

Fetal Mortality in the United States: Final 2022–2023 and 2023–Provisional 2024

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Abstract

Objective—This report describes changes in total, early, and late fetal mortality between 2023 and 2024, as well as fetal mortality by maternal race and Hispanic origin and state of residence. Comparisons are made with findings from 2022 to 2023.

Methods—Data are based on reports of fetal death filed in the 50 states and the District of Columbia and collected via the National Vital Statistics System. In this report, only fetal deaths reported at 20 weeks of gestation or more are included. Data for 2022 and 2023 are final and data for 2024 are provisional.

Results—From 2023 to 2024, the overall fetal mortality rate declined 2%, from 5.53 to 5.41 fetal deaths at 20 weeks of gestation or more per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths. During this time, the early fetal mortality rate (20–27 weeks of gestation) was essentially unchanged (2.88 in 2024), while the late fetal mortality rate (28 weeks of gestation or more) declined 4% (2.55 in 2024). No significant changes in fetal mortality rates between 2023 and 2024 were observed among the race and Hispanic-origin groups. Fetal mortality rates decreased in 3 states, increased in 1 state, and were not significantly different in 46 states and the District of Columbia from 2023 to 2024. In comparison, from 2022 to 2023, the fetal mortality rate

increased for early fetal deaths, for Asian non-Hispanic women, and in five states, and declined in one state.

Keywords: fetal death • race and Hispanic origin • provisional data • National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

mortality rates overall and by maternal race and Hispanic origin and state of residence are examined from 2023 to 2024, and comparisons are made with findings for the period 2022 to 2023.

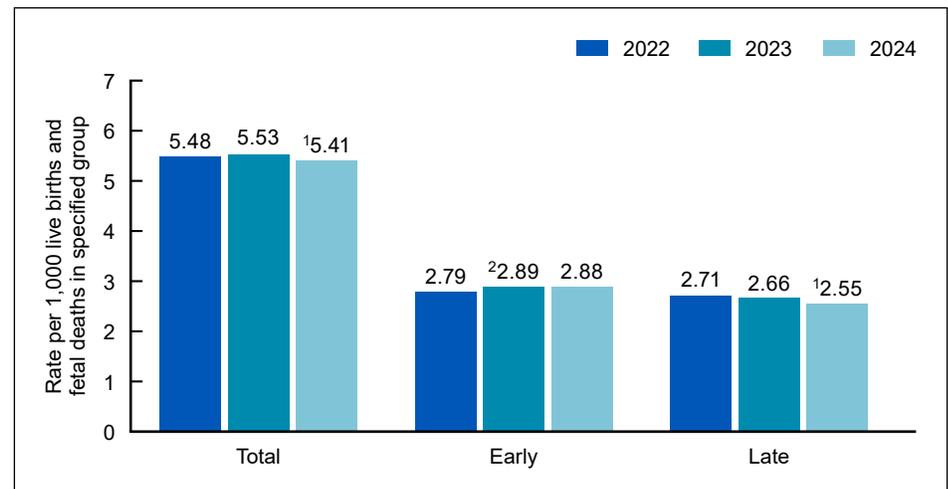
Methods

The fetal death data shown in this report were collected via the National Vital Statistics System. Findings are based on data for fetal deaths occurring at 20 weeks of gestation or more to residents of the United States. Fetal death data for 2022 and 2023 are final.

Introduction

This report presents 2024 provisional national fetal death data for selected maternal and fetal characteristics, providing more timely data for public health surveillance. Changes in fetal

Figure 1. Total, early, and late fetal mortality rates: United States, 2022 and 2023 final and 2024 provisional



¹Significantly lower than 2023 ($p < 0.05$)

²Significantly higher than 2022 ($p < 0.05$)

NOTES: Fetal mortality rate is the number of fetal deaths at 20 weeks of gestation or more per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths. Early fetal mortality rate is the number of fetal deaths at 20–27 weeks of gestation per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths at 20–27 weeks of gestation. Late fetal mortality rate is the number of fetal deaths at 28 weeks of gestation or more per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths at 28 weeks of gestation or more.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

Data for 2024 are provisional and based on reports of fetal death received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) as of May 28, 2025, representing about 99.4% of the expected count for 2024. Statistics from previous provisional reports have been shown to be consistent with the final statistics for the respective years (1–4).

