I have been a volunteer birth／stillborn／new－born photographer almost 8 years in service to one entire state of Australia．
Before 源：I photographed stillborns in hospitals only，but after the mandates home birthing has become more regular．Before 溇：I＇d get about 2－3 stillborns a week spread out across the entire state．Within the first 3 months of the mandates In September 2021，I noticed an uprise in cancelation of new－born photo shoots due to miscarriages．
Still births gradually increased．About 8 months into the mandates，around April－May，in one week（one hospital）I photographed 8 stillborns． Between April 2021 and April 2022，I was getting $15-20$ calls a week to photograph stillborns，I couldn＇t with keep up with the workload． Some weeks I did 6，some weeks I could do 12，I just did as many as I could．Before 浱：I would do a total average of about 70 a year but from April 2021 －April 2022 I did almost 400. Since everyone has stopped getting the ：／：still births have gone back down to $1-2$ a week for me．I think what it comes down to is people aren＇t getting the ：：like they once were， however，I have noticed a lot of mums are bleeding during pregnancies and there is a significant increase in mothers who are delivering early．Usually up to 2－3 weeks early．

I＇ve also noticed an increase in unsettled babies with digestive issues，like reflux and they are constantly alert and awake to the point they can＇t sleep（wired is a good description）usually I would be able to get a new－born to sleep for 2 hours during a photo session and they would sleep the whole time．I have also seen a lot more deformities for example，one eye is bigger than the other，one side of the head is bigger than the other，sunken fontanel，jaundice．Lung and kidney problems just to list a few． I have had many conversations with midwives who know this is from the ：）．When I would walk in the hospital they would look at me and say＂another one＂like it＇s become normal．Some of the parents had no idea and made no connection whereas others knew because it was only days after the ：）．I would say about 50／50． Most of the women I spoke to only got it because it was mandated．
I＇m just one of many photographers in my field and I haven＇t spoken to them all directly，but I know I＇m not alone and this has been happening country wide．I would like to put the call out to all still born／birth photographers and midwives to come forward and share their story．
＊$=$ Covid－19
＝the Covid－19 vaccine


