

Racial Inequity in Pregnancy-Related Deaths



During 2017- 2019, 66 Black women in Tennessee died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy

1 in 2

Of these deaths were determined by a maternal mortality review committee to be pregnancy-related

55%

Of these pregnancy-related deaths occurred one week or later after delivery

Black women in Tennessee are 4x as likely to die from pregnancy complications than White women

Top causes of pregnancy-related deaths among Black women:

1. Preeclampsia and eclampsia
2. Cardiovascular Conditions*
3. Embolism and homicide

91% of pregnancy-related deaths to Black women were determined to be preventable

Prevention Opportunities



Clinics and Hospitals Systems

- Establish primary and secondary transfer facilities based on levels of care for high-risk patients.
- Implement national cardiovascular standards of care in pregnancy and the postpartum period.
- Implement diversity training to prevent interpersonal racism and bias.
- Implement standardized protocols for follow-up and admission in the postpartum period.



Healthcare Providers

- Ensure high-risk patients are managed with a multidisciplinary team including a case coordinator, medical navigator, obstetrician, and maternal fetal medicine specialist to ensure appropriate patient follow up and communication between facilities, clinicians and patients during and after pregnancy.
- Educate patients about cardiac conditions in pregnancy and the warning signs of worsening hypertension in pregnancy.

*includes cardiovascular, coronary conditions and cardiomyopathy



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