

Maternal Mortality in Nebraska

2014-2023

In the United States, too many women die from causes related to pregnancy. To help make sure that everyone has a fair shot at health and well-being, we can all take steps to help prevent more than 8 in 10 U.S. pregnancy-related deaths. That's where **Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs)** come in. MMRCs meet at the local or state level and work to understand these deaths. They develop promising strategies to prevent pregnancy-related deaths and help ensure the best possible birth outcomes.

Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio (PRMR)

15.6

pregnancy-related deaths **per 100,000 live births** from 2014-2023



PRMR = (Number of pregnancy-related deaths/Number of live births)*100,000. Ratios were calculated using vital records data.

PRMR by Select Demographic Characteristics

57.0



pregnancy-related deaths **per 100,000 live births** among women under 20 years

- **44.2** pregnancy-related deaths among non-Hispanic Black women
- **32.1** pregnancy-related deaths among high school graduate women
- **27.6** pregnancy-related deaths among women who are obese **per 100,000 live births**

Leading Causes of Pregnancy-Related Deaths

Cardiovascular conditions are the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in Nebraska, causing **16.2%** of these deaths from 2014-2023



Other leading causes:

- Hemorrhage (excluding aneurysm), 16.2%
- Embolism-thrombotic (non-cerebral), 10.8%
- Injury, 10.8%

Important to Know

3.2
times
greater

The odds of pregnancy-related death are **3.2 times** higher for **Non-Hispanic Black mothers** than for **Non-Hispanic White mothers**.

Timing of Pregnancy-Related Deaths

47.4%

During pregnancy

31.6%

1-42 days
after end of pregnancy

21.0%

43 days-1 year
after end of pregnancy

Contributing Factors and Recommendations

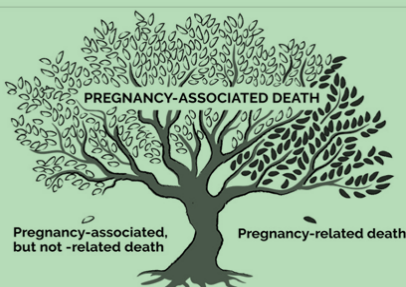
The Nebraska MMRC has worked extensively to develop recommendations aimed at reducing preventable maternal mortality, covering a range of contributing factors identified:

Behavioral Health Access
Closed Loop Social Support
Non-Discriminatory Practices
Healthcare Best Practice Adoption

Domestic Violence Safety Plan Development
Care Continuity
Medical Care Access

Access the 2024 State Maternal Death Review Team Annual Report for more information: [https://dhhs.ne.gov/MCH/Epidemiology/Maternal Death Review Team Annual Report 2024.pdf](https://dhhs.ne.gov/MCH/Epidemiology/Maternal%20Death%20Review%20Team%20Annual%20Report%202024.pdf)

Definitions



Pregnancy-associated death: A death during or within one year of pregnancy irrespective of cause.

Pregnancy-associated but not -related death: A death during or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a cause that is not related to pregnancy.

Pregnancy-related death: A death while pregnant 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. (Ask: "If she had not been pregnant, would she have died?")