Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee

SUICIDE

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.

Among the 153 pregnancy-associated deaths, 13 (8.5%) were determined to be suicides.

Of these suicides, the KMMRC determined:

30.8% were pregnancy-related (4 deaths)

23.1% were not pregnancy-related (3 deaths)

46.2% had undetermined pregnancy-relatedness (6 deaths)

Among the 13 suicide deaths, 69.2% (9 deaths) had underlying mental health conditions.

15.4% probable suicides were due to mental health conditions (2 deaths).

7.7% probable suicide due to accidental poisoning/overdose (1 death).

7.7% probable suicide due to an injury of unknown intent (1 death).

More than half of suicide deaths occurred between 43 days and one year postpartum.

30.8% occurred during pregnancy (4 deaths)

7.7% occurred on the day of delivery (1 death)

7.7% occurred 1–6 days postpartum (1 death)

53.8% occurred between 43–365 days postpartum (7 deaths)

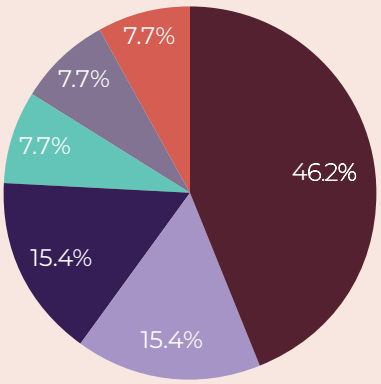
How did these deaths occur?

Poisoning or overdose: 23.1% (3 deaths)

Hanging, strangulation or suffocation: 53.8% (7 deaths)

Firearms: 23.1% (3 deaths)

Deaths by race and ethnicity



6 Deaths-**Non-Hispanic White women**
2 Deaths-**Non-Hispanic Black women**
2 Deaths-**Hispanic women**
1 Death-**Non-Hispanic American**
1 Deaths-**Indian/Alaska Native women**
1 Death-**Non-Hispanic Asian women**
1 Death-**Non-Hispanic women of other races**

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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