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 South Carolina has made toward reducing maternal mortality. To view other state fact sheets, visit SMFM.org/scorecard.

**Efforts by South Carolina to Prevent Maternal Deaths**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Insurance Coverage for Reproductive-Aged Women and New Mothers in South Carolina**

14% of women 15-44 years of age are without health insurance.

South Carolina's Medicaid program covers pregnant people up to 199% of the federal poverty level.

Pregnant people and new mothers with monthly incomes of $3,602 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 (PRMR)**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>South Carolina*</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>-</td>
<td>17.3**</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

*In a Section 1115 waiver, South Carolina proposed extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to eligible pregnant people for 12 months. After negotiations with the federal Department of Health and Human Services, the state has 1,000 additional slots with which it can prioritize coverage for pregnant people and parents of foster children, not otherwise eligible for Medicaid, needing substance use disorder treatment.

**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

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**Postpartum Medicaid Extension**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Implementing Limited Coverage Extension</th>
<th>Implementing Full Coverage Extension</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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**Local Resources**

- **Perinatal Quality Collaborative**

- **Medicaid**
  https://www.scdhhs.gov/

- **Maternal Morality Fact Sheet - WREN**

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**SMFM State Liaisons**

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

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

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