GEORGIA 2019-2021 MATERNAL MORTALITY

LEADING CAUSES OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS 2019 - 2021



- 18 of the 19 deaths due to COVID-19 occurred in 2021. COVID-19 vaccination was recommended for pregnant women on July 30, 2021 by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and on August 11, 2021 by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.
- 84.96% of pregnancy-related deaths were determined by the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to be preventable.
- All cardiovascular conditions includes cardiomyopathy and cardiovascular + coronary conditions, excluding hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and cerebrovascular accidents (e.g., stroke).

PREGNANCY-RELATED:

A death during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

PREVENTABLE:

A death is considered preventable if the Maternal Mortality Review Committee determines that there was at least some chance of the death being averted by one or more reasonable changes to patient, family, provider, facility, system and/or community factors.

PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS BY TIMING OF DEATHS 2019 - 2021





PREGNANCY-RELATED MORTALITY RATIO

35.69 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births.



ONGOING INITIATIVES

- From 2018-2023, Georgia birthing facilities have implemented practices that improve the quality of care provided during delivery and in the postpartum period, specifically to address hemorrhage, severe hypertension and cardiac conditions.
- DPH partners with Emory University on PEACE for Moms; a psychiatric access program that establishes phone consultations with a perinatal psychiatrist for providers treating pregnant and postpartum patients.
- DPH verifies levels of maternal care in Georgia birthing hospitals to help hospitals identify which patients they have the resources to provide care for, and which patients should be transferred to a facility with more intensive services. Eleven hospitals have completed the maternal designation process.
- DPH implemented perinatal home visiting in 21 rural counties in the Fall of 2023; more than 100 women are enrolled to date.



For more information: www.dph.ga.gov/maternal-mortality