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

**Efforts by Missouri 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ✔ Exists in the State
- ✗ 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>Missouri*</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>53.0</td>
<td>41.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>11.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>13.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>17.3*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2017 | **2013-2017 | ^2014-2017 | +data suppressed due to low numbers

Black women in Missouri are nearly 2.5 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

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

- 14% of women 15-44 years of age are without health insurance.
- Missouri’s Medicaid program covers pregnant people up to 201% of the federal poverty level.
- The rate of pregnancy-associated deaths for women on Medicaid was more than 5x greater than the rate for those with private insurance.
- Pregnant people and new mothers with monthly incomes of $3,638 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.

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

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

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

Last updated January 18, 2021.

Local Resources

Medical
https://dss.mo.gov/mhk/accept.htm

SMFM State Liaisons

Megan Foeller, MD
Daniel Jackson, MD, MS
Devon Ramæker, MD
Leilah Zahedi-Spung, MD