

What SOARS Participants Say...

"It is my hope that my participation with this survey will help provide answers to the reasons why this happens... Thank you for this program and helping to find answers!"

"I would have liked to have been told I could dress and bathe my baby. I also desperately wish they had taken hand prints of my son"

"After delivery, we requested testing on the placenta... unfortunately we never received word back if testing had ever been performed"

"Go save these babies! Data is powerful."

"We're so grateful you're taking these surveys because we don't want anyone else (especially those without a proper support system) to experience this. I hope I've been helpful"

"Our hospital was great! I had a lot of support from the Drs and nurses as well as family and friends. I loved the keepsakes the hospital gave me."

What is SOARS?

The Study of Associated Risks of Stillbirth (SOARS) is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Utah State Health Department. SOARS is an ongoing, state-specific, population-based survey designed to collect information on maternal experiences and behaviors prior to, during, and immediately following pregnancy among mothers who have recently experienced a stillbirth.

Objectives

- To collect population-based data of high scientific quality on topics related to stillbirth.
- To conduct comprehensive analysis to further the understanding of relationships between behavior, attitudes, and experiences related to stillbirth.
- To translate results from analyses into useable information for planning and evaluation of public health programs and healthcare policies related to stillbirth.

Approach

- Convened a steering committee
- Established a protocol
- Developed materials
- Created the survey (65 questions)
- Partnered with Vital Records
- Obtained IRB approval
- Obtained bereavement support training
- Press release and social media