Fetal mortality rates are computed as the number of fetal deaths at 20 weeks of gestation or more per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths at 20 weeks or more. Numbers and rates are also presented for fetal deaths at 20–27 weeks of gestation (early fetal deaths) and 28 weeks of gestation or more (late fetal deaths).

Hispanic origin and race are reported separately on the U.S. Standard Report of Fetal Death. Data shown by Hispanic origin include all people of Hispanic origin of any race. Data for non-Hispanic people are shown separately for each single-race group. Data by race are based on the revised standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (5), which allow for the reporting of a minimum of five race categories either by single race (reported alone) or in combination (more than one race or multiple races). The race and Hispanic-origin groups shown in this report are American Indian and Alaska Native non-Hispanic, single race (subsequently, American Indian and Alaska Native); Asian non-Hispanic, single race (subsequently Asian); Black non-Hispanic, single race (subsequently, Black); Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic, single race (subsequently, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander); White non-Hispanic, single race (subsequently, White); and Hispanic.

Fetal mortality rates by state are based on the mother's state of residence. The small number of fetal deaths in some states by year can limit the ability to detect statistically significant changes between years and between states.

The difference between rates is statistically significant at the 0.05 level unless otherwise noted. For information

on the methods used to test for statistical significance, see the 2023 user guide (6).

New criteria for showing the number of events and rates were adopted by NCHS beginning with the 2023 data year (7). For detailed information on the new criteria, see the 2023 user guide (6).

Results

Changes in total, early, and late fetal mortality rates, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

- In 2024, the provisional number of fetal deaths in the United States was 19,756 compared with 20,005 in 2023 (Table 1). The number of fetal deaths has declined 2% since 2022 (20,202).
- The total provisional fetal mortality rate was 5.41 in 2024, a 2% decline from the rate in 2023 (5.53). No significant change in the rate was observed between 2022 (5.48) and 2023 (Table 1, Figure 1).
- The early fetal mortality rate (20–27 weeks of gestation) was essentially unchanged from 2023 (2.89) to 2024 (2.88). From 2022 (2.79) to 2023, the rate increased 4%.
- The late fetal mortality rate (28 weeks of gestation or more) declined 4% from 2023 (2.66) to 2024 (2.55). The rate was not significantly different between 2022 (2.71) and 2023.

Changes in fetal mortality rate by race and Hispanic origin, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

- From 2023 to 2024, no significant change in fetal mortality rates was observed for any race or Hispanic-origin group: American Indian and Alaska Native (from 6.87 to 7.77), Asian (4.14 to 3.91), Black (9.95 to 9.96), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (10.18 to 10.21), White (4.55 to 4.54), and Hispanic (4.76 to 4.62) women (Table 1, Figure 2).
- Rates for these groups were also not significantly different between 2022

and 2023 except for Asian women, for whom the rate increased by 12% (3.70 in 2022).

Change in fetal mortality rate by state, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

