Pregnancy-Associated Mortality in Alaska

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

### Number of pregnancy-associated deaths in most recent 10 years

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 2009-2018 Mortality Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Rate per 10,000 live births</th>
<th>Number of Deaths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>8.3 (n=92)</td>
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<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>3.7 (n=24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.5 (n=8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td>8.0 (n=9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska Native</td>
<td>19.2 (n=55)</td>
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Alaska Native women had the highest pregnancy-associated rate.

**All suicides** (n=11) occurred among Alaska Native women, accounting for **20%** of deaths of Alaska Native women.

The Alaska Maternal Child Death Review (MCDR) program works to reduce maternal mortality by understanding the causes and contributing factors of each death through a multidisciplinary committee review process.

The MCDR program is using funding from a CDC grant to improve dissemination of committee recommendations and data related to maternal deaths.

### 2014-2018 Update

Among the 48 pregnancy-associated deaths that occurred:

- **Drug or alcohol overdose** and **other medical causes** were the most common causes of death.

  - 16.7% (n=8) were due to **pregnancy-related medical causes**.

The following are the causes and number of deaths:

- Drug or alcohol overdose: 10
- Other medical causes: 10
- Pregnancy-related medical causes: 8
- Unintentional injury: 8
- Assault/Homicide: 5
- Unknown: 4
- Suicide: 3

85% (n=41) were potentially preventable.

Drug or alcohol abuse or substance use disorders **contributed to 63%** of deaths.

Mental health conditions **contributed to 31%** of deaths.

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