Pregnancy-Associated Mortality in Alaska

Pregnancy-associated mortality includes all deaths while pregnant or within one year of the end of pregnancy, due to any cause and regardless of the pregnancy outcome. This fact sheet reflects findings from the Alaska Maternal and Child Death Review (MCDR) committee.

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<th>Number of pregnancy-associated deaths in most recent 10 years</th>
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Mortality Rates 2012-2021

(per 100,000 live births)

The overall pregnancy-associated death rate in 2021 exceeded the previous 5-year average by 109%.

Rural areas

Drugs/alcohol use or substance use disorders were documented in 72% (n=38) of deaths.

71% (n=40) of decedents had a history of being a victim or possible victim of Interpersonal Violence (IPV).

44% (n=25) of deaths were associated with barriers to health care access.

MCDR Committee Findings

Among 57 deaths reviewed during 2016-2022:

- 88% (n=50) were potentially preventable.
- Drug/alcohol use or substance use disorders were documented in 72% (n=38) of deaths.
- 71% (n=40) of decedents had a history of being a victim or possible victim of Interpersonal Violence (IPV).

Death Categorizations 2015-2019

(Death Years finalized by MCDR)

*In addition, there were 7 deaths of undetermined causes (12% of cases).

Among deaths in 2015-2019:
- 17% were pregnant at time of death
- 6% occurred within 7 days post-delivery
- 4% occurred 8-42 days post-delivery
- 73% occurred >42 days post-delivery.

The MCDR program works to reduce maternal mortality by understanding the causes and contributing factors of each death through a multidisciplinary committee review process. MCDR receives funding through the CDC ERASE Maternal Mortality grant program and through the Office on Women's Health to support data dissemination and prevention of maternal mortality from violence.