



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

2018	2019	2020	
✓	✓	✓	Maternal Mortality Review Committee
✓	✓	✓	Perinatal Quality Collaborative
✓	✓	✓	Medicaid Expansion
✗	✗	✓	Reports Maternal Mortality Data by Race/Ethnicity
✱	✱	✓	Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health

Exists in the State  In Progress  Does Not Yet Exist  Not Measured in Past Years 

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.

Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio

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

Race	Delaware*	USA
American Indian	+	28.3 [^]
Asian or Pacific Islander	+	13.8 [^]
Non-Hispanic Black	+	41.7 [^]
Hispanic	+	11.6 [^]
Non-Hispanic White	+	13.4 [^]
Overall	18	17.3 ^{**}

*2014-2018 | **2017 | [^]2014-2017 | +Data suppressed due to low numbers. Delaware does include some maternal mortality data stratified by race in the latest maternal mortality review committee report: <http://bit.ly/DEMMRCReport2019>.

Postpartum Medicaid Extension

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



State Actions Aimed at Reducing Maternal Deaths



Maternal Mortality Review Committees

- Gather and analyze data and
- Make recommendations

Driving Action by



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

Delaware's Maternal Mortality Review Committee

Website

<https://courts.delaware.gov/childdeath/>

Most Recent Report

<http://bit.ly/DEMMRCReport2019>

Year Most Recent Report Released

2019

Does Most Recent Report Include Recommendations?

Yes

Local Resources

Perinatal Quality Collaborative

<https://dethrives.com/perinatal-cooperative>

Medicaid

<http://bit.ly/DEMedicaid>

MMRC Data Summary Report

<http://bit.ly/DEMMRCDataSummary>

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

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

SMFM State Liaisons

Vanita Jain, MD
Christine Mangano
Anthony Sciscione, DO

Last updated January 18, 2021.