

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ALABAMA

2022 Key Findings on Pregnancy-related Deaths

What is a Pregnancy-related Death?

A **pregnancy-related death** is the death of a woman during or within one year of the end of pregnancy, from a complication of pregnancy, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or an unrelated condition aggravated by pregnancy.

Preventability

A death is considered preventable if the committee determines that there was at least some chance of the death being averted by one or more changes to patient, family, provider, facility, system, and/or community factors. Preventability does not assign blame to individual clinicians or facilities. Instead, it reflects opportunities for improvement, rather than poor performance.

2022 Leading Causes of Pregnancy-related Deaths

Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy	17.7%
Cardiomyopathy	11.8%
Embolism	11.8%
Mental Health Conditions	11.8%

2022 Committee Recommendations

- Providers educate patients regarding urgent maternal warning signs during pregnancy and postpartum and when to present for care, including signs and symptoms of pre-eclampsia and hypertension-related issues, cardiomyopathy, and embolism.
- Providers educated regarding signs/symptoms and urgency of treatment of peripartum cardiomyopathy.
- Patients understand the importance of adherence to clinical recommendations, including taking medications as prescribed and keeping medical appointments, and they should be educated about disease processes.
- Non-obstetric care providers (including emergency medical services, emergency physicians, and primary care physicians) who care for reproductive aged women should be made aware of complications related to pregnancy that occur in the postpartum period. Patients should be appropriately evaluated and referred to specialists in a timely manner when problems present.
- Providers recognize severe hypertension and adhere to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) standards of care.

Key Findings

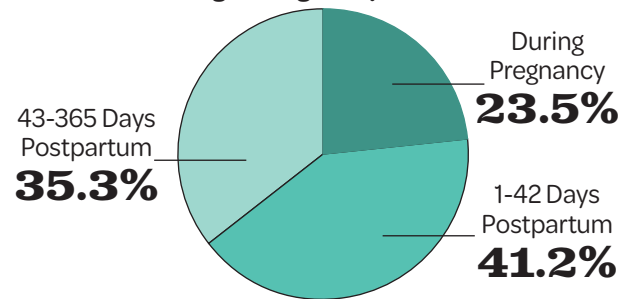
82.4 percent (n=14/17) of pregnancy-related deaths were deemed preventable by the Alabama Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

The rate of pregnancy-related deaths dropped nearly 50 percent from **56.9 per 100,000 live births** in 2021 to **29.2 per 100,000 live births** in 2022.

Over **40 percent (41.2 percent; n=7/17)** of pregnancy-related deaths occurred among women aged 35 or older.

Over **60 percent (64.7 percent; n=11/17)** of pregnancy-related deaths were among Black, non-Hispanic women.

2022 Timing of Pregnancy-related Deaths



Maternal Health Statewide Initiatives

- The Alabama Perinatal Quality Collaborative expanded the Postpartum Bracelet Project statewide in April 2025. The project provides each postpartum patient with a bracelet to help doctors, nurses, and first responders recognize potential post-pregnancy health conditions in the event of a medical emergency. Scan QR Code for additional information on the Postpartum Bracelet Project.
- To decrease missed opportunities in identifying pregnancy-related emergencies in non-obstetric settings, ACOG and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched an initiative that provides tools and resources to help practitioners identify and manage pregnancy-related emergencies including, cardiovascular disease, acute hypertension, and eclampsia. Scan QR Code for additional information on the current initiatives set by ACOG and CDC.
- The Hear Her Campaign supports efforts to prevent pregnancy-related deaths by sharing potentially life-saving messages about urgent maternal warning signs. Scan QR Code for additional information on the Hear Her Campaign.



Hear Her Campaign



ALPQC Bracelet Project



ACOG Materials



ALABAMA
MMR
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW

