Stillborn means dead at birth. In 2000 there were 3.3 million stillbirths worldwide, more than a third of these occurred in Southern Asia.

The number of stillbirths for every 1000 births varies between regions; where parents live greatly affects the chance of a stillbirth. In Central Africa, there are 42 stillbirths for every 1000 births; the Western European rate is a tenth of this. Mauritania has the highest rate of stillbirths at 6.3%. Generally, the richer the territory, the fewer stillbirths occur there.

• Data are from the World Health Organisation’s 2005 World Health Report.
• *10 territories reported 3 stillbirths per 1000 births (the Bahamas are not shown); 3 territories reported 44 per 1000 births (Botswana and the Gambia are not shown). The territories with the highest total births are shown in the chart.
• See website for further information.

“He was beautiful; perfect in every way, except he never took his first breath, and we never heard him cry.”
Sands Bereaved Parent, undated