

Report of Maternal Deaths, Pennsylvania Occurrences 2021

December 2023



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**REPORT OF MATERNAL DEATHS
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 2021**

The Abortion Control Act requires that deaths occurring in Pennsylvania arising from pregnancy, childbirth or intentional abortion be reported to the Department of Health (department). The official maternal death definition that is used in the Abortion Control Act comes from the World Health Organization (WHO), which defines maternal deaths as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes.

This definition is also used by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). In order to be consistent with previous reports as well as other state and national reports, the number of maternal deaths listed does not include all deaths occurring to pregnant or recently pregnant women. The only cases listed in this report are those officially assigned with an underlying cause of death based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) death code of A34, O00-O95, and O98-O99. This is different from various pregnancy related and pregnancy associated deaths which can look at the broader impacts of pregnancy on death and may include deaths where the individual was within one year of the conclusion of pregnancy.

To be in compliance with the Abortion Control Act, the department annually compiles a statistical report based upon the data gathered in reports of maternal death. The statistical report is to be available for public inspection and copying. This is the department's annual statistical report. The following tables are based on the data submitted in reports required by the Abortion Control Act. Another source of information on maternal deaths is death certificates, also filed with the department.

Questions on the reporting of maternal deaths should be addressed to the Division of Health Informatics, Pennsylvania Department of Health at ra-DHIContactUs@pa.gov or 717-782-2448.

TABLE 1. Maternal Deaths by Underlying Cause of Death

	2021	2020	2019
Total	25	15	19
Pregnancy with abortive outcome	3	0	0
Induced abortion	0	0	0
Spontaneous abortion	0	0	0
Ectopic pregnancy	3	0	0
Disorders related to pregnancy	5	6	9
Complications related to delivery	2	3	4
Other conditions	15	6	6

TABLE 2. Maternal Deaths by Length of Gestation (Weeks)

	2021	2020	2019
Total	25	15	19
Less than 25 weeks	10	6	3
25 - 29	1	1	2
30 - 34	4	0	3
35 - 39	4	3	5
40 or more	0	1	3
Unknown	6	4	3

TABLE 3. Maternal Deaths by Pregnancy Disposition

	2021	2020	2019
Total	25	15	19
Live births	6	5	10
Ectopic pregnancies	2	1	0
Induced abortions	0	0	0
Spontaneous abortions	10	6	5
Unknown	7	3	4

TABLE 4. Maternal Deaths by Age at Death (Years)

	2021	2020	2019
Total	25	15	19
Under 20 years of age	0	2	0
20 - 29	8	3	5
30 years of age and over	17	10	14

TABLE 5. Maternal Deaths by Race of Mother

	2021	2020	2019
Total	25	15	19
White	14	8	13
Black or African American	6	6	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0	0
Multi-Race	1	1	0
Other race	3	0	1

TABLE 6. Maternal Deaths by Whether Mother Was Under a Physician's Care

	2021	2020	2019
Total	25	15	19
Yes	9	7	11
No	0	2	2
Unknown	16	6	6

TABLE 7. Maternal Deaths by Mother's Residence

	2021	2020	2019
Total Occurrences	25	15	19
Pennsylvania	22	13	17
Adams County	0	1	0
Allegheny County	2	0	2
Armstrong County	0	0	0
Beaver County	1	0	0
Bedford County	0	0	1
Berks County	0	0	1
Blair County	0	0	0
Bradford County	0	0	0
Bucks County	1	0	2
Butler County	0	0	0
Cambria County	0	1	0
Cameron County	0	0	0
Carbon County	0	0	0
Centre County	0	0	0
Chester County	0	0	0
Clarion County	0	0	0
Clearfield County	0	0	0
Clinton County	0	0	0
Columbia County	0	0	0
Crawford County	0	0	0
Cumberland County	1	0	1
Dauphin County	0	0	0
Delaware County	2	0	1
Elk County	0	0	0
Erie County	1	1	0
Fayette County	0	0	0
Forest County	0	0	0
Franklin County	0	1	0
Fulton County	0	0	0
Greene County	0	0	1
Huntingdon County	0	0	0
Indiana County	0	0	0
Jefferson County	1	0	0
Juniata County	0	0	0
Lackawanna County	1	1	0
Lancaster County	0	0	0
Lawrence County	0	0	0
Lebanon County	1	0	2
Lehigh County	0	1	1
Luzerne County	1	0	0
Lycoming County	0	0	0
McKean County	0	0	0
Mercer County	0	0	0
Mifflin County	0	0	0
Monroe County	2	0	0
Montgomery County	1	0	0
Montour County	0	0	0
Northampton County	0	0	0
Northumberland County	0	0	0
Perry County	0	0	0
Philadelphia County	5	5	3
Pike County	0	0	0
Potter County	0	0	0
Schuylkill County	0	1	0
Snyder County	0	0	0
Somerset County	0	0	1
Sullivan County	0	0	0
Susquehanna County	0	0	0
Tioga County	0	0	0
Union County	0	0	0
Venango County	0	0	1
Warren County	0	0	0
Washington County	1	0	0
Wayne County	0	0	0
Westmoreland County	0	1	0
Wyoming County	0	0	0
York County	1	0	0
Maryland	0	0	1
New Jersey	1	1	1
New York	1	0	0
Ohio	1	0	0
West Virginia	0	1	0