

Severe Maternal Morbidity in Pennsylvania, 2016-2022: Individual Level & Regional Factors

Background

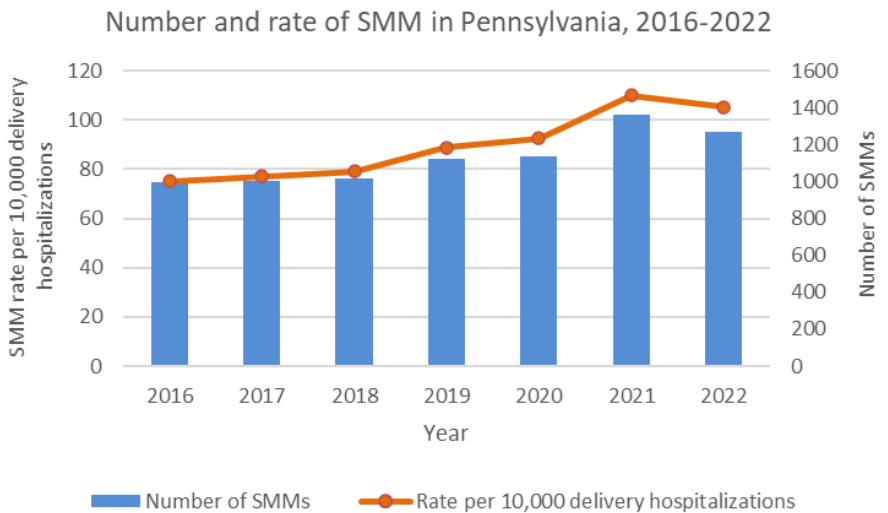
- Severe maternal morbidity (SMM) is the unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- and/or long-term impacts on a woman's health.
- SMM can impact physical and mental health, as well as social and financial situations for women, families, and communities.
- Below are key findings from an analysis of trends of SMM and key factors contributing to SMMs among hospital births in Pennsylvania from 2016-2022. Data are from the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4).

The overall rate of SMM in Pennsylvania from 2016 to 2022 was
89.3 per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations.

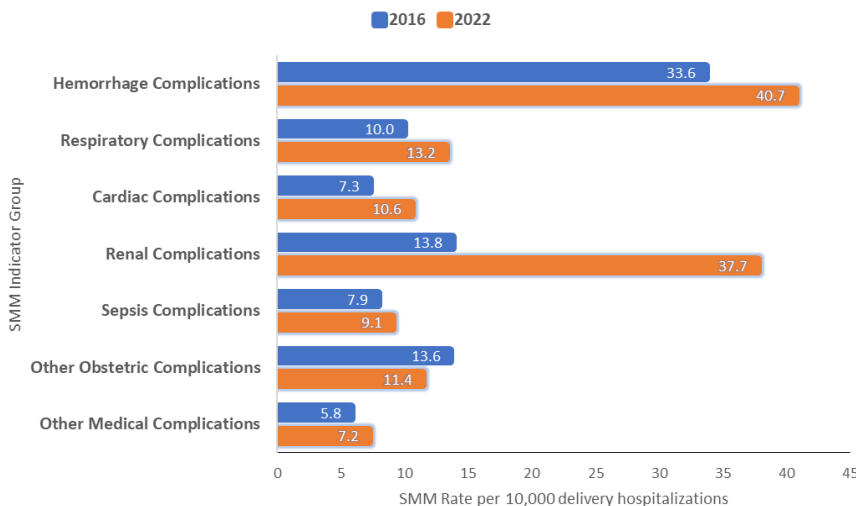
From 2016 to 2022, the rate of SMM in Pennsylvania increased from 75.2 to 105.2 per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations, a **7%** average annual increase.

The number of SMM among in-hospital deliveries increased each year from 2016 to 2021.

2016 had the lowest number of SMM events (995); 2021 had the highest SMM events (1,359).



Change in Rate of SMM by Indicator Group from 2016 to 2022

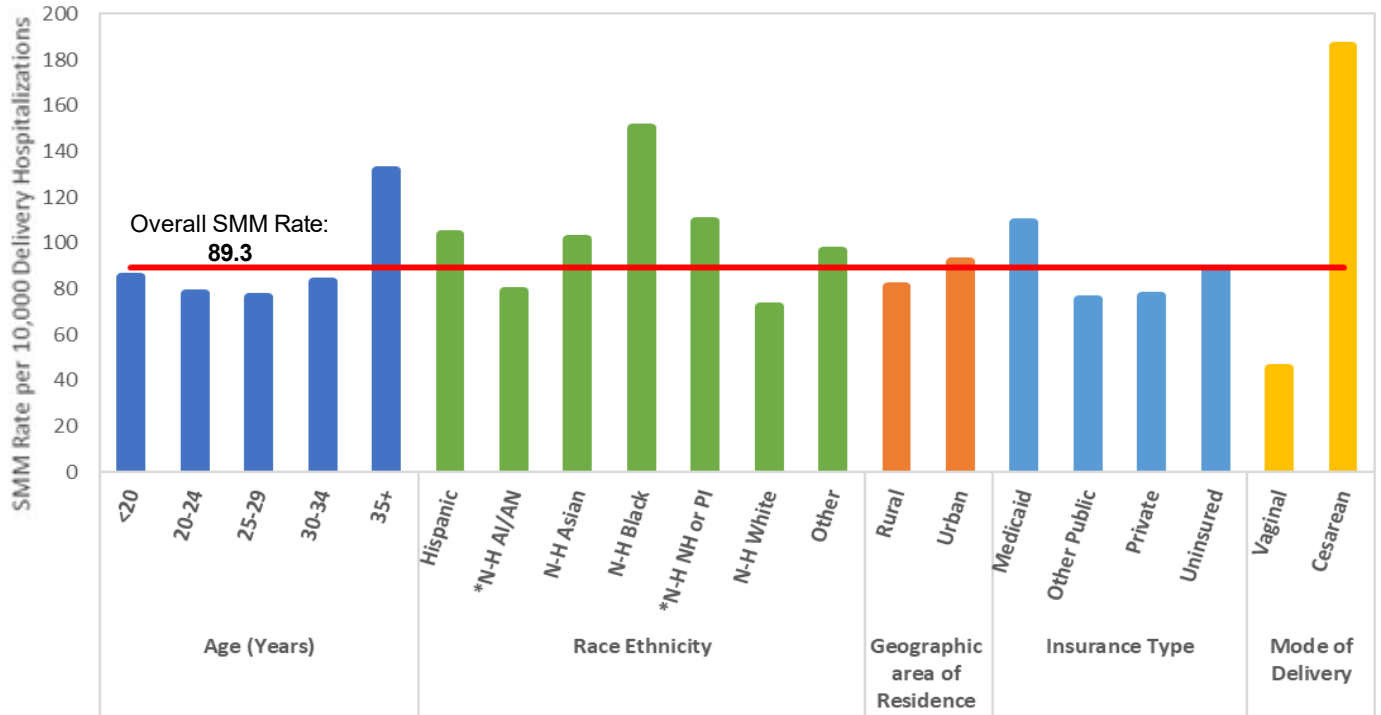


SMM conditions were grouped into seven types of complications using 21 SMM indicators.

Hemorrhage Complications represented the highest rates among all SMM indicator groups in 2022 (40.7 per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations).

Renal Complications had the greatest increase in rates among all SMM indicator groups from 2016 to 2022 (13.8 to 37.7 per 10,000 hospitalizations).

SMM Rate by Patient Characteristics, 2016-2022

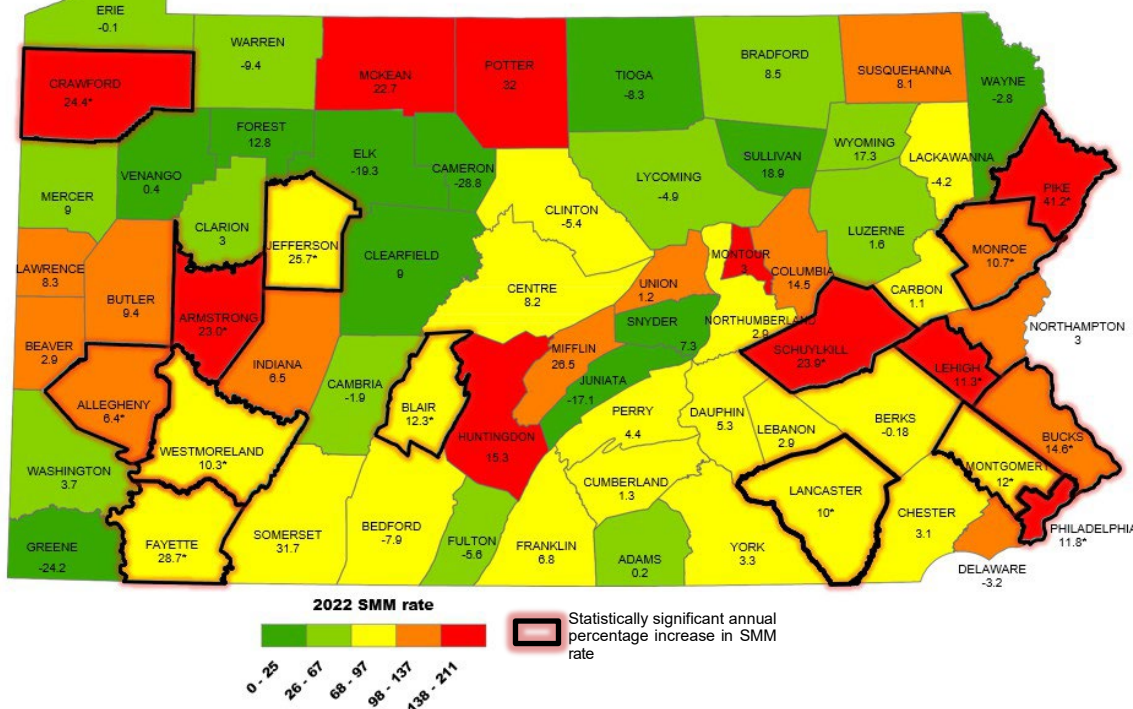


*N-H AI/AN: Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native; *N-H NH or PI: Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

The highest rate of SMM was observed among pregnant or post-partum women:

- ◆ aged 35 years and older
- ◆ of non-Hispanic (N-H) Black race/ethnicity
- ◆ residing in urban geographic areas
- ◆ with Medicaid/Medicare as their primary payer
- ◆ who delivered by cesarean section

Annual percent change (APC) in SMM rates among PA counties from 2016-2022



15 counties had a statistically significant increasing trend in SMM rates.

In 2022, six of the counties with a significantly increasing trend (Armstrong, Crawford, Lehigh, Philadelphia, Pike, and Schuylkill) had SMM rates above 150 per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations.