

Pregnancy Mortality

RISK OF DEATH TO THE WOMAN AFTER AN ABORTION

Mortality risks are lower when an abortion is performed in the early weeks of pregnancy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), during 2008 - 2012, there was one maternal death for every 153,846 legally induced abortions in the United States. The risk of death associated with abortion increases with the length of pregnancy. The risk of the woman dying from an abortion is:

- One death per one million abortions performed at 8 weeks or less
- One death per 500,000 abortions performed at 9-10 weeks
- One death per 250,000 abortions performed at 11-12 weeks
- One death per 58,823 abortions performed at 13-15 weeks
- One death per 29,411 abortions performed at 16-20 weeks
- One death per 11,236 abortions performed at 21 weeks or more

References: "Induced Abortion in the United States." Guttmacher Institute. Updated February 2014. Retrieved March 5, 2014, at www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html, citing, Bartlett LA et al., "Risk factors for legal induced abortion-related mortality in the United States," *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 2004, 103(4): 729-737.

"Abortion Surveillance – United States, 2013." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 25, 2016 / 65 (12); 1-44.

RISKS OF PREGNANCY

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there was one maternal death for every 6,289 live births in 2012. Considerable racial disparities in pregnancy-related mortality exist. In 2013 there were:

- 12.1 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women.
- 40.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for black women.
- 16.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for women of other races.

The most common causes of maternal death 2011-2013 were:

- Cardiovascular diseases, 15.5%.
- Non-cardiovascular diseases, 14.5%.
- Infection or sepsis, 12.7%.
- Hemorrhage, 11.4%.
- Cardiomyopathy, 11.0%.
- Thrombotic pulmonary embolism, 9.2%.
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, 7.4%.
- Cerebrovascular accidents, 6.6%.
- Amniotic fluid embolism, 5.5%.
- Anesthesia complications, 0.1%.