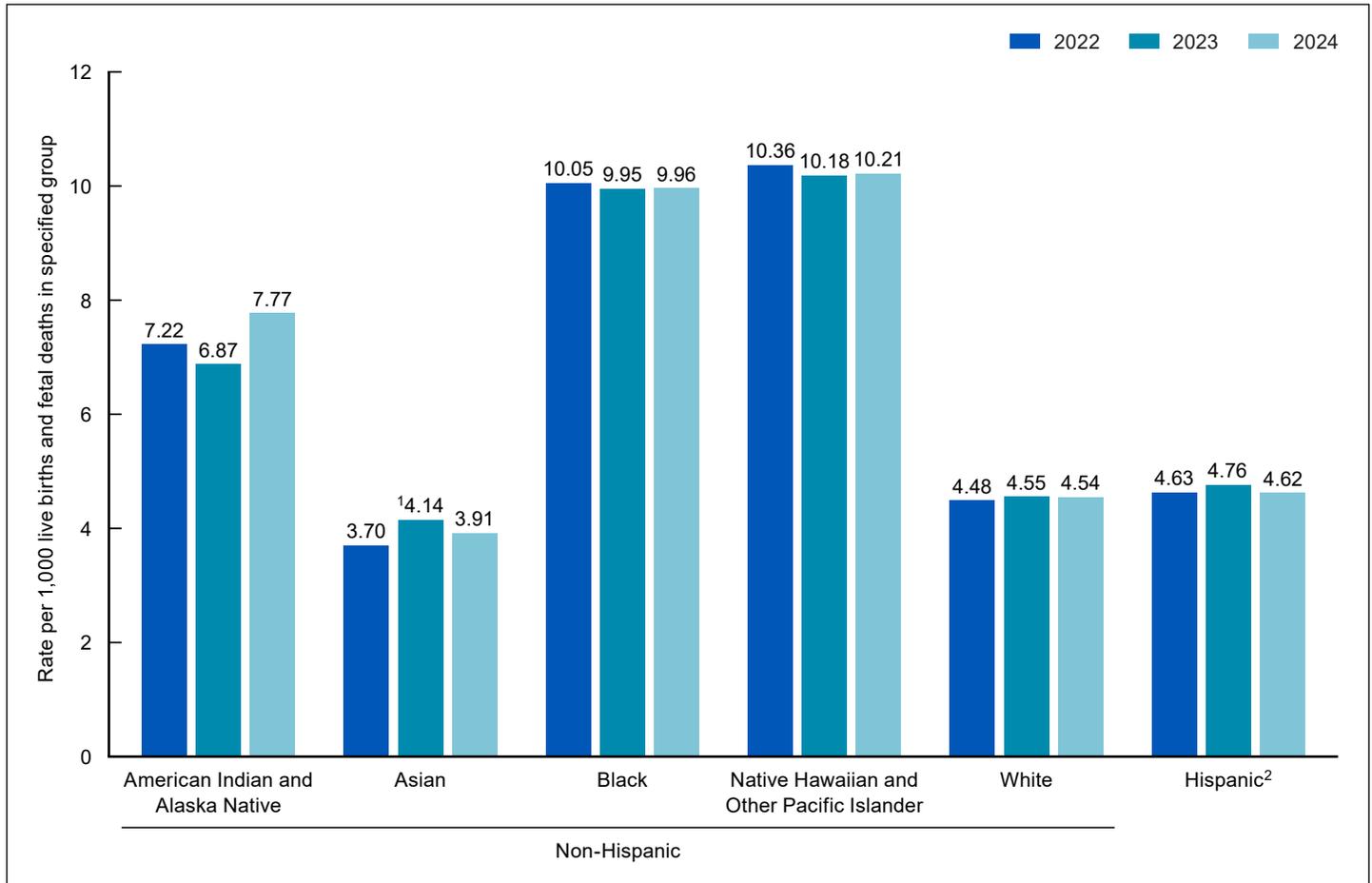
- From 2023 to 2024, the fetal mortality rate decreased in three states: Colorado (14%, from 6.11 to 5.25), Utah (16%, 6.53 to 5.50), and Mississippi (21%, 9.86 to 7.80). The rate increased in New Jersey (19%, from 5.53 to 6.58). Changes in the rate were not significant for the remaining 46 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) (Table 2, Figure 3).
- In contrast, from 2022 to 2023, the fetal mortality rate increased in 5 states (Colorado, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, and Utah), decreased in 1 state (Tennessee), and was not significantly different in 44 states and D.C.

Summary

This analysis of provisional 2024 fetal mortality data found that the total and late fetal mortality rates declined by 2% and 4%, respectively, compared with 2023 rates, while the early fetal mortality rate was essentially unchanged. From 2023 to 2024, no significant changes were observed in the fetal mortality rates for any of the race and Hispanic-origin groups. Fetal mortality rates decreased in three states and increased in one state from 2023 to 2024; however, the small number of fetal deaths in some states by year can limit the ability to detect statistically significant changes between years and between states.

