Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee

SUBTANCE USE DISORDER

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) determined 153 pregnancy-associated deaths.

Substance use disorder (SUD)



SUD contributed to 47 (30.7%) of the 153 pregnancy-associated deaths

Among the 47 deaths with SUD, about 70.2% (33 deaths) were determined as pregnancy-associated but not pregnancy related.

For deaths involving substance use disorder, nearly two-thirds (61.7%) occurred in the late postpartum period-between 43 days and one year after the end of pregnancy.

SUD was the most common contributing factor determined by the KMMRC, alongside mental health conditions, obesity and discrimination.

Mental health conditions



Mental health conditions contributed to 38 (24.8%) of the 153 pregnancy-associated deaths

Among the 38 deaths to which mental health conditions contributed, most (71.1%, or 27 deaths) were pregnancy-associated but not pregnancy-related.

For deaths involving mental health conditions, 68.8% (25 deaths) occurred 43 days to one year after the end of pregnancy.

Who is most impacted?

By race and ethnicity

Substance use disorder: 30 deaths, 63.8% were among non-Hispanic White women.

Mental health conditions: 23 deaths, 60.5% were among non-Hispanic White women.

By insurance coverage

Substance use disorder: 37 deaths, 78.7% occurred among women with Medicaid.

Mental health conditions: 27 deaths, 71.1% occurred among women with Medicaid.

By place of residence

Substance use disorder: 27 deaths, 62.8% occurred among women living in metropolitan areas.

Mental health conditions: 20 deaths, 57.1% occurred among women living in metropolitan 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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