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

### Maternal Mortality Review Committee
- **2018**: Exists in the State
- **2019**: In Progress
- **2020**: Not Measured in Past Years

### Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- **2018**: Does Not Yet Exist
- **2019**: In Progress
- **2020**: Not Measured in Past Years

### Medicaid Expansion
- **2018**: Does Not Yet Exist
- **2019**: Not Measured in Past Years
- **2020**: Not Measured in Past Years

### Reports Maternal Mortality Data by Race/Ethnicity
- **2018**: Does Not Yet Exist
- **2019**: Not Measured in Past Years
- **2020**: Not Measured in Past Years

### Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health
- **2018**: Does Not Yet Exist
- **2019**: Not Measured in Past Years
- **2020**: Not Measured in Past Years

### Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio (PRMR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Arkansas*</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>
</tbody>
</table>

*PRMR data is not available at this time.

### Insurance Coverage for Reproductive-Aged Women and New Mothers in Arkansas
- **13%** of women 15-44 years of age are without health insurance.
- Arkansas’ Medicaid program covers pregnant people up to **214%** of the federal poverty level.
- Pregnant people and new mothers with monthly incomes of **$3873** or less are eligible for Medicaid coverage (family of 3).
- Many new mothers lose Medicaid coverage **60** days after giving birth.
Postpartum Medicaid Extension

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

No Extension  Enacted  Implementing Limited Coverage Extension  Implementing Full Coverage Extension

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

Arkansas’ Maternal Mortality Review Committee

Arkansas established its maternal mortality review committee in 2019. Additional details about its activities are not available at this time.

Local Resources

Medicaid
https://medicaid.mmis.arkansas.gov/

SMFM State Liaisons
Curtis Lowery, MD
Abigail Ramseyer, DO

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

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