Methods

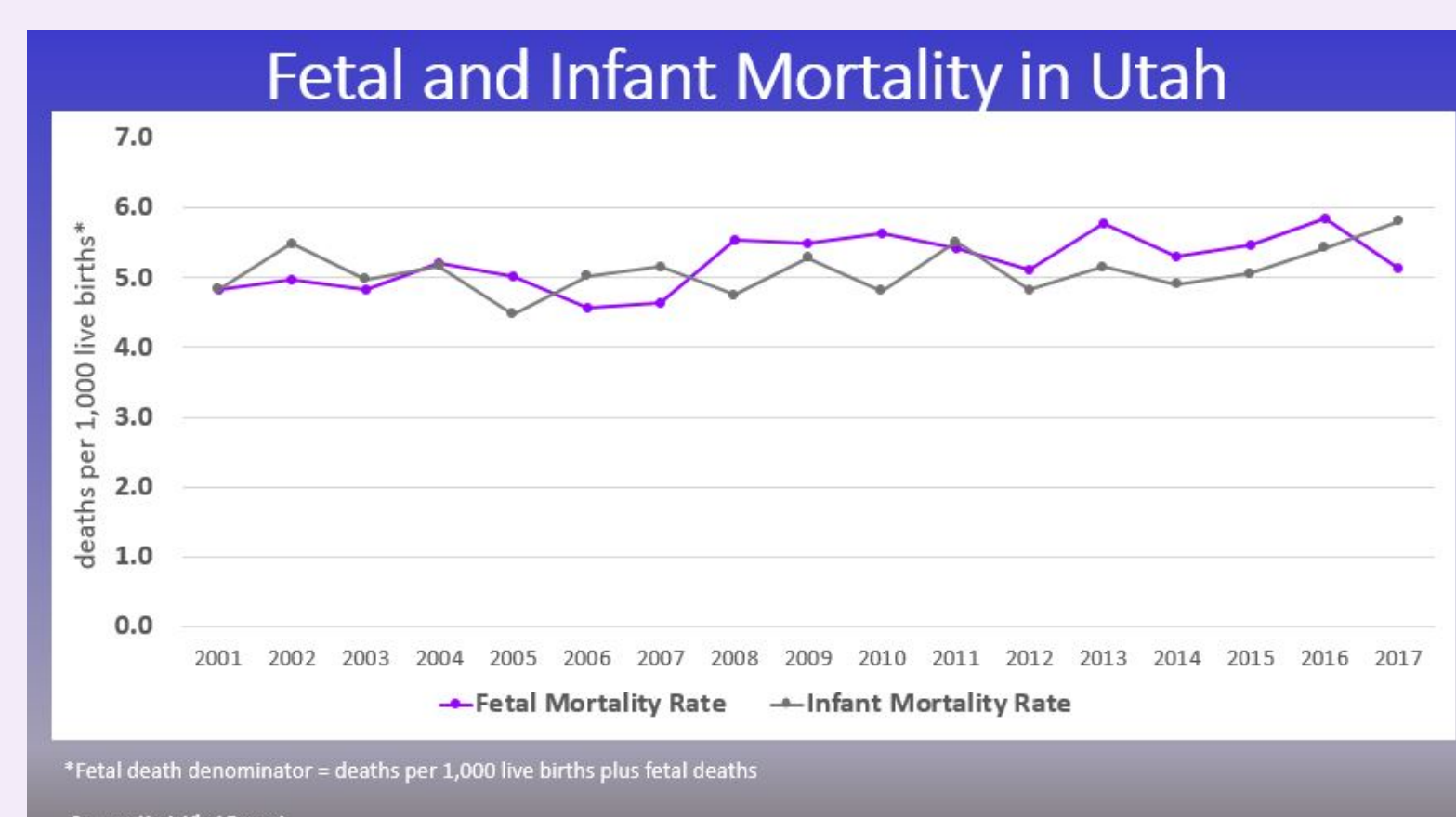
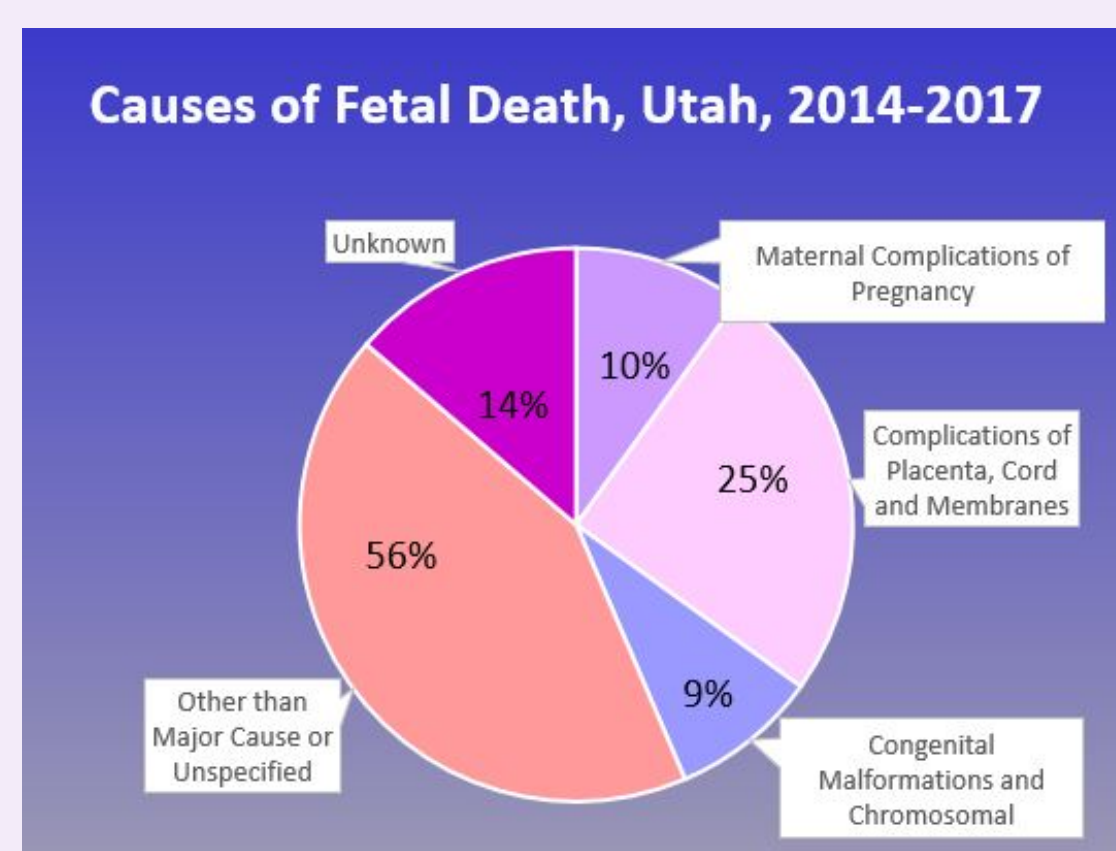
- Population sample selection 2-4 months after delivery
- Day 1- mail introductory notecard with our condolences
- Day 11 - mail first survey and a beautiful incentive
- Day 21 - mail a reminder letter
- Day 31 – mail a second survey
- Day 59 - telephone follow up
- Day 94 – end data collection

How SOARS Assesses Women's Experiences of Care After Stillbirth

Did any of the following things happen before you left the hospital?

- I felt adequately supported by my doctor or midwife in my grieving process
- I felt adequately supported by the hospital nursing staff in my grieving process
- I felt adequately supported by the grief counseling staff in my grieving process
- I was given information about my breast milk coming in
- I was given information about what to do when my breast milk came in
- I was given a bereavement packet with information on where to seek support
- The hospital staff gave me the opportunity to ask questions
- My healthcare provider discussed with me what might have happened to my baby

Utah Data



Steering Committee



SOARS Results



- Number of surveys sent = 193
- Average monthly sample = 25
- Completed surveys = 113
- Mail responses = 104
- Phone responses = 9
- Average response rate = 58.5% (range 50% - 80%)
- Refusals = 6
- Negative reactions = 1
- Positive comments = Many!