Maternal Morbidity and Mortality & Health Disparities in the United States

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Forum on Improving Access to Maternal Health Care in Rural Communities
June 12, 2019
15% of all Americans live in rural areas.

Rural Americans are at greater risk of death from 5 leading causes than urban Americans:

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Unintentional Injury
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- Stroke
RURAL POPULATIONS: WHAT WE KNOW

• Less likely to have insurance or access to health care
• Likely to have higher rates of:
  • Smoking
  • High blood pressure
  • Unintentional injury, partly because of auto accidents and opioid overdoses
  • A host of other conditions

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/ruralhealth
INFANT MORTALITY: RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN THE U.S.

Figure 1. Infant mortality rates, by urbanization level: United States, 2014

NOTES: Significant decreasing linear trend from rural counties to large urban counties (p < 0.05). County designation is based on mother's county of residence. County classification is based on 2013 NCHS Urban–Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Access data table for Figure 1 at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/38285_table.pdf#1.

U.S. MATERNAL MORTALITY HAS BEEN RISING FOR YEARS

![Graph showing maternal mortality rate from 1999 to 2015. The rate has generally increased, with a peak of 17.2 deaths per 100,000 births in 2015.]
Around 700 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes. CDC’s Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) is committed to fully understanding and addressing this tragedy.

Considerable racial disparities exist, with Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native women over 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women.

About 66% of these deaths may be preventable.
PRMR BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND AGE, PMSS, 2006–2015

Pregnancy-related mortality ratio

Age (years)  
<25  25-29  30-34  >=35

White  Black  American Indian/Alaskan Native
PRMR BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND EDUCATION, PMSS, 2006–2015
PRMRS BY STATES AND DC, PMSS, 2006-2015
PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS

Ensure Robust Data

Better Understand and Prevent Maternal Deaths

Improve Access to Quality Care
RURAL POPULATIONS: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

- What are the factors that contribute to deaths in rural settings?
- What are the important interventions to prevent deaths?
- What tools are needed to inform prevention efforts?
- What are the measures needed to monitor our progress?
WHAT IS CDC DOING TO GET BETTER DATA?
WHAT BETTER DATA CAN DO

BRINGING THE PIECES TOGETHER
ECHO PROJECT - UTAH AND WYOMING
Lost Mothers
An estimated 700 to 900 women in the U.S. died from pregnancy-related causes in 2016. We have identified 134 of them so far.

by Nina Martin, ProPublica, Emma Chiladas and Alessandra Presta, special to ProPublica
July 17, 2017

The New York Times Magazine

Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis

The answer to the disparity in death rates has everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.

Focus On Infants During Childbirth Leaves U.S. Moms In Danger

May 12, 2017 · 6:00 AM ET
Heard on Morning Edition

NINA MARTIN, PROPUBLICA  RENEE MONTAGNE

Childbirth is killing black women in the US, and here's why

Maternal mortality: An American crisis
THANK YOU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CDC.GOV/REPRODUCTIVEHEALTH

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.