Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee

POISONING/OVERDOSE

A pregnancy-associated death refers to the death of a woman while pregnant or anytime within one year of pregnancy regardless of cause.

From 2016 to 2022, the Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee (KMMRC) identified 195 such deaths in Kansas (regardless of residency), of which 153 (78.5%) were determined to be pregnancy-associated.

From 2016 to 2022, the KMMRC identified 22 poisoning/overdose deaths (14.4%)

accounting for more than 1 in 7 pregnancy-associated deaths in Kansas.

3 (**13.6%**)
were intentional, listed as suicide, probable suicide and drug toxicity.

19 (**86.4%**)
were accidental or unintentional overdoses and involved a range of substances.

Substance use and mental health

All 22 women had a history of substance use disorder (SUD).

Mental health conditions were a contributing factor in 18 of the 22 deaths (81.8%).

Poisoning and overdose by timing

Most deaths occurred after pregnancy ended. Among the 22 deaths:

15 (**68.2%**) occurred **43–365 days postpartum.**

2 (**9.1%**) occurred **during pregnancy.**
1 (**4.5%**) occurred **on the day of delivery.**
2 (**9.1%**) occurred **1–6 days postpartum.**
2 (**9.1%**) occurred **7–42 days postpartum.**

Who is most impacted?

Race and ethnicity

17 deaths, 77.3% among non-Hispanic White women

4 deaths, 18.2% among non-Hispanic Black women

1 death, 4.5% was a non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native woman

Insurance coverage

16 deaths, 72.7% were covered by Medicaid.

3 deaths, 13.6% had private insurance.

2 deaths, 9.1% were self-pay (no insurance)

1 death, 4.5% had other insurance.

Where they lived

15 deaths, 75.0% occurred among women in metropolitan areas.

3 deaths, 15.0% occurred in micropolitan areas.

2 deaths, 10.0% occurred in rural areas.

While we took steps to minimize risk of identifying women, families and communities may recognize a death in our data, and we hope that it is viewed as honoring their lives through the potential opportunities for preventing future deaths.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

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