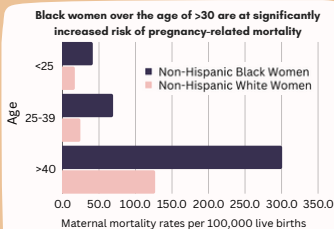


ADDRESSING BLACK MATERNAL MORTALITY

"Pregnancy-Related Death (maternal mortality) is defined as the death of a woman during pregnancy, at delivery, or within one year of giving birth from a pregnancy complication" - CDC, 2020

Black women are disproportionately affected by maternal morbidity and mortality - CDC, 2023

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS



Black women are

3X

more likely to die during pregnancy and child-birth compared to White women

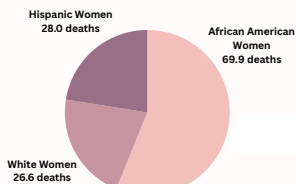
Black women disproportionately experience adverse pregnancy outcomes regardless of **income & educational level**

60%

of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable in the US

Black women are more likely to receive **poorer quality** of obstetric care in hospitals compared to White women

Maternal Deaths Per 100,000 live births in the US, 2018-2021

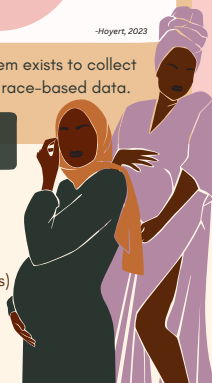


Where is Canada's data? Currently, no consistent national system exists to collect data on maternal deaths and there is a significant inadequacy of race-based data.

CAUSES OF MATERNAL MORTALITY ARE COMPLEX AND MULTIFACTORIAL:

1. **Direct obstetric causes** (ex/hemorrhage, hypertension)
2. **Pre-existing medical conditions** (ex/heart disease, diabetes)
3. **Socioeconomic factors** (ex/lack of health care access, systemic racism, lack of culturally competent care)
4. **Environmental factors** (ex/toxin exposure, climate change effects)

Establishing dedicated teams to investigate maternal-related death cases will help tackle these issues and highlight the increased prevalence in Black communities.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

1

Address implicit bias and establish training for culturally safe and unbiased care throughout all stages of pregnancy

2

Improve awareness and education on health inequities in marginalized groups and their root causes

3

Hold authorities accountable for improving comprehensive Canadian research on health disparities and gaps in Black maternal health

4

Develop community partnerships and hospital programs to increase access to maternal health for all women & implement standardized protocols for care

5

Acknowledge and listen to lived experiences of black women and ask questions to better understand concerns

6

Prioritize earlier screening and prompt treatment of conditions that may arise during pregnancy or postpartum for at-risk patients

7

Educate all patients during pregnancy and postpartum periods on risk factors, urgent warning signs and when to seek immediate care

8

Develop a national system to track maternal morbidity and mortality in Canada so that important changes can be made