

NEBRASKA CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATH REVIEW TEAM —INTERIM REPORT FOR 2015

The Nebraska Child and Maternal Death Review Team (CMDRT) was established by the Nebraska Legislature in 1993, and charged with undertaking a comprehensive, integrated review of existing records and other information regarding each child death. Authority to conduct a similar process with maternal deaths was added in 2013.

The purpose of the CMDRT includes developing an understanding of the number and causes of maternal and child deaths, and advising the Governor, Legislature, other policymakers and the public on changes that might prevent them in the future. All deaths are reviewed, not just “suspicious” or violent ones. The team uses information in written records from state and local agencies, hospitals, private medical providers and others, along with the expertise of its members, to identify situations where, in retrospect, reasonable intervention might have prevented a death. The specific goals of these reviews are to:

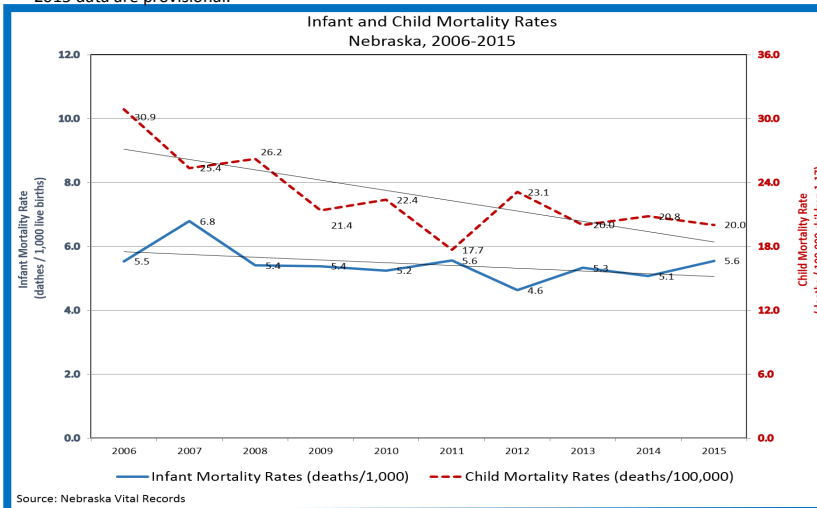
- Identify patterns of preventable deaths;
- Recommend changes in system responses to deaths;
- Refer to law enforcement newly-suspected cases of abuse, malpractice, or homicide; and,
- Compile findings into reports designed to educate the public and state policymakers about child deaths.

TRENDS IN INFANT AND CHILD DEATHS, NEBRASKA, 2006-2015

Year	Number of Live Births	Number of Infant Deaths (age <1)	Infant Mortality Rate (deaths / 1,000)	Total Child Population* (ages 1-17)	Number of Child Deaths (ages 1-17)	Child Mortality Rate (deaths / 100,000)
2006	26,723	148	5.54	424,274	131	30.9
2007	26,935	183	6.79	425,608	108	25.4
2008	26,992	146	5.41	427,389	112	26.2
2009	26,931	145	5.38	430,332	92	21.4
2010	25,916	136	5.25	433,671*	97	22.4
2011	25,722	143	5.56	435,441*	77	17.7
2012	25,939	120	4.63	437,223*	101	23.1
2013	26,094	139	5.33	439,185*	88	20.0
2014	26,794	136	5.08	441,427*	92	20.8
2015**	26,662	148	5.55	444,159	89	20.0

*Child population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2015, and are updated from Vintage 14.

**2015 data are provisional.

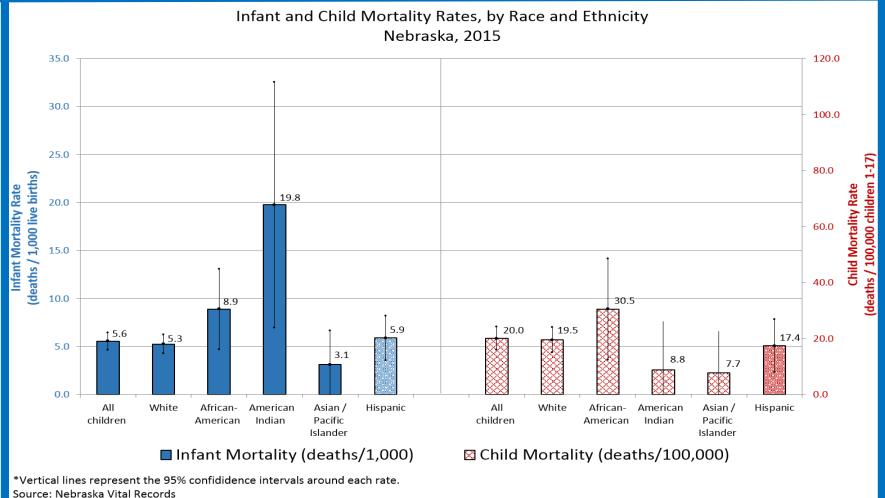


Infant and Child Mortality Rates

- ◆ **Infants (less than 1 year old):** In 2015, at least 148 infants died before their first birthday, a mortality rate (IMR) of 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. Nebraska’s IMR remains below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 6 per 1,000, and ranked 35th highest in the nation for 2014. However, the 10-year trend does not show significant improvement, and the increase between 2014 and 2015 erased gains made between 2011 and 2012.
- ◆ **Children (ages 1 to 17):** 89 child deaths were recorded in 2015. While the 10-year trend in the child mortality rate shows a significant decrease, the rate has remained fairly stable since 2013 and has not regained the low level seen in 2011. The 2014 rate of 20.8 deaths per 100,000 children tied for 23rd highest nationally.

Race and Ethnicity-Specific Mortality Rates

- ◆ **Infants (less than 1 year old):** The 2015 mortality rate (IMR) for American Indian infants was significantly higher than the 2015 White rate, and nearly significantly higher than their 2014 rate. No other comparisons were significantly different. Over the past 10 years (2006-2015), White infants have been the only racial/ethnic group sustaining a significant decrease in mortality.
- ◆ **Children (ages 1 to 17):** American Indians and Asian/Pacific Islanders had the lowest 2015 child mortality rates, however, there were no significant differences across racial/ethnic groups or from the 2014 rates. Only White, American Indian and Hispanic children have sustained significant decreases in mortality over the past decade (2006-2015).



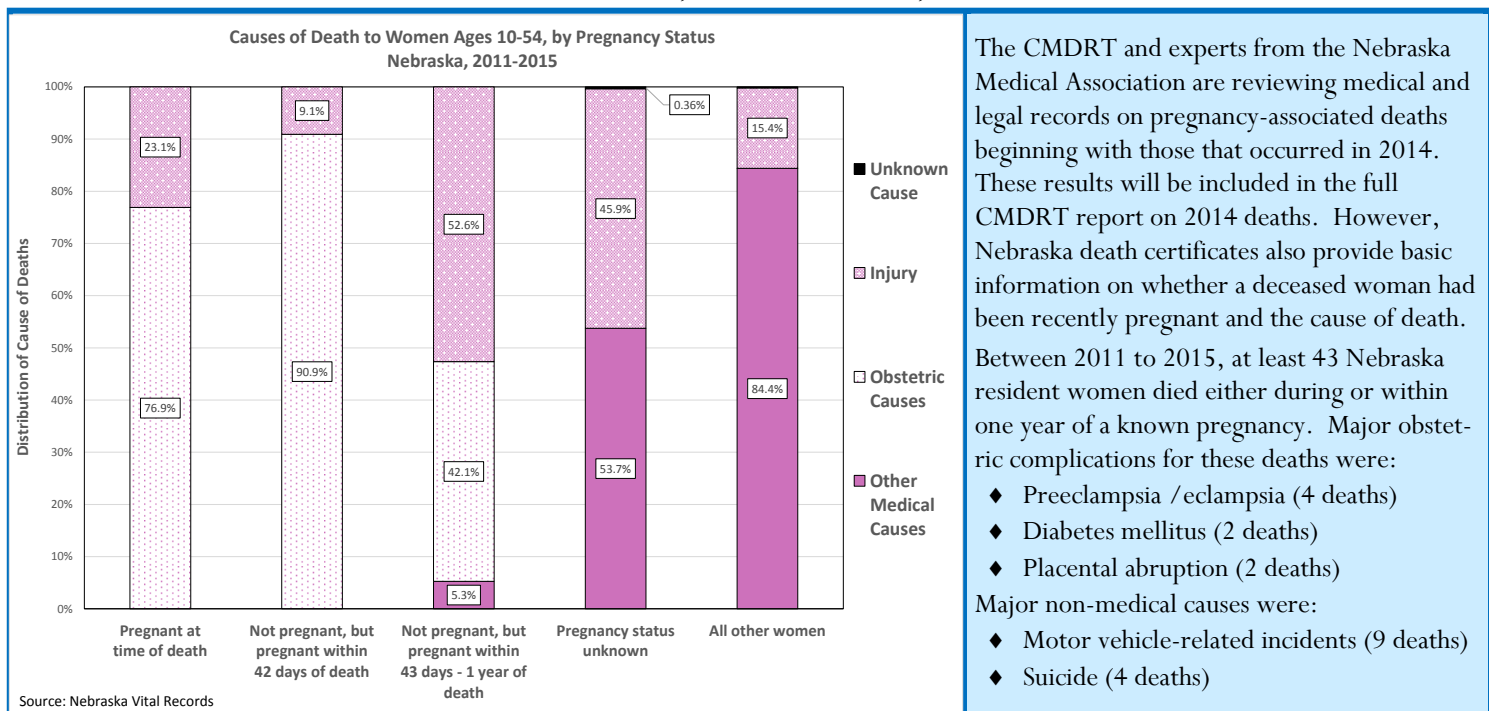
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Acquiring records for a calendar year of deaths, reviewing and analyzing the information and developing recommendations typically requires about 18-24 months. The team is currently finalizing the full report on deaths from 2012 and 2013. However, in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute §71-3407 (2012), this Interim Report presents an overview of deaths from calendar year 2014, using preliminary data derived solely from Nebraska death certificates. Causes of death, demographic and other factors, or even total number of deaths may change after in-depth review.

SELECTED CAUSES OF INFANT & CHILD (0-17) DEATHS, NEBRASKA, 2015

Cause of death	Infants (< 1 year)		Children (1-17 years)		All Children (0-17 years)	
	Number of Deaths (%)	Infant Mortality Rate (deaths / 1,000)	Number of Deaths (%)	Child Mortality Rate (deaths / 100,000)	Number of Deaths (%)	Child (0-17) Mortality Rate (deaths / 100,000)
Medical	141	75%	47	25%	188	79%
Cancer	0	0.0%	14	29.8%	14	7.4%
Respiratory Disease	0	0.0%	7	14.9%	7	3.7%
Prematurity	10	7.1%	0	0.0%	10	5.3%
Perinatal Conditions	53	37.6%	0	0.0%	53	28.2%
Congenital Anomalies	46	32.6%	12	25.5%	58	30.9%
SIDS; Abnormal Signs & Symptoms	22	15.6%	0	0.0%	22	11.7%
Other Medical Causes	10	7.1%	14	29.8%	24	12.8%
Unintentional Injury	2	8%	24	92%	26	11%
Motor Vehicle-Related	0	0.0%	18	75.0%	18	69.2%
Drowning	0	0.0%	4	16.7%	4	15.4%
SUID; accidental strangulation or hang-	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	2	7.7%
Other Unintentional Injury	0	0.0%	2	8.3%	2	7.7%
Homicide	2	40.0%	3	60.0%	5	2%
Homicide, Firearm	0	0.0%	2	66.7%	2	40.0%
Other Homicide	2	100.0%	1	33.3%	3	60.0%
Maltreatment	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Suicide	0	0.0%	9	100.0%	9	4%
by Suffocation / Strangulation	0	0.0%	3	33.3%	3	33.3%
by Firearm	0	0.0%	5	55.6%	5	55.6%
by Other Means	0	0.0%	1	11.1%	1	11.1%
Could Not Be Determined	3	33.3%	6	66.7%	9	4%
SUID; Abnormal Signs & Symptoms	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	1	11.1%
Other / Undetermined	2	66.7%	6	100.0%	8	88.9%
Total	148	62.4%	89	37.6%	237	100.0%

PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED DEATHS, NEBRASKA, 2011-2015



The CMDRT and experts from the Nebraska Medical Association are reviewing medical and legal records on pregnancy-associated deaths beginning with those that occurred in 2014. These results will be included in the full CMDRT report on 2014 deaths. However, Nebraska death certificates also provide basic information on whether a deceased woman had been recently pregnant and the cause of death. Between 2011 to 2015, at least 43 Nebraska resident women died either during or within one year of a known pregnancy. Major obstetric complications for these deaths were:

- ◆ Preeclampsia / eclampsia (4 deaths)
- ◆ Diabetes mellitus (2 deaths)
- ◆ Placental abruption (2 deaths)

Major non-medical causes were:

- ◆ Motor vehicle-related incidents (9 deaths)
- ◆ Suicide (4 deaths)