

One
Every 21
Seconds

Did You Know?

The World Health Organization estimates that 1.5 million babies die every year because they were **not breastfed?**



It's hard to imagine a number that large.

Think of it this way.

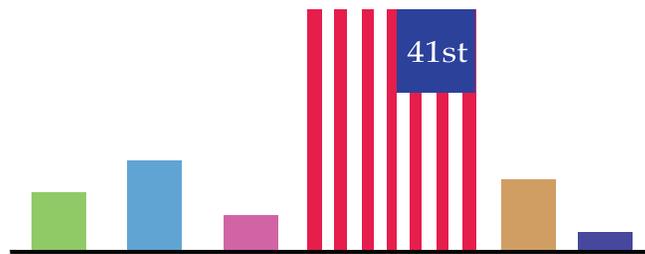
That's **1** baby every **21 Seconds**



Think that this number doesn't apply to the U.S.?

THINK AGAIN

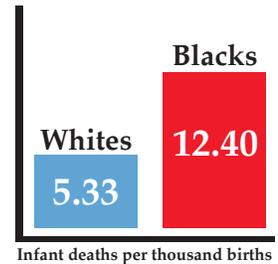
The U.S. ranks a dismal 41st in the world in infant mortality.



Our rate is higher than many countries that spend far less on healthcare than the U.S. does.



Racial/ethnic minorities have the highest rates of infant mortality in the U.S. This is particularly true for African Americans. Although these rates have recently improved, African Americans have more than **twice** the rates of infant deaths compared to whites



One possible explanation for this higher rate of infant mortality is a lower rate of breastfeeding for Black mothers.



The World Health Organization notes that breastfeeding is key to improving child survival.

“In fact, optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices are so critical that they can save the lives of 1.5 million children under five every year.”



UNICEF has made a similar statement, noting that deaths due to diarrhea and pneumonia (the most common causes of infant death world wide) are largely preventable through optimal breastfeeding practices.

When babies are born at **Baby-Friendly Hospitals**, ethnic disparities in breastfeeding rates disappear.



According to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, breastfeeding rates have gone up among Black mothers. And in this same report we learned that infant mortality rates for Blacks have dropped significantly for the first time in a decade.

Coincidence? We don't think so.

Bottom Line: **Breastfeeding Saves Lives**

Be part of the solution.
Support breastfeeding for all families

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