

# Stillbirth (fetal death)

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# Stillbirth (fetal death)

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Glossary Item

**METEOR identifier:** 733271

**Registration status:** [Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 24/12/2021

**Definition:** A fetal death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 400 grams or more birthweight.

The death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

**Context:** Perinatal

## Collection and usage attributes

**Comments:** Terminations of pregnancy performed at gestational ages of 20 or more weeks should be included in perinatal collections and should be recorded either as stillbirths or, in the unlikely event of showing evidence of life, as [live births](#).

Fetus papyraceous and fetus compressus are products of conception recognisable as a deceased fetus. These fetal deaths are likely to have occurred before 20 weeks gestation but should be included as stillbirths in perinatal collections if they are recognisable as a fetus and have been expelled or extracted with other products of conception at 20 or more weeks gestational age.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** National Perinatal Data Development Committee

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Stillbirth \(fetal death\)](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 14/07/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 24/03/2023

See also [Live birth](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 24/12/2021

**Metadata items which use this glossary item:** [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific primary health care NBEDS December 2023](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 25/02/2024

[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific primary health care NBEDS June 2024](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Recorded 04/04/2024

[Birth status code N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021

[Birthweight](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 24/12/2021

[Female—parity](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020

[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 11/06/2021

[Female—parity, total pregnancies N\[N\]](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 11/06/2021

[Indigenous-specific primary health care NBEDS December 2020](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 03/07/2022

[Indigenous-specific primary health care NBEDS December 2021](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 12/06/2023

[Indigenous-specific primary health care NBEDS December 2022](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 18/12/2023

[Indigenous-specific primary health care NBEDS June 2021](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 06/11/2022

[Indigenous-specific primary health care NBEDS June 2022](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 27/08/2023

[Indigenous-specific primary health care NBEDS June 2023](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 25/02/2024

[Perinatal death](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

[Perinatal Mortality NBEDS 2022–23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2023

[Perinatal Mortality NBEDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 07/02/2023

[Perinatal Mortality NBEDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Qualified 12/09/2023

[Perinatal NBEDS 2021–22](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

[Perinatal NBEDS 2022–23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 09/12/2022

[Perinatal NBEDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NBEDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NMDS 2021–22](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

[Perinatal NMDS 2022–23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 09/12/2022

[Perinatal NMDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NMDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Pregnancy—birth plurality, code N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 24/03/2023

[Product of birth](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 07/11/2023

[Product of birth—birthweight](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 07/11/2023

[Product of birth—birthweight, code N](#)  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021

[Product of birth—birthweight, total grams N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020

[Indigenous](#), Standard 12/06/2023  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 07/11/2023

[Product of birth—head circumference, total centimetres NN\[N\].N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 24/03/2023

[Product of birth—perinatal death type, code N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

[Product of birth—timing of fetal death](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

[Product of birth—timing of fetal death, code N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

[Timing of fetal death](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

[Timing of fetal death code N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021