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

### Efforts by DC to Prevent Maternal Deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Review Committee</td>
<td>▼</td>
<td>▼</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perinatal Quality Collaborative</td>
<td>▼</td>
<td>▼</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid Expansion</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports Maternal Mortality Data by Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health</td>
<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 (PRMR)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>DC*</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>

**2017 | "2014-2017 | *PRMR data not available at this time.

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

- **2%** of women 15-44 years of age are without health insurance.
- DC’s Medicaid program covers pregnant people up to 324% of the federal poverty level.
- Pregnant people and new mothers with monthly incomes of $5,864 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

**DC's Maternal Mortality Review Committee**

DC's maternal mortality review committee was established in 2018. Data and committee reports are unavailable at this time. Additional details can be found at: http://bit.ly/DCMMRC.

**Local Resources**

Medicaid  

**SMFM State Liaisons**

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Questions? Contact Rebecca Abbott  
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Review data sources and methodology at https://www.smfm.org/scorecardmethodology.

Last updated January 22, 2021.