

Some results right nOw!

"We are going to send a powerful message"

"I share the impatience, but revealing results now could affect the responses of future participants," says Dr. J.Frederik Frøen from the University of Oslo, Principal Investigator of MOMStudy. However, he can reveal that "moms have even greater knowledge of details and causes of death than expected." MOMStudy will therefore be able to give detailed information on what will increase the risk, and what will reduce the risk for each single cause of death before birth.

"As numbers continue to grow, we can see that we for the first time will be able to explore many of the most controversial issues and myths in stillbirth research," according to Dr. Frøen. "We will be able to study e.g. maternal sleep and sleeping position in unexplained stillbirths, hiccups and placental localisation in cord accidents, how medications, drugs, stimulants and natural herbs affect pregnancy, and a lot more. In addition, we are going to send a powerful message to the medical community on what moms experience as quality of care in such a disastrous situation." "This goes for myths on how moms react to autopsy as well", adds Dr. Ruth Fretts from Harvard Medical School. "We need to know why the babies die!"

How can mOms help?

"Moms are the best recruiters of moms",

says Monica Ryczek, coordinator of the recruitment to MOMStudy. Although only 11% of stillbirth moms were recruited personally by someone they knew, 55% of moms reporting a live birth were recruited by a mom. More than 20 organisations are now helping in the recruitment to MOMStudy, but to Ryczek, it is simple:

"If each mom could recruit 2 moms, we would reach our goals three times faster."

It remains a mystery for the Scientific Advisory Committee of MOMStudy why so many moms recruit other moms to participate, and yet so few have given their user name to a friend or family member to recruit a personal control. Only 4% of stillbirth moms have done so this far. "Personal controls are extremely important to us in such a database of "self-selected" participants", says Dr. Fretts from Boston.

"The best contribution to increase the scientific value of these reports, is a personal control."

PrOblems? "Very few so far..."

Web master Gary Mcspadden, and database manager Martin Solaas, have had few problems. "Mainly speed", says Solaas. "Some get impatient and continue before a "dot" mark their response, but most do fine!". "Only a few hours down for maintenance", is the report from Mcspadden.

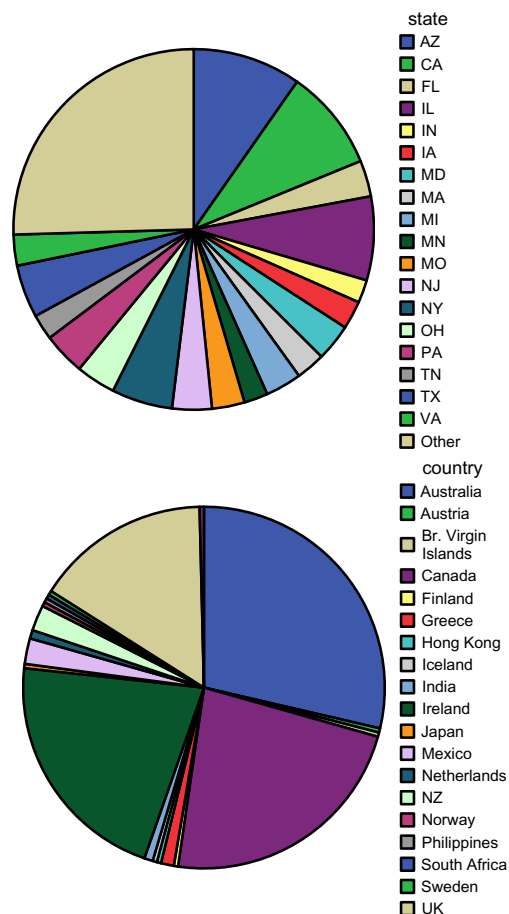
"We receive a few emails that some found no place to report important information, e.g. at what gestation the baby was born or when it died", says Dr. Frøen. "It could happen if you skip crucial questions, but we can not tell, as all are anonymous. If you feel that important information was lost, click the "Tell a friend!"-button and send your user name and the information anonymously to info@momstudy.com. We'll check that your report was OK."

2000 moms!

Mom number 2000 entered the MOMStudy on April 26th!

Since MOMStudy.com opened on February 8th, it has been visited more than 5500 times. 1500 have fully completed and submitted their report so far. 55% report stillbirths and 45% live births.

"Already now we know that MOMStudy is going to provide a leap in stillbirth research", says Dr. Frøen from Oslo. "To collect such detailed information from this many stillbirths would normally take decades - even for the largest delivery units internationally."



Moms from every state in the US are participating, and although 90% live in the US, a total of 20 countries are currently represented in MOMStudy.