

Lead sponsors



Sen. Jeff Merkley
(D-OR)



Sen. Bill Cassidy
(R-LA)



Rep. Ashley Hinson
(R-IA)



Rep. Alma Adams
(D-NC)

Background

According to the CDC, approximately 21,000 babies are born still every year in the United States. **That's about 58 babies every day.**¹ Women who experience a stillbirth are also more likely to die after delivery, severe morbidity is nearly five times and depression 2-4 times more common than in women whose babies are born alive.



The annual number of stillbirths in the U.S. far exceeds the number of deaths among children aged 0-14 years from preterm birth, SIDS, accidents, drownings, guns, fire, and flu combined.



Stillbirth rates have changed very little over the last 15 years. In the last two decades, the U.S. stillbirth rate declined by a negligible 0.5% per year, putting our progress at 183rd out of 195 countries globally.²

2X

There are longstanding and persistent racial and ethnic disparities with Black and Native American families experiencing stillbirths at two times the rate of their White counterparts.³

25%

Studies indicate a minimum of 25% of U.S. stillbirths are preventable. This could save the lives of at least 5,250 babies each year.⁴



Vital records (fetal death certificates) are the only national source of data, but definitions vary by state and can suffer from poor quality.

Bill summary

The **Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act** will add stillbirth and stillbirth prevention to Title V of the Social Security Act. **This bill passed the Senate unanimously on September 30, 2023.**

This bill clarifies states can use Title V funding for evidence-based programs and activities and outcome research to reduce the incidence of stillbirth, including tracking and awareness of fetal movements, improvement of birth timing for pregnant people with risk factors, initiatives that encourage safe sleeping positions for pregnant people, screening and surveillance for fetal growth restriction, efforts to achieve smoking cessation amongst pregnant people, community-based programs that provide home visits or other types of support, and any other research or evidence-based programming to prevent stillbirths.

These maternal and infant health organizations have endorsed the bill:

- 1st Breath
- 2 Degrees Foundation
- 2020 Mom
- American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
- Amniotic Fluid Embolism (AFE) Foundation
- Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
- Black Mamas Matter Alliance
- Every Mother Counts
- Healthy Birth Day
- M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death)
- March of Dimes
- Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
- Measure the Placenta
- Mom Congress
- Moms Rising Together
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
- National Education Association (NEA)
- Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health (formerly 2020 Mom)
- Postpartum Support International
- PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy
- Reproductive and Placental Research Unit-Yale School of Medicine
- Return to Zero: H.O.P.E.
- RH Impact
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM)
- Society for Reproductive Investigation (SRI)
- Star Legacy Foundation
- Start Healing Together
- SUDC Foundation
- What to Expect Project
- Yale University School of Medicine

1. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, October 4). Stillbirth data and statistics. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 13, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/stillbirth/data.html>*
2. *Page, J. M., Thorsten, V., Reddy, U. M., Dudley, D. J., Hogue, C. J. R., Saade, G. R., Pinar, H., Parker, C. B., Conway, D., Stoll, B. J., Coustan, D., Bukowski, R., Varner, M. W., Goldenberg, R. L., Gibbins, K., & Silver, R. M. (2018, February). Potentially preventable stillbirth in a diverse U.S. cohort. *Obstetrics and gynecology*. Retrieved March 13, 2023, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5785410/>*
3. *Stillbirth. March of Dimes. (n.d.). Retrieved March 13, 2023, from <https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/miscarriage-loss-grief/stillbirth>*
4. *Flenady V;Wojcieszek AM;Middleton P;Ellwood D;Erwich JJ;Coory M;Khong TY;Silver RM;Smith GCS;Boyle FM;Lawn JE;Blencowe H;Leisher SH;Gross MM;Horey D;Farrales L;Bloomfield F;McCowan L;Brown SJ;Joseph KS;Zeitlin J;Reinebrant HE;Cacciatore J;Ravaldi C;Vannac. (n.d.). Stillbirths: Recall to action in high-income countries. *Lancet (London, England)*. Retrieved March 13, 2023, from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26794070/>*