

## District of Columbia



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 the District of Columbia (Washington DC) has made towards reducing maternal mortality. To view other state fact sheets, visit [SMFM.org/USA](http://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

Exists in the State      Does Not Yet Exist      In Progress

✓                                  ✗                                  ●

#### Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant Women

The District of Columbia's Medicaid program will cover pregnant women up to 319% of the federal poverty level (FPL). In 2018, the FPL for a family of three is \$20,780.

### Local Resources

District of Columbia Medicaid  
[dhcf.dc.gov/service/pregnant-women](http://dhcf.dc.gov/service/pregnant-women)

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

Race	DC	USA
White	N/A	18.1
Black	70.9	47.2
Hispanic	N/A	12.2
Overall	36.1	20.7

Black women are nearly three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women in the U.S. In Washington DC, black women face an even greater likelihood of death.

**Questions?** Contact Katie Schubert at [kschubert@smfm.org](mailto:kschubert@smfm.org).

**Data Sources:** 1.) America's Health Rankings ("Maternal Mortality in the United States in 2018"); 2.) Kaiser Family Foundation ("Medicaid and CHIP Income Eligibility Limits for Pregnant Women as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level"); 3.) Review to Action ("MMR Map"); and 4.) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "State Perinatal Quality Collaboratives". **Last updated: November 27, 2018.**