In comparison, from 2022 to 2023, the fetal mortality rate increased for early fetal deaths, for Asian women, and in five states, and declined in one state.

Figure 2. Fetal mortality rate, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2022 and 2023 final and 2024 provisional

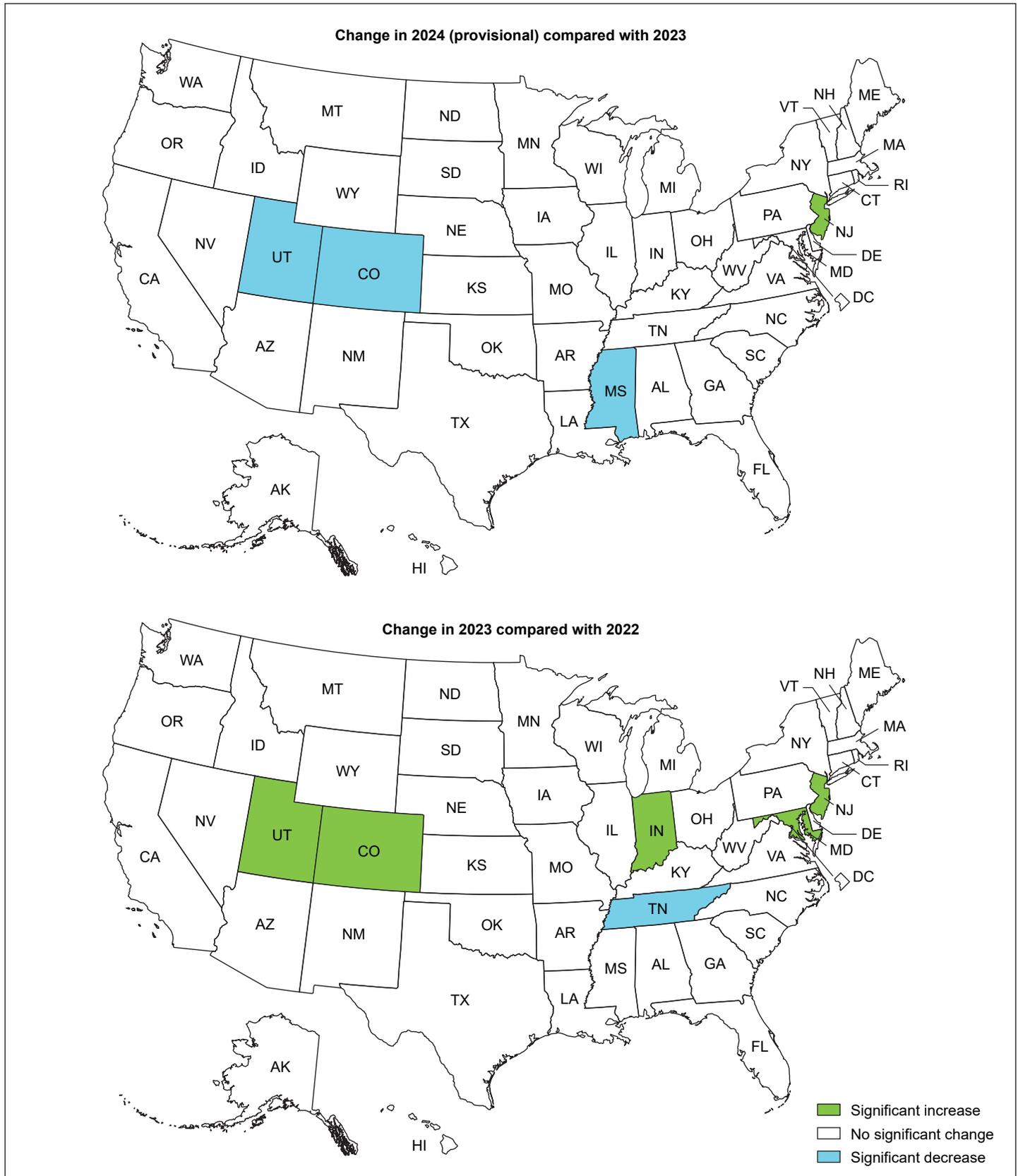


¹Significantly higher than 2022 ($p < 0.05$).

²People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

Figure 3. Changes in fetal mortality rate, by state of residence: United States, final 2023–provisional 2024 and final 2022–2023



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

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List of Detailed Tables

1. Number of fetal deaths and births and fetal mortality rate, by selected characteristics: United States, final 2022 and 2023 and provisional 2024 data. 6
2. Number of fetal deaths and births and fetal mortality rate, by state of residence: United States, final 2022 and 2023 and provisional 2024 data. 7

Vital Statistics Surveillance Report

Table 1. Number of fetal deaths and births and fetal mortality rate, by selected characteristics: United States, 2022 and 2023 final and 2024 provisional

Selected characteristics	Number of fetal deaths			Number of live births			Fetal mortality rate ¹			Percent change in rate	
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
Total ²	20,202	20,005	19,756	3,667,758	3,596,017	3,628,934	5.48	5.53	5.41	1	†-2
Early ^{3,4}	10,246	10,431	10,485	3,667,758	3,596,017	3,628,934	2.79	2.89	2.88	†4	0
Late ^{4,5}	9,956	9,574	9,271	3,667,758	3,596,017	3,628,934	2.71	2.66	2.55	-2	†-4
Non-Hispanic, single race ⁶ :											
American Indian and Alaska Native	187	170	188	25,721	24,571	24,021	7.22	6.87	7.77	-5	13
Asian	813	897	890	218,994	215,738	226,860	3.70	4.14	3.91	†12	-6
Black	5,194	4,941	4,760	511,439	491,494	473,377	10.05	9.95	9.96	-1	0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	106	104	107	10,122	10,115	10,375	10.36	10.18	10.21	-2	0
White	8,280	8,171	8,124	1,840,739	1,787,051	1,783,156	4.48	4.55	4.54	2	0
Hispanic ⁷	4,359	4,520	4,568	937,421	945,200	984,092	4.63	4.76	4.62	3	-3

† Significant change ($p < 0.05$).

¹Number of fetal deaths in specified group per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths.

²Fetal deaths with stated or presumed period of gestation of 20 weeks or more.

³Fetal deaths at 20–27 weeks of gestation.

⁴Not-stated gestational age proportionally distributed.

⁵Fetal deaths at 28 weeks of gestation or more.

⁶Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on reports of fetal death; people of Hispanic origin may be of any race. In this table, non-Hispanic women are classified by race. Race categories are consistent with 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards. Single race is defined as only one race reported on the report of fetal death.

⁷Includes all people of Hispanic origin of any race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

Vital Statistics Surveillance Report

Table 2. Number of fetal deaths and births and fetal mortality rate, by state of residence: United States, 2022 and 2023 final and 2024 provisional

