

DIVISION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Despite advances in reproductive, maternal, and infant health, much work remains to be done.

Each year in the United States, 700 women die of pregnancy-related causes, and more than 50,000 have severe pregnancy complications (also known as severe maternal morbidity).

Nearly 1 in 10 infants (about 380,000) are born prematurely, and the preterm birth rate increased from 2014 to 2018. About 3,600 infants in the United States are lost to sudden unexpected infant death each year. And nearly half of pregnancies in the United States are unintended, which is associated with negative health outcomes for both women and infants.



700
WOMEN

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1 IN 10
INFANTS

born prematurely



3,600
INFANTS

lost to sudden unexpected infant death



50,000
WOMEN

with severe pregnancy complications

CDC's Response

For over 50 years, CDC's Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) has developed programs to improve women's health, improve pregnancy health and care, and give infants the healthiest start in life. Multiple surveillance systems and activities in DRH provide information and data that help scientists and health professionals understand how to deliver the best care. These efforts are the foundation of public health approaches that improve reproductive, maternal, fetal, and infant health.



Teen birth rates fell 60% from 2007 to 2019—an all-time low.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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