Maternal mortality rates in the United States are rising. The U.S. has the highest rate of maternal death among developed nations with significant racial disparities and large differences in rates between states. The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) has identified five important ways that states are addressing the rising rates of maternal mortality: 1) the establishment of maternal mortality review committees, 2) the establishment of perinatal quality collaboratives, 3) the expansion of Medicaid, 4) reporting of maternal death data stratified by race/ethnicity, and 5) participation in the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health program. This fact sheet details the progress Delaware has made toward reducing maternal mortality. To view other state fact sheets, visit SMFM.org/scorecard.

### Efforts by Delaware to Prevent Maternal Deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
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<tr>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
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<tr>
<td>❌</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+++</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **☑️** Exists in the State
- **●** In Progress
- **❌** Does Not Yet Exist
- *** ** Not Measured in Past Years

### Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio

(number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Delaware*</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>28.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>13.8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Black</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>41.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>11.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>13.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17.3**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Insurance Coverage for Reproductive-Aged Women and New Mothers in Delaware

- **9%** of women 15-44 years of age are without health insurance.
- Delaware’s Medicaid program covers pregnant people up to **217%** of the federal poverty level.
- Pregnant people and new mothers with monthly incomes of **$3,928** or less are eligible for Medicaid coverage (family of 3).
- Many new mothers lose Medicaid coverage **60 days** after giving birth.
State Actions Aimed at Reducing Maternal Deaths

**Maternal Mortality Review Committees**
- Gather and analyze data and
- Make recommendations

**Perinatal Quality Collaboratives**
- Build the infrastructure for and advance system-wide quality improvement efforts

**AIM**
- Implement patient safety bundles

**Policymakers**
- Advance policy reforms, including expanding and extending Medicaid coverage

Postpartum Medicaid Extension
SMFM recommends that states provide 12 months of comprehensive postpartum Medicaid coverage to all new mothers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Extension</th>
<th>Enacted</th>
<th>Implementing Limited Coverage Extension</th>
<th>Implementing Full Coverage Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Website
https://courts.delaware.gov/childdeath/

Most Recent Report

Year Most Recent Report Released
2019

Does Most Recent Report Include Recommendations?
Yes

Local Resources

**Perinatal Quality Collaborative**
https://dethrives.com/perinatal-cooperative

**Medicaid**

**MMRC Data Summary Report**

Questions? Contact Rebecca Abbott (rabbott@smfm.org)

Review data sources and methodology at https://www.smfm.org/scorecardmethodology.

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SMFM.org | 409 12th Street, SW | Suite 601 | Washington, DC | 20024