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 four 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; and 4.) reporting of data stratified by race/ethnicity. This fact sheet details the progress Arkansas has made towards reducing maternal mortality. To view other state fact sheets, visit SMFM.org/USA.

**State Activities Aimed at Reducing Maternal Deaths**

- [ ] Maternal Mortality Review Committee
- [x] Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- [x] Medicaid Expansion
- [x] Reports Maternal Mortality Data by Race

**Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant Women**

Arkansas’ Medicaid program will cover pregnant women if their family income is below 209% of the federal poverty level. In 2018, the FPL for a family of three is $20,780.

**Local Resources**

Arkansas Medicaid Program
humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dco/programs-services/medicaid-program-eligibility-and-enrollment

**Rate of Maternal Mortality per 100,000 Live Births**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Arkansas</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black women are nearly three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related causes than white women.

**SMFM State Liaison**

Curtis Lowery, MD

Questions? Contact Katie Schubert at kschubert@smfm.org.