

Prevention

Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs) data from 2017–2019 show that nearly 85% of pregnancy-related deaths were preventable.

These studies emphasize the significance of heightened awareness amongst providers to enhance prompt detection and management of these issues.

Non-preventable
15.8%



Preventable
84.2%

Source:

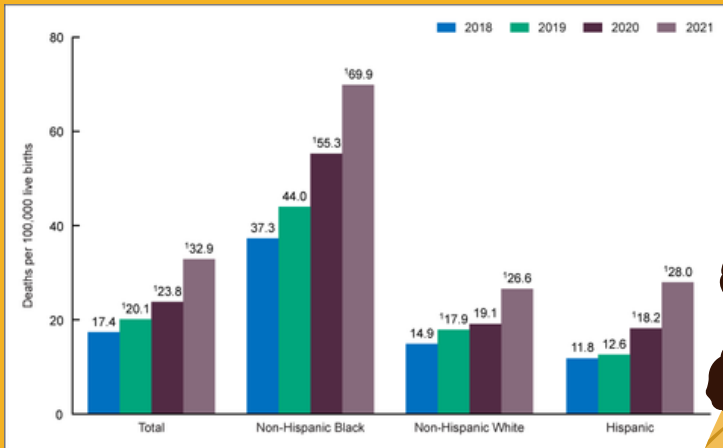
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0919-pregnancy-related-deaths.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/erase-mm/data-mmrc.html>

Statistics

According to the CDC, in 2021 there were 69.9 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births among non-Hispanic Black women, over 2.5 times the rate of non-Hispanic white women.

Maternal Mortality Rates: 2018-2021 by Race and Hispanic Origin



[†]Statistically significant increase from previous year ($p < 0.05$).
NOTE: Race groups are single race.
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System Mortality

Source:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2021/maternal-mortality-rates-2021.htm>

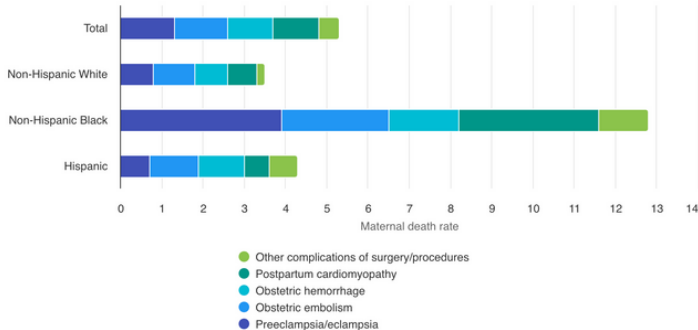
Primary Contributing Factors to Pregnancy-Related Fatalities



Preeclampsia and eclampsia, blood pressure disorders, and postpartum cardiomyopathy were the most prevalent causes of maternal death amongst Black women, with mortality rates five times higher than those of white women.

Preeclampsia/Eclampsia Is the Leading Cause of Maternal Death Among Black Women

U.S. MATERNAL DEATHS PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS FOR FIVE LEADING CAUSES OF MATERNAL DEATH BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2016-2017



Source: <https://www.prb.org/resources/black-women-over-three-times-more-likely-to-die-in-pregnancy-postpartum-than-white-women-new-research-finds/>

Marian F. MacDorman, Marie Thoma, Eugene Declercq, and Elizabeth A. Howell, 2021: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal Mortality in the United States Using Enhanced Vital Records, 2016–2017. American Journal of Public Health 111, 1673–1681, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306375>





Primary Contributing Factors to Pregnancy-Related Fatalities

Additionally, the risk of mortality from an embolism or hemorrhage was more than twice as high for pregnant or postpartum Black women as it was for white women.


Among all races, postpartum cardiomyopathy was the most common cause of late maternal death; Black women were six times more likely to experience this condition than white women.

The risk of late maternal deaths, defined as those that transpired between six weeks and a year after childbirth, was 3.5 times higher in Black women compared to white women.



Source: <https://www.prb.org/resources/black-women-over-three-times-more-likely-to-die-in-pregnancy-postpartum-than-white-women-new-research-finds/>

Marian F. MacDorman, Marie Thoma, Eugene Declercq, and Elizabeth A. Howell, 2021: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal Mortality in the United States Using Enhanced Vital Records, 2016–2017 American Journal of Public Health 111, 1673–1681, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306375>



About the Author

My name is Hala Khabir and I am a current senior pursuing a dual degree in biology and chemistry at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



I intend to obtain my master's in kinesiology at UNC Charlotte and apply to medical school following graduation. I hope the facts provided have given you further insight on the immense health care issues faced by women of color.

