

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Maternal Mortality Review**

### **What is the difference between a pregnancy-related death and a pregnancy-associated death (not related)?**

The death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy. For more information about pregnancy-related deaths, visit the [CDC webpage](#).

A pregnancy-associated death is the death of a woman from any cause during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy that is not pregnancy-related.

### **How does the Maternal Mortality Review Panel determine if a pregnancy-related death is preventable?**

The MMRP considers a pregnancy-related death preventable if there was at least some chance of the death being averted by one or more reasonable changes to patient, family, community, provider, facility and or systems factors during the course of her pregnancy and through the first year from the end of pregnancy.

### **What is the difference between cause of death and manner of death?**

Cause of death is the medical reason someone died; the manner of death is how that cause is categorized.

### **Why can't the data be compared to national data?**

A: Each state conducts maternal mortality reviews a little bit differently – especially in the ways each death is categorized as pregnancy related or pregnancy associated (not related). This leads to variation in data from state to state. However, we are working to improve our process to help our data and information be more comparable to national data and information.

### **Why have mortality rates in the state not gotten better over the years?**

Developing a better understanding of maternal mortality in our state and learning more about why our rates have remained steady for so many years is one of the primary goals of the maternal mortality review panel. By establishing formal surveillance and review of maternal deaths in the state, we hope to gain insight as to why our rates have not changed and discover ways to reduce and prevent maternal deaths, overall.

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).