Area	Number of fetal deaths			Number of live births			Fetal mortality rate ¹			Percent change in rate	
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
Alabama	426	436	445	58,149	57,858	57,934	7.27	7.48	7.62	3	2
Alaska	54	42	43	9,359	9,015	8,943	5.74	4.64	4.79	-19	3
Arizona	492	494	479	78,547	78,096	78,711	6.22	6.29	6.05	1	-4
Arkansas	265	248	246	35,471	35,264	35,395	7.42	6.98	6.90	-6	-1
California	2,115	1,993	1,923	419,104	400,108	402,075	5.02	4.96	4.76	-1	-4
Colorado	305	378	339	62,383	61,494	64,268	4.87	6.11	5.25	†25	†-14
Connecticut	175	171	151	35,332	34,559	34,599	4.93	4.92	4.35	0	-12
Delaware	56	62	62	10,816	10,427	10,550	5.15	5.91	5.84	15	-1
District of Columbia	65	55	55	8,075	7,896	7,616	7.99	6.92	7.17	-13	4
Florida	1,548	1,509	1,469	224,433	221,410	224,389	6.85	6.77	6.50	-1	-4
Georgia	1,000	959	913	126,130	125,120	126,437	7.87	7.61	7.17	-3	-6
Hawaii	97	90	87	15,535	14,808	14,917	6.21	6.04	5.80	-3	-4
Idaho	91	123	121	22,391	22,397	23,276	4.05	5.46	5.17	35	-5
Illinois	737	740	740	128,350	124,820	125,731	5.71	5.89	5.85	3	-1
Indiana	439	496	559	79,649	79,000	80,257	5.48	6.24	6.92	†14	11
Iowa	163	159	166	36,506	36,052	36,436	4.45	4.39	4.54	-1	3
Kansas	205	184	165	34,401	34,065	33,984	5.92	5.37	4.83	-9	-10
Kentucky	283	277	269	52,315	51,984	52,913	5.38	5.30	5.06	-1	-5
Louisiana	300	296	306	56,479	54,927	53,305	5.28	5.36	5.71	2	7
Maine	63	41	41	12,093	11,627	11,601	5.18	3.51	3.52	-32	0
Maryland	366	430	402	68,782	65,594	65,797	5.29	6.51	6.07	†23	-7
Massachusetts	284	261	253	68,584	67,093	68,184	4.12	3.88	3.70	-6	-5
Michigan	614	532	572	102,321	99,124	99,525	5.96	5.34	5.71	-10	7
Minnesota	351	319	300	64,015	61,715	62,110	5.45	5.14	4.81	-6	-6
Mississippi	320	343	263	34,675	34,459	33,473	9.14	9.86	7.80	8	†-21
Missouri	358	372	348	68,985	67,123	67,998	5.16	5.51	5.09	7	-8
Montana	54	49	53	11,175	11,078	11,331	4.81	4.40	4.66	-9	6
Nebraska	110	123	113	24,345	24,111	24,785	4.50	5.08	4.54	13	-11
Nevada	235	245	242	33,193	31,794	32,381	7.03	7.65	7.42	9	-3
New Hampshire	56	44	37	12,077	11,936	11,770	4.62	3.67	3.13	-21	-15
New Jersey	498	562	671	102,893	101,001	101,372	4.82	5.53	6.58	†15	†19
New Mexico	69	94	82	21,614	20,951	21,328	3.18	4.47	3.83	41	-14
New York (including New York City)	1,211	1,137	1,162	207,774	203,612	205,489	5.79	5.55	5.62	-4	1
North Carolina	696	697	714	121,562	120,082	122,856	5.69	5.77	5.78	1	0
North Dakota	47	42	63	9,567	9,647	9,634	4.89	4.33	6.50	-11	50
Ohio	741	775	704	128,231	126,896	126,795	5.75	6.07	5.52	6	-9
Oklahoma	293	275	295	48,332	47,909	47,962	6.03	5.71	6.11	-5	7
Oregon	195	179	169	39,493	38,298	38,963	4.91	4.65	4.32	-5	-7
Pennsylvania	663	593	612	130,252	126,951	127,299	5.06	4.65	4.78	-8	3
Rhode Island	52	49	49	10,269	9,805	10,009	5.04	4.97	4.87	-1	-2
South Carolina	288	310	333	57,820	57,729	58,768	4.96	5.34	5.63	8	5
South Dakota	54	84	62	11,201	11,201	11,451	4.80	7.44	5.39	55	-28
Tennessee	538	471	510	82,265	83,021	83,833	6.50	5.64	6.05	†-13	7
Texas	1,613	1,615	1,610	389,741	387,945	390,828	4.12	4.15	4.10	1	-1
Utah	252	296	258	45,768	45,019	46,664	5.48	6.53	5.50	†19	†-16
Vermont	21	19	17	5,316	5,065	5,023	3.93	3.74	3.37	-5	-10
Virginia	497	495	505	95,630	92,649	94,054	5.17	5.31	5.34	3	1
Washington	421	432	398	83,333	80,932	83,118	5.03	5.31	4.77	6	-10
West Virginia	70	62	54	16,929	16,606	17,022	4.12	3.72	3.16	-10	-15
Wisconsin	320	314	295	60,049	59,754	59,686	5.30	5.23	4.92	-1	-6
Wyoming	36	33	31	6,049	5,990	6,089	5.92	5.48	5.07	-7	-7

† Significant change ($p < 0.05$).

¹Number of fetal deaths per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

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