

Pregnancy-Associated Mortality in Louisiana

2021 Data Highlights

The Louisiana Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Committee reviews all pregnancy-associated deaths of Louisiana residents to create actionable, comprehensive recommendations to prevent future deaths. The data and priority areas for prevention identified are based on the review of deaths that occurred in 2021.

Number of Deaths

Definitions

73 Pregnancy-Associated Deaths

Pregnancy-Associated Death: A death that occurs during or within one year of pregnancy, regardless of the cause.

23 Pregnancy-Related Deaths

Pregnancy-Related Death: A death during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by the pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

42 Pregnancy-Associated, but Not Related, Deaths

Pregnancy-Associated, but Not Related, Death: A death during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a cause that is not related to pregnancy.

8 Pregnancy-Associated, but Unable to Determine Relatedness, Deaths

Pregnancy-Associated, but Unable to Determine Relatedness, Death: A pregnancy-associated death where the cause of death is unable to be determined as pregnancy-related or pregnancy-associated, but not related.

Leading Causes of Death

Pregnancy-Associated Deaths



COVID-19



Cardiovascular Conditions
(including Cardiomyopathy)



Drug Overdose

Pregnancy-associated deaths
85% Preventable

Pregnancy-Related Deaths



COVID-19



Cardiovascular Conditions
(including Cardiomyopathy)

Pregnancy-related deaths
87% Preventable

Timing of Deaths



Most (81%) pregnancy-associated deaths occurred after delivery and almost half (49%) occurred from 43 days to 1 year after pregnancy.

19%
During
Pregnancy

32%
Within 42 Days of Pregnancy

49%
43 Days to 1 Year after
Pregnancy

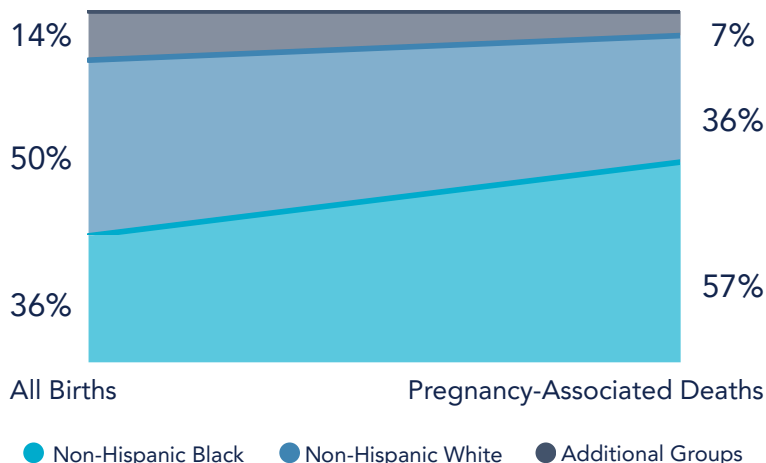
Visit PartnersForFamilyHealth.org/MaternalMortality for more information on the Louisiana Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review process.



Disparities

36% of all births in Louisiana in 2021 were to non-Hispanic Black women. However, non-Hispanic Black women accounted for 57% of all pregnancy-associated deaths that occurred in 2021.

Births and All Pregnancy-Associated Deaths by Race



Most pregnancy-related deaths were among non-Hispanic Black Women

Priority Areas for Prevention



Improve clinical quality of care by improving provider knowledge on the leading clinical conditions impacting maternal morbidity and mortality.



Improve screening for and address social determinants of health, including community and social well-being, and design solutions that improve care coordination and access to care.



Address racial and cultural differences across the network of care that supports pregnant and postpartum women to ensure culturally appropriate, patient-centered, high-quality care.



Reduce the number of pregnancy-associated deaths linked to substance use and mental health conditions by improving provider screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMAD) and substance use disorder (SUD), implementing evidence-based treatments, and expanding access to overdose prevention strategies.



Improve harm reduction efforts by addressing the social and environmental factors within local communities.

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