



Why don't we talk about pregnancy loss?

In 2021: [1]

357

babies were **stillborn** or **died** during the first 28 days of life

119

early **neonatal deaths** (0-7 days)

238

stillbirths

14.7%

of stillbirths - **cause of death** was **unknown**



Irish Traveller, Asian & Black ethnicities overrepresented in perinatal deaths (12.1% v 5%) [1]



Assessment of risk of perinatal loss associated with ethnic group is impeded by the absence of national data on ethnicity for the pregnant population

Ireland is one of a few countries with a National Perinatal Mortality Audit...



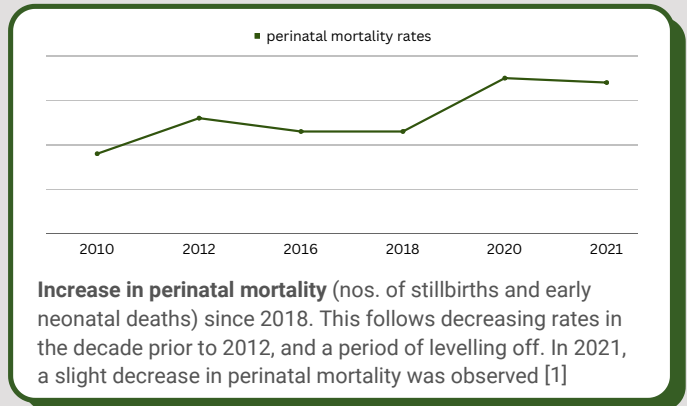
However, **miscarriages** are **not recorded** at a **national level**

Molar pregnancy

1 in 600 pregnancies [2]

Registration with National GTD Registry is not compulsory

865 ectopic pregnancies [3]



True incidence of early pregnancy losses likely to be **considerably higher**, as some women will be treated as outpatients, or may not be managed in hospital, while others may not present to healthcare services at all [4]



Lack of public awareness and discussion

Less than **30%** of people in a national survey were **aware of the incidence of first trimester miscarriage** [5]

17%

aware of the incidence of stillbirth [6]

56%

unable to identify any stillbirth risk factors [6]

78%

unaware of the term molar pregnancy prior to their diagnosis [7]

24%

of people rated their **overall** recurrent miscarriage **care experience as poor** [8]

36%

said the recurrent miscarriage care they received was much **worse than expected** [8]

26%

of people who experienced a second trimester miscarriage, a stillbirth or an early neonatal death **rated their care as 'fair to poor'** [9]

Consistent communication needed in services highlighted in the Maternity Bereavement Experience Survey [9]

Need for staff education and training

60%

stated healthcare professionals involved in recurrent miscarriage care in different places **did not work well together** [8]

50%

of healthcare professionals **correctly identified the Irish definition of stillbirth** [10]

65%

of healthcare professionals **considered informing women** regarding health **behaviours & stillbirth risks** to be part of **their role** [10]

Fear of litigation

82%

perceived **media** to have a **role in propagating** trainee doctors' **fears** of litigation & adverse outcomes [11]

€2.4 billion

paid to maternity services **negligence claims**; some of which relate to potentially **avoidable perinatal deaths** [12]



Need for staff supports

Healthcare professionals who were involved in an intrapartum death.....

82%

received no training in dealing with intrapartum death [13]

had **no education** on self-care strategies [13]

94%

11%

were **offered debriefing** [13]

Despite these statistics, and advocacy efforts, there is still:



No routine data on first trimester miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or molar pregnancy



No updated definition of perinatal mortality



No national care bundle for stillbirths



No national strategy for pregnancy loss



No confidential inquiry - hinders understanding and solutions



Very little mention of pregnancy loss in Government or national policy **reports** or HSE service **plans**