CDC's Division of Reproductive Health works to improve the health of women and babies through rigorous research and evaluation; strong data; effective capacity building; and ensuring that protecting the public's health is informed by the best available science. Our Division's top priorities include reducing preterm birth, addressing sudden unexpected infant death, accurately counting and preventing maternal deaths, and ensuring optimal health and health care for women before, during, and after pregnancy, including preventing and managing chronic diseases.

Over our 50 year history, our work has contributed to tremendous successes in the fields of maternal, infant, and reproductive health. The establishment of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a joint project between the state departments of health and DRH has provided important data for state health officials to use to improve state maternal and infant health programs. The national teen birth rate has fallen to an all-time low. Preterm birth rates have also decreased. However, the work is not finished. Thousands of infants still die before their first birthday—especially if they are born too early. Too many mothers in the U.S. and abroad still die of pregnancy-related causes. Through partnership with national, state, and local organizations and health agencies, we will continue our significant efforts to improve maternal and infant health.