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 South Carolina has made towards reducing maternal mortality. To view other state fact sheets, visit SMFM.org/scorecard.

**State Activities Aimed at Reducing Maternal Deaths**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Local Resources**

- South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative
  scdhhs.gov/service/south-carolina-birth-outcomes-initiative
- South Carolina Medicaid
  scdhhs.gov/how-to-apply

**Insurance Coverage for Reproductive-Aged Women**

85% of women aged 19-64 years old have health insurance.

South Carolina’s Medicaid program will cover pregnant women up to 199% of the federal poverty level.

**Maternal Mortality Ratio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>63.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black women in South Carolina are three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

**SMFM State Liaison**

Amy Crockett, MD, MSPH
Renata Sawyer, MD
Scott Sullivan, MD

**Questions?** Contact Katie Schubert atkschubert@smfm.org.

**Data Sources:**
1. America’s Health Rankings (“Maternal Mortality in the United States in 2019”);
2. Kaiser Family Foundation (“Medicaid and CHIP Income Eligibility Limits for Pregnant Women as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level” and “Health Insurance Coverage of Women 19-64”);
3. Review to Action (“MMR Map”);
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “State Perinatal Quality Collaboratives”;
5. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (“State Maternal Mortality Review Committees, PQCs, and AIM”).

**Last updated:** October 22, 2019.