STATE OF DELAWARE
Child Death Review Commission
(CDRC)

Delaware MMR Data: Summary 2011-2018

**Quick statistics**

34 cases reviewed since inception in 2011

- Represent maternal deaths, irrespective of cause, during pregnancy and up to 1 year postpartum
- 9 cases picked up by vital statistics linkage were not reviewed because the death occurred > 2 years’ prior
- 2 cases were internally reviewed due to pending legislation in homicide cases
- 47% of cases reviewed were pregnancy-related
- 44% were pregnancy-associated
- Just over half of all cases, 53%, were considered preventable.
The pregnancy-related mortality ratio in Delaware is 18 per 100,000 live births for 2009-2016 and is on par with the national ratio as reported by the CDC.¹

¹This includes a review of the death certificate information for the 9 cases not fully reviewed by the MMR, one of which had a likely pregnancy-related cause of death.

### Maternal race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All maternal deaths (n=34)</th>
<th>Pregnancy-related deaths (n=16)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A higher proportion of pregnancy-related deaths involved Black mothers.

### Pregnancy-relation

Number of pregnancy-related and –associated deaths by year of death (3-year averages)

2015: Vital statistics linkage began

There have been an increasing number of pregnancy-associated deaths picked up over time.
Other causes of pregnancy-related deaths include: diabetes, sepsis, lupus, cardiopulmonary arrest during an emergent C-section of unclear etiology.

Other causes of pregnancy-associated deaths include: sepsis, pulmonary embolism, cancer and intracranial hemorrhage.

**Key issues:**

- 18% of cases (6 out of 34) involved IPV.
  - Of the 5 homicides, three were a result of IPV.
- Mental health issues were identified in 32% (11 out of 34 cases).
- Substance use disorder was identified in 32% (11 out of 34 cases).