

DID YOU KNOW?

October is Stillbirth Awareness Month. Each year in the United States approximately 24,000 babies are stillborn¹.

Disparities in Stillbirth

- Racial/ethnic disparities exist in stillbirth. In 2014-2018, there were 138 stillbirths to Non-Hispanic Black mothers (10.8 stillbirths per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths).
- This was **more than twice the rate** among the Non-Hispanic White population (4.8 stillbirths per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths).
- The leading cause of fetal death among the Non-Hispanic Black and Non-Hispanic White populations was complications of placenta, cord and membranes².



4.8 stillbirths

Per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths among Non-Hispanic White mothers



10.8 stillbirths

Per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths among Non-Hispanic Black mothers

Ways to Reduce Disparities in Stillbirth:

- ✓ **Improve access** to critical services (eliminate maternity care deserts and offer resources for vulnerable populations to navigate the health care system such as care coordination).
- ✓ **Train providers** to address racism and build a more diverse workforce. Work to reduce health care provider bias, as well as other systemic barriers which contribute to racial and socioeconomic disparities in birth outcomes.
- ✓ **Complete comprehensive screenings** during health care visits, to include pregnancy intention ([One Key Question](#)), sexually transmitted infections, tobacco use, substance use, immunization status, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, social determinants of health, intimate partner violence and other risk factors. Provide brief interventions and referral to care when applicable.
- ✓ **Invest in and expand access** to policies and programs that support families' basic needs.
- ✓ **Invest in and expand access** to home visiting programs.

For more information, visit www.kdheks.gov/c-f/integration_toolkits.htm.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/stillbirth/data.html> 2. Infant Mortality & Stillbirth Report: Kansas 2018. https://www.kdheks.gov/phi/IMR/2018_IMR_Report.pdf