HRSA Maternal Mortality Summit
Promising Global Practices to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes

Maternal mortality remains a universally recognized public health priority, despite efforts and some success in addressing this issue. Maternal mortality is a key indicator of health and is associated with accessibility of maternal and other health care services in a country.

HRSA’s Maternal Mortality Summit held in June 2018 discussed evidence-based approaches and identified innovative solutions to decreasing maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates both in the U.S. and across the globe. The Summit invited international subject matter experts from Brazil, Canada, Finland, India, Rwanda, the United Kingdom, and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as over 130 U.S. subject matter experts.

SUMMIT FINDINGS

ACCESS
Improve access to patient-centered, comprehensive care for women before, during, and after pregnancy

QUALITY
Improve quality of maternity services through efforts such as the utilization of safety protocols in all birthing facilities, such as Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) safety bundles

WORKFORCE
Provide continuity of care before, during and between pregnancies by increasing the types and distribution of health care providers

LIFE COURSE APPROACH
Provide continuous team-based support and use a life course model of care for women before, during and between pregnancies

DATA
Improve the quality and availability of national surveillance and survey data, research, and common terminology and definitions

REVIEW COMMITTEES
Improve quality and consistency of maternal mortality review committees through collaborations and technical assistance with U.S. states

PARTNERSHIPS
Engage in opportunities for productive collaborations with multiple Summit participants and others to decrease the rate of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity
GLOBAL MATERNAL MORTALITY STATISTICS

300,000+
Maternal Deaths
Per year*

216
Maternal Deaths
Per 100,000 live births

800+
Women Die Daily
Due to pregnancy** and childbirth-related outcomes

* http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/194254/9789241565141_eng.pdf
** https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)00838-7/fulltext

U.S. MATERNAL MORTALITY STATISTICS

7.2 pregnancy related deaths in 1987*

18.0 pregnancy related deaths in 2014*

* Per 100,000 live births

ABOUT 700 WOMEN in the U.S. die as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications out of approximately 4 MILLION BIRTHS EACH YEAR

Maternal mortality rate in the U.S. is one of the highest among developed countries

1Data are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System (PMSS) that includes death certificates for all women who died during pregnancy or within 1 year of pregnancy and matching birth or fetal death certificates. Pregnancy-related deaths are defined as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 1 year of the end of a pregnancy – regardless of the outcome, duration or site of the pregnancy – from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes.