

URGENT MATTERS: MATERNITY CARE IN THE UNITED STATES



The US is facing a maternal health crisis. The need and opportunity for change make **transforming maternity care an urgent matter**.

IMPACT

US ranks **last** among developed countries

Maternal deaths are a key indicator of how well health care systems function overall.

- The US is the only developed country with a rising rate of maternal deaths.
- Maternal mortality in the US ranks higher than in 54 other countries.

Deaths and complications are **on the rise**

Maternal mortality has doubled in the last 25 years. Severe complications are also on the rise.

- Every year, **700 women** die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.
- Over 50,000 women – one woman every 10 minutes – has a life-threatening pregnancy-related complication.
- More than half of maternal deaths are preventable.

Racial disparities **persist**

Black and Native American women and infants experience worse health outcomes.

- Black and Native American women are roughly **3 times** more likely die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth than white women.
- Poor outcomes affect women of color at all income levels.
- From 2005 to 2014, the highest infant mortality rates were observed among non-Hispanic Black women.

100% of population affected

Maternal deaths and complications affect the whole family, not just women.

- 84% of women will give birth in their lifetime at least once.
- 100% of the population is affected by the quality of maternity care at birth.

VALUE

Poor **value of care**

Maternity care costs more in the US than in any other country, but the US fares worse than other high-income nations in terms of maternal and infant deaths, and other basic health indicators.

Dollars at stake

- Medicaid and private insurance spend more on maternal and newborn hospital care than care for any other category of hospitalization.
- Maternal and newborn care combined are the single largest cost for state Medicaid programs and commercial health plans.

Public **spending**

Based on data between 2010 and 2016, 50% or more of births in 24 states in the US were covered by Medicaid.

Skyrocketing costs

Between 1996 and 2013 in the US, hospital charges for childbirth care tripled.

Largest percentage of hospital stays

- Childbirth is the most common type of hospital stay
- Nearly half of all hospital stays among 18-44 year olds (45%) and those covered by Medicaid (49%) were for maternal conditions.

LEARN MORE at www.everymothercounts.org