

Vital signs: pregnancy-related deaths, United States, 2011-2015, and strategies for prevention, 13 states, 2013-2017.

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Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011-2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013-2017. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/vital-signs-pregnancy-related-deaths-united-states-2011-2015-and-strategies-prevention-13>

[Maternal safety](#) is a critical concern in health care, and prior studies have discussed [racial and ethnic disparities](#) in patient safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention examined trends in pregnancy-related deaths between 2011 and 2015. This analysis found that black women had rates of maternal mortality 3.5 times that of white women; Native American/Alaska Native women had rates 2.5 times higher than white women. About 60% of deaths were deemed preventable, and leading causes included cardiovascular events such as [venous thromboembolism](#), [infection](#), and hemorrhage. The study team recommends implementing interventions at health system, provider, community, and patient levels to prevent maternal mortality. A recent [Annual Perspective](#) on maternal safety touched on the persistently higher death rates among black women and discussed national initiatives to improve outcomes in maternity care.