



# DID YOU KNOW?

Non-Hispanic Black women in Kansas experience Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) at approximately **2 times the rate** of non-Hispanic White women.

SMM is a physical or psychologic condition that either results from or is aggravated by pregnancy and has an adverse effect on a woman's health<sup>1</sup>. It is measured by identifying women with at least **1 of 21 medical conditions** while hospitalized. SMM can be considered a NEAR MISS for maternal mortality, as without identification and treatment, in some cases, these conditions would lead to maternal death.

Despite decreasing SMM rates of non-Hispanic Black (NHB) women during 2016-2019, the overall rate of SMM per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations was 100.4, **87.3% higher** than the rate among non-Hispanic white women (53.6). **The SMM rate for NHB women was significantly higher than any other race and ethnicity.**

## Risk Factors for SMM

Increased maternal age

Delivery paid for by Medicaid (KanCare)

Low-income socioeconomic status

Identify as a non-Hispanic Black woman

## The FIVE MOST COMMON Maternal Morbidities During All Delivery Hospitalizations in Kansas:

1. [Acute renal failure](#)
2. [Disseminated intravascular coagulation](#)
3. [Sepsis](#)
4. [Hysterectomy](#) (Some conditions involve procedural intervention, such as hysterectomy)
5. [Adult/acute respiratory distress syndrome](#)

## How providers can help decrease disparities in SMM:

- ✓ **Establish** a "[culture of equity](#)" to include implementing [Quality Improvement projects](#) that address disparities.
- ✓ **Collect** race, ethnicity, and language data; use that data to improve patient services.
- ✓ **Train** all staff on [unconscious bias](#) and racial disparities.
- ✓ **Engage** in [shared decision making](#) with patients and families.
- ✓ **Educate** and communicate about [disparities in your community](#).
- ✓ **Invest** in early post-partum care programs such as [Home Visiting](#).
- ✓ **Learn** about the [long term psychological toll of structural racism](#).
- ✓ **Strive** to create a [workforce](#) that reflects the community served.

## Prevention of SMM:

Similar to maternal mortality, in some cases SMM can be prevented. Improving maternal health could play a role in prevention!

- ✓ **Ensure** women receive early and adequate prenatal care and have access to [prenatal education](#).
- ✓ **Screen** for and manage risk factors and health conditions (including chronic disease and behavioral health [[substance use](#), [mental health](#)]).
- ✓ **Engage** women in [reproductive health planning](#) to include [pregnancy intention screening](#) and preconception care counseling.