Total U.S. Births, 1990-2017

Net Decrease 2007-2017
460,733 or 10.7%

Source: Annual NCHS Reports on Births

BirthByTheNumbers.org
Total cesarean rates by race/ethnicity, U.S. 1989-2017

Source: National Center for Health Statistics Annual Birth Reports

www.BirthByTheNumbers.org
Percent of all births at home, or in a birthing center, United States, 1990-2017

74% Increase 2004-2017

Total home & birth center:
- 46,956 (1.13%)
- 35,587 (0.87%)

Home:
- 58,221 (1.51%)
- 38,343 (0.99%)

Birthing center:
- 19,878 (0.52%)

Source: NCHS Annual Birth Reports

BirthByTheNumbers.org
Midwife Attended Births 1989-2017

Source: NCHS Annual Birth Reports

BirthByTheNumbers.org
Three Definitions of Maternal Death (in the U.S.)

• Pregnancy Associated Death – The death of a women while pregnant or within one year of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of cause. Starting point for analyses.

• Maternal Mortality Ratio – the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes. Typically reported as a ratio per 100,000 births. Used in international comparisons.

• Pregnancy Related Death – the death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy. Used by CDC for U.S. trends.

www.BirthByTheNumbers.org

![Graph showing the pregnancy-related mortality ratio from 1987 to 2015.](image)

Timing of Maternal Deaths

- Before Delivery: 31.3%
- Day of Delivery: 16.9%
- 1-6 Days PPM: 18.6%
- 7-41 Days PPM: 21.4%
- 42-365 Days PPM: 11.7%


Racial Disparities (2011-15):
- 12.8 white women
- 34.7 black women
- 9.5 Hispanic

B-W Ratio: 2.71


www.BirthByTheNumbers.org
Maternal Mortality is the Canary in the Coal Mine for Women’s Health

Gene Declercq, PhD
Community Health Sciences Dept.,
Boston University SPH

www.birthbythenumbers.org

Partners in Perinatal Health
30th Annual Meeting
Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, MA
May 8, 2019

www.BirthByTheNumbers.org