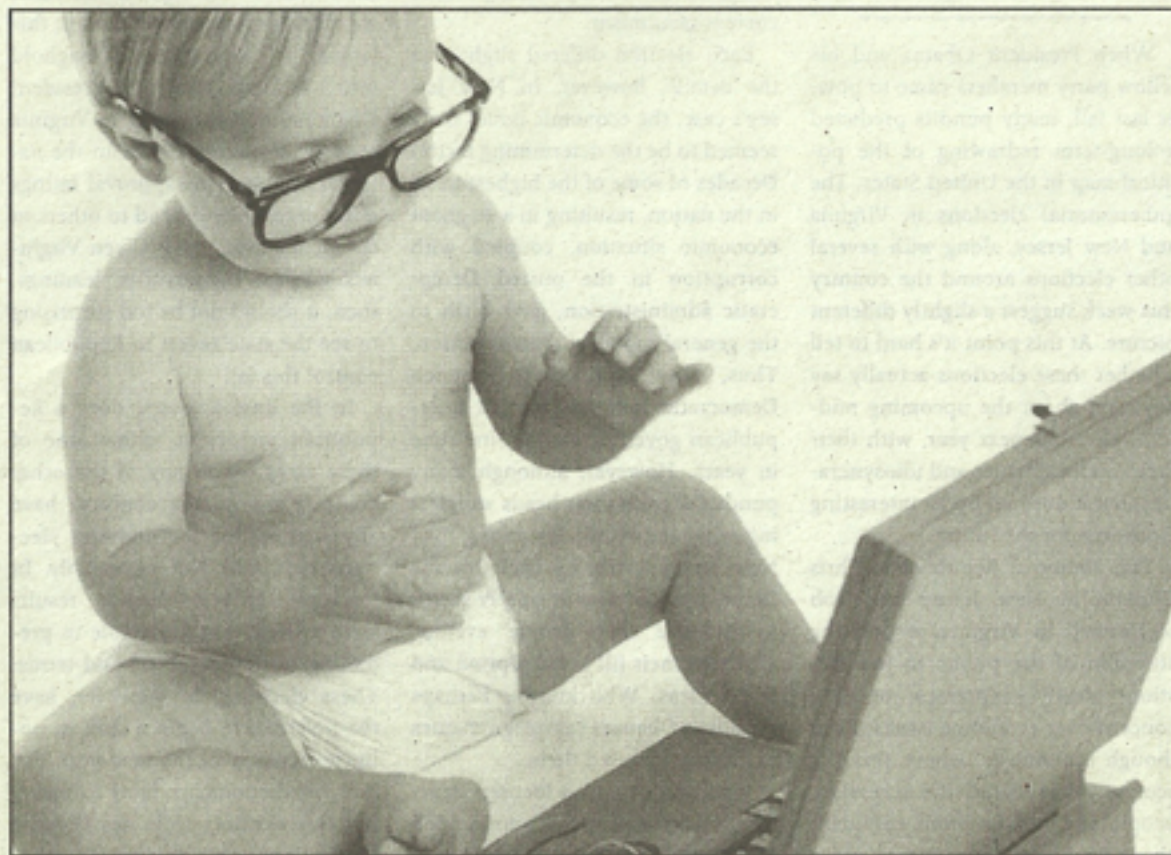


Newsflash: Infant mortality rates are a possible indicator of bad health care in the United States



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"According to this article I have a high chance of dying? But I am too cute to die!"

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After reading an article about how the United States is ranked 30th among infant mortality, my first im-

pulse was about how sad it was. If the United States is supposed to be leading by example, why then would we be so low on a chart that is a measure of how our health care is doing? According to the article, health care is determined by a number of things, infant mortality

being one of them.

Something that I began to wonder about is whether it really is poor health care or is it the number of children being born when they aren't actually ready to survive in the world that is responsible for the ranking?

First, the article mentioned, "One in eight births in the United States were born preterm, compared with one in 18 births in Ireland and Finland," which leads me to believe that other countries might have higher mortality rates if they had a larger population to begin with. Second, I think that it's pretty common knowledge that doing bad things to the human body while pregnant (like drinking, smoking, and other forms of abuse) can cause preterm birth, but what I wasn't aware of is that fertility treatments can also cause preterm birth to happen.

Maybe health care isn't the real problem in this situation. Perhaps an easy solution (and maybe more simple) is to educate the general public on the side effects of drinking and smoking while pregnant. Many people have been bashing health care in the United States in any way that they can find. This looks like it could be another attempt to show how health care isn't perfect.

Health care might not be perfect here, but I've seen a lot worse and I haven't seen much better. Let me make two comparisons to prove my point. I bet that if we went to the number one (lowest number of infant deaths) country on this list of infant mortalities problems would still be happening in that country due to its health care. I bet that infant mortalities would still

happen, even though they have the number one health care. In fact, Singapore has the least number, 2.31 infants for every 1000 live births; while the United States had 6.26 infants for every 1000 live births. That doesn't seem like such a huge difference (but I could be wrong). I bet our health care is better.

Now I'll compare us to the European Union (most Americans consider them to have better health care than us). Overseas, 5.72 infants don't survive for every 1000 live births. This is interesting (and I don't mean in a good way). The way I see it, mortality rates really can't measure the effectiveness of a health care system. The two might have a very indirect link, but picture this situation.

If I go into a hospital and I'm 10 minutes away from death, you know that doctors will be scrambling around trying to save me (and even then I wouldn't have a good survival chance). So, on that note, you can't really hold United States health care accountable if other causes may have been causing the situation. Just like health care (across the board) can't always prevent me from kicking it, it can't prevent infants from dying either.

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