



STATE OF DELAWARE
CHILD DEATH REVIEW COMMISSION
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CDRC is committed to Health Equity

The Child Death Review Commission (CDRC) was organized in 1995 to improve maternal and child health in the State of Delaware. Our findings confirm that maternal, infant and child deaths disproportionately affect Black Delawareans. In-depth fatality review offers a unique glimpse into the individual, community and systems-level factors that significantly affect this disparate, often preventable, outcome. The findings and the stories behind the fatality numbers are compelling. The CDRC has identified inequities and disparities that exist among Black women and children. Racism and its continued impact on the health and well-being of the residents of our state is deeply disturbing.

The Delaware CDRC Annual Reports¹ reflect the unacceptably high toll of premature maternal and child deaths affecting Black communities:

- In Delaware, Black children have a three times higher risk of death compared to White children up to the age of 18 years. Black children represent 25% of the population of 0-19 year olds in Delaware in 2017, but account for 59% of the child and infant deaths in 2018.
- Black women in Delaware are at higher risk of dying from a pregnancy complication. Black women represent 27% of live births in the State (2018), but account for 53% of pregnancy-related deaths (2011-2019). National statistics quantify Black women's increased risk of dying during pregnancy, childbirth or soon thereafter as being four times higher than that of White women (2018).
- In the U.S., Black women suffer from life threatening pregnancy complications twice as often as White women (2018). This trend bears out in Delaware, where the risk of severe maternal morbidity is 40% higher among Black women compared to White women.²

¹ Available at: <https://courts.delaware.gov/childdeath/reports.aspx>.

² Hussaini, K. Severe Maternal Morbidity: Delaware profile 2010-2014. Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Data Brief No. 2, 2017, published August 2017.

The CDRC has identified and confirmed the effects of racism that have resulted in poor outcomes for people of color. The Commission is working with other State and community agencies to assure that positive action will be taken to address the issues it has identified.

As a multidisciplinary committee representing medical, public health, and community partners, the CDRC commits to the following:

- We will continue to review all fatality cases from a health equity lens and commit to engage in the difficult discussions that may arise. Structural racism, interpersonal racism and discrimination will be noted as findings.
- We will continue to improve diversity at all CDRC meetings to ensure that everyone's voice is at the table. In the next two years, we commit to actively recruit new members who represent communities most affected by maternal and child mortality.
- We will continue to evaluate our own biases and prejudices and engage in ongoing trainings to assure appropriate insight at every level of the CDRC.