further classified as either early, late, or term²:
 - **Early:** between 20 and 27 completed weeks of pregnancy. More fetal deaths occur between 20-27 weeks gestation compared to those greater than 28 weeks gestation.
 - **Late:** between 28 and 36 completed weeks of pregnancy.
 - **Term:** between 37 or more completed weeks of pregnancy.

Risk Factors for Stillbirth

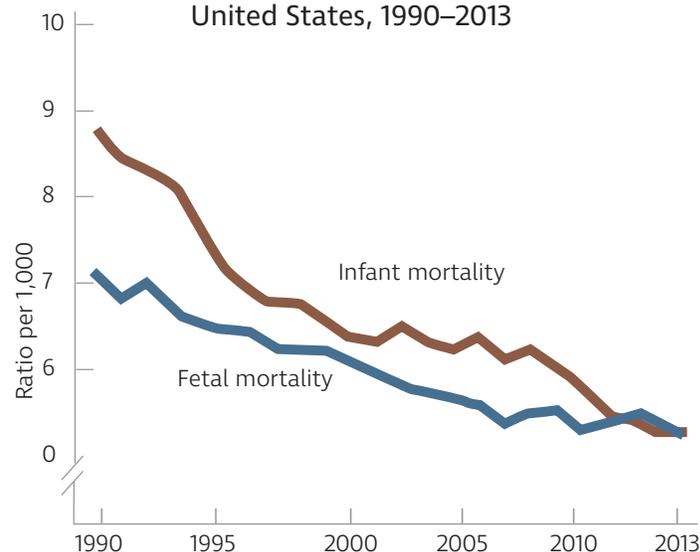
When the mother ² :
■ is of black race
■ is a teenager
■ is 35 years of age or older
■ is unmarried
■ is obese
■ abuses drugs
■ uses tobacco during pregnancy
■ is pregnant with multiples
■ has had a previous pregnancy loss

United States

- In 2013, 23,595 stillbirths were reported in the United States with a fetal mortality rate of 5.96 fetal deaths at 20 weeks of gestation or more, per 1,000 live births⁴.

The U.S. fetal mortality rate has essentially remained unchanged since 2006, affecting about 1 percent of all pregnancies. In this same time period, the U.S. infant mortality rate has decreased by 11 percent. Since 2011, these two rates have been equivalent (Figure 1)⁴.

Figure 1, Fetal and infant mortality rates, United States, 1990–2013



Notes: Infant mortality rates are the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Fetal mortality rates are the number of fetal deaths at 20 weeks of gestation or more per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths. Source: CDCNCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

From 2011 to 2013 time period, the United States fetal mortality rate, at 24 weeks of gestation or more, was 3.98, while Ohio's was higher, 4.39 (Table 1)⁴.

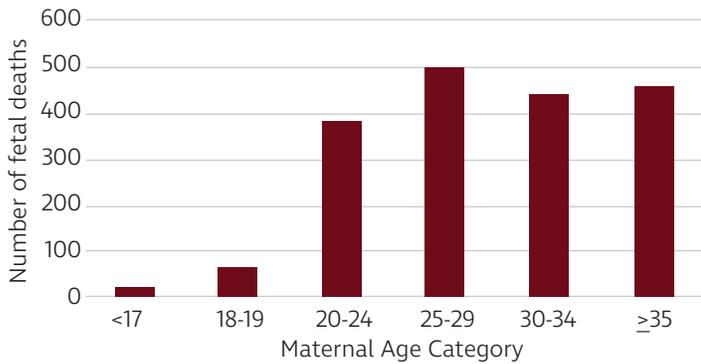
Table 1. Fetal deaths at 24 weeks of gestation or more and fetal mortality rates, United States and Ohio, 2011–2013

State or territory	Fetal deaths	Fetal mortality rate (rate per 1,000 live births and specified fetal deaths)
United States*	47,356	3.98
Ohio	1,833	4.39

*Includes Guam and Puerto Rico

In 2015-2016, the total number of fetal deaths was 1,854 in Ohio. The number of fetal deaths was highest among women aged 25-29 years (n=494) and lowest among those aged <17 years (n=24)⁵.

Ohio Fetal Deaths by Maternal Age, 2015-2016



References:

¹The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Management of stillbirth. Practice Bulletin Number 102. March, 2009—reaffirmed in 2012.

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Facts about Stillbirth. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/stillbirth/facts.html>

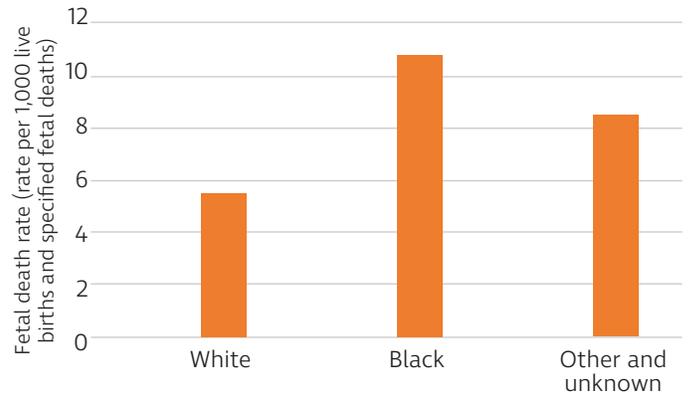
³Page JM and Silver RM. Interventions to prevent stillbirth. Seminars in Fetal and Neonatal Medicine 2017; 22:135-145.

⁴Division of Vital Statistics Fetal and Perinatal Mortality: United States, 2013. (2015). National Vital Statistics Reports, 64 (8). https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_08.pdf

⁵Ohio Data Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics; all fetal deaths included in 2015-2016 data regardless of gestational age.

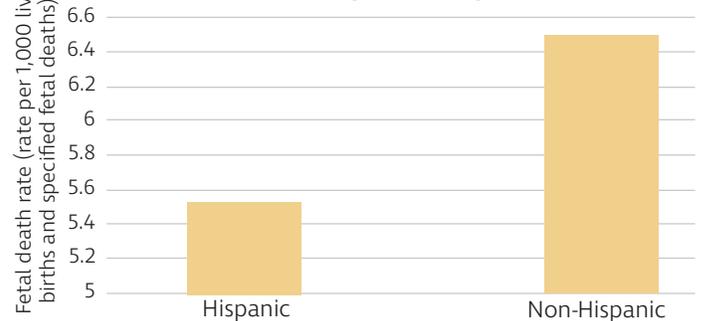
By race, 63.1 percent of Ohio fetal deaths were white (n=1,170), 28.6 percent were black (n=530), and 8.3 percent were other and unknown (n=154). However, the black fetal death rate (10.8) was almost twice as high as the white fetal death rate (5.5). The fetal death rate among other and unknown race was 8.5⁵.

Ohio Fetal Death by Race, 2015-2016



By ethnicity, 92.6 percent of Ohio fetal deaths in 2015-2016 were among non-Hispanic, 4.3 percent among Hispanic, and 3.1 percent among unknown ethnicity. The fetal death rate among Hispanic was 5.5, and 6.5 among non-Hispanic⁵.

Ohio Fetal Deaths by Ethnicity, 2015-2016



Contact: Ohio Department of Health,
Bureau of Maternal,
Child and Family Health,
BCFHS@odh.ohio.gov
www.odh.ohio.gov

