

Stillbirths in Ireland

Annual Report 2022



NATIONAL PERINATAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE

The Irish Stillbirths Registration Act, defines a stillbirth as a child born weighing 500 grammes or more or having a gestational age of 24 weeks or more who shows no sign of life.

Stillbirth rate: Number of stillbirths per 1,000 total births (live births and stillbirths from 24 weeks gestation or weighing >500g).



The stillbirth rate was **3.51** per 1,000 total births



54,665 Total Births



290 Total Perinatal Deaths
Includes stillbirths and neonatal deaths

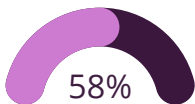


192 Stillbirths

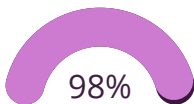


Stillbirth accounted for 66.2% of the perinatal deaths in 2022.

Investigations to determine the cause of death



An **autopsy** was undertaken following 57.8% of stillbirths.



Placental histology examinations were conducted for almost all stillbirths.

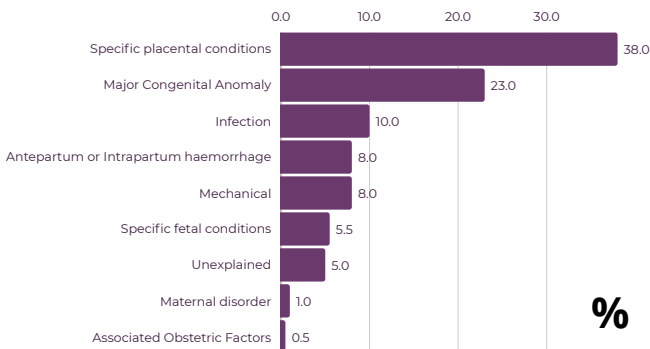
Cause of death in stillbirths



Specific placental conditions were the most common cause of death in stillbirths in 2022.

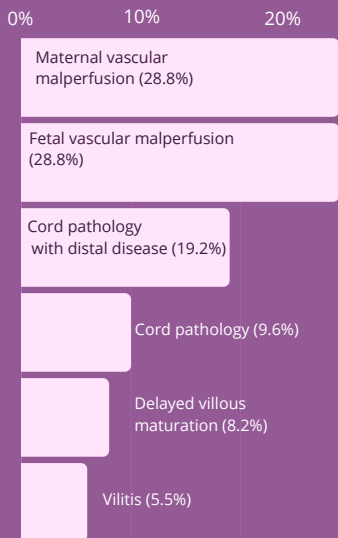


Major congenital anomaly was the second most common cause of death in stillbirths in 2022.

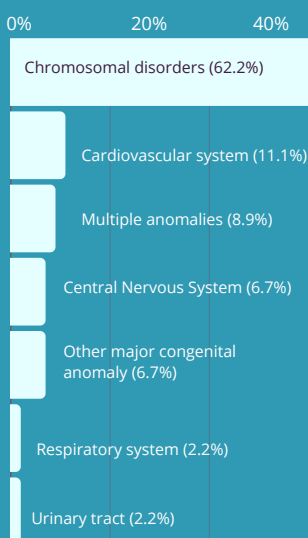


Cause of death in stillbirths

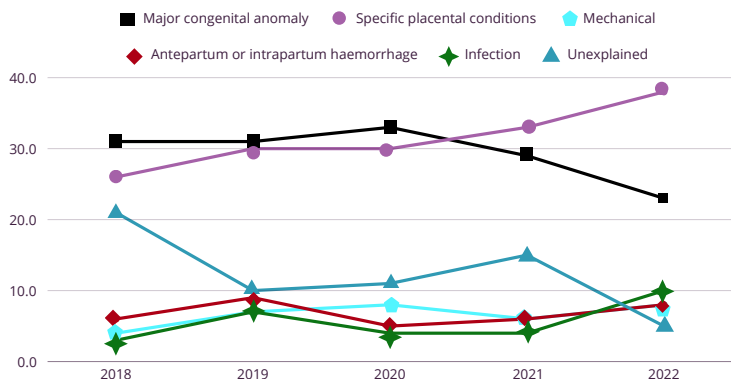

Placental conditions



Major congenital anomalies



Cause of death in stillbirths: trends over the years

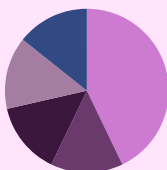
In 2022, there were no perinatal death due to SARS-CoV-2

Intrapartum deaths accounted for 3.7% (n = 7) of stillbirths in the Republic of Ireland in 2022



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Antepartum or intrapartum haemorrhage (n = 1)
Infection (n = 1)
Placental conditions (n = 1)
Unexplained (n = 1)



Major congenital anomalies (n = 3)