

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Right to Life Presentation

Sept. 21, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

DOH Mission:
Protecting, promoting,
and improving the
health of South
Dakotans.

DOH Vision: Every
South Dakotan
Healthy and Strong

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FIRST 1000 DAYS FOCUS

- Governor Noem's agenda focuses on the First 1000 Days.
- Crucial period from conception to first two years of life.
- DOH has made this a priority in supporting families.



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- 11,201 births in 2022; highest birth rate in the U.S. for women 25-29.
- 11,170 births in 2023.
- Home births increased from 50 in 2014 to 234 in 2023.
- Sets of twins born in 2023: 176
- Most popular names: Nora & Oliver.
- Oldest mother: 48 years old.
- Smallest baby: 1 pound, 2 ounces.
- Largest baby: 12 pounds, 3 ounces.

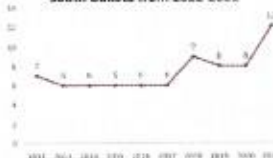


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MATERNAL & INFANT MORTALITY CONCERNS

- Growing number of mothers receiving no prenatal care.
- 75% of mothers receive prenatal care in the first trimester.
- Rising maternal mortality rates, especially among Native American women. Main causes are substance use, motor vehicle accidents related to substance use, and suicide.
- Native American maternal mortality rate: 127.1 per 100,000 live births (vs. 40.9 for white mothers).

Number of Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in South Dakota from 2012-2021



Percent of Pregnancy-Associated Deaths by Race, 2012-2021



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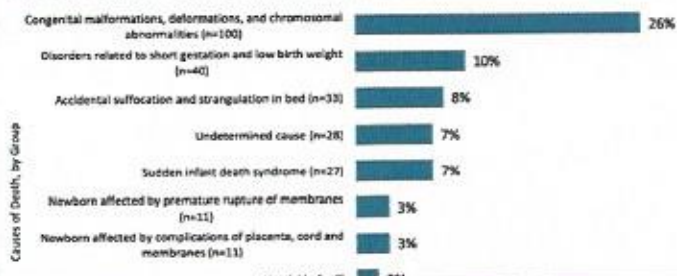
MATERNAL & INFANT MORTALITY CONCERNS

- Infant mortality rates increasing, especially for Native American babies.
- Preventable causes: Low birth weight, unsafe sleep practices.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES BY RACE, SOUTH DAKOTA, 2013-2022



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG RESIDENT INFANTS, SOUTH DAKOTA, 2018-2022



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DOH PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT MOMS & BABIES

- Bright Start: Nurse home visiting for first-time parents.
- WIC: Nutrition education and food support.
- Wake Safe: Ensuring safe sleep for babies and Pack 'N Play distribution.
- Many programs support mothers and children
 - Pregnancy Care Program
 - Newborn Screening Program
 - Birth to 3 Parent Training



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- Mentor and support mothers, fathers, and families.
- Host community showers for new moms.
- Support tribal communities.
- Consider fostering children in need.
- Pray for the mothers, fathers, and children of SD and pray for creative and innovative ways to support families.

HOW THE
COMMUNITY
CAN HELP

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HB 1224 OVERVIEW

- Introduced by Rep. Rehfeld & Sen. Tobin
- Required a video explaining abortion laws and related medical standards.
- Focus: Clarity for medical practitioners regarding life-threatening conditions in pregnancy.
 - DOH consulted with medial and legal professionals
- Video released on September 1, 2024.
- Video available on the DOH website.
 - <https://doh.sd.gov/healthcare-professionals/medical-education-guidance/>

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

The life of the mother is a very important in South Dakota law.

Physicians are able to intervene when the life of the mother is threatened.

Intention is critical.

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