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 Virginia 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
- ✔ Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- ✗ Medicaid Expansion
- ✔ Reports Maternal Mortality Data by Race

#### Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant Women

Virginia’s Medicaid program will cover pregnant women with a family income up to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). In 2018, the FPL for a family of three is $20,780.

### Local Resources

Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative
vdh.virginia.gov/virginia-neonatal-perinatal-collaborative

Virginia Medicaid
benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1363

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Virginia</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black women are nearly three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women in U.S. In Virginia, the discrepancy is even greater; the rate of death among black women is more than three times higher than that of white women.

### SMFM State Liaisons

Dana Block-Abraham, DO  
J.T. Christmas, MD  
Alfred Abuhamad, MD

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