TRENDS IN FETAL AND PERINATAL MORTALITY

A new CDC report shows that while perinatal mortality rates are continuing to decline—down 10% since 2000—the US fetal mortality rate for the latest study period (2006–2012) did not improve. Rates of total, early, and late fetal mortality were flat for the most recent years and essentially unchanged among non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic women.

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Total fetal, late fetal, and early neonatal mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother

1. Change is significant at 0.05.
2. 2011 is the most recent year for which neonatal death data are available.

Early fetal mortality rate is the number of fetal deaths at 20–27 weeks’ gestation per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths at 20–27 weeks’ gestation.

Early neonatal mortality rate is the number of infant deaths under age 7 days per 1,000 live births.

Perinatal mortality rate is the number of infant deaths under age 7 days and fetal deaths at ≥28 weeks’ gestation per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths at ≥28 weeks’ gestation.