

MATERNAL DEATHS IN IDAHO 2018



Findings from the Maternal Mortality Review Committee



Ten women in Idaho died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy

All 10 (100%) of the deaths could have been prevented



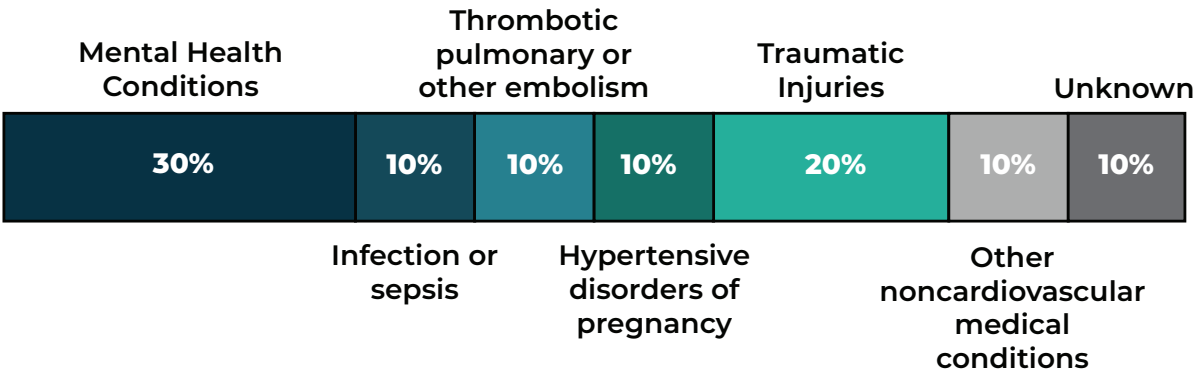
Substance use disorder was a contributing factor¹ in four (40%) of the deaths.

40%
Four of the deaths were classified as pregnancy-related deaths²

All racial and ethnic minority groups combined comprised 60% of all deaths, yet these groups are only 18% of Idaho’s entire population. Non-Hispanic, white women were the leading single racial category with 40% of all deaths.

FINDINGS

Committee-Identified Underlying Cause of Death³



Key Recommendations:

Providers should:

- Implement the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists standard of care for postpartum visits occurring 2-3 weeks after delivery.
- Ask patients the One Key Question® (Would you like to become pregnant in the next year?) to all women between the ages of 18-50.
- Assist patients in accessing and utilizing services (i.e. Medicaid, substance use treatment).
- Educate patients on intimate partner violence during their prenatal and postpartum care.

Facilities (i.e. hospitals, birthing centers, clinics) should:

- Screen for substance abuse disorders when a patient seeks reproductive care.
- Provide or have access to social work/case management services for women in prenatal, labor and delivery, and postnatal facilities.
- Institute communication channels between providers, especially if potential high-risk scenarios have been identified in the prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods.
- Implement a sepsis protocol that addresses pregnant and postpartum women.
- Educate their providers education on effective domestic violence screening.

Systems:

- Medicaid should expand coverage for pregnant women to 12 months postpartum, regardless of pregnancy outcome.
- Coroners should have a standardized, consistent policy for maternal deaths.
- The State of Idaho should increase funding for autopsies.
- The State of Idaho should expand state-funded substance abuse treatment services and education for pregnant and postpartum women.



January 2021

Footnotes

1. Contributing factor: significant conditions contributing to the death, but not resulting in the underlying cause of death
2. Pregnancy-related deaths: deaths either directly caused or exacerbated by the pregnancy
3. Underlying cause of death: the disease that initiated the events resulting in death