DIVISION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

For over 50 years, CDC’s Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) has developed programs to improve women's health, improve pregnancy health and care, and give infants the healthiest start in life. Multiple surveillance systems and activities in DRH provide information and data that help scientists and health professionals understand how to deliver the best care. These efforts are the foundation of a public health approach to achieve health equity by addressing the drivers of health disparities.

In the United States, leading health concerns for pregnant women and their infants are severe and sometimes fatal pregnancy complications, premature births, and sudden unexpected infant deaths. With an FY 2021 budget of $63 million, DRH works to reduce the risk and improve the health of women across their life span. To meet these goals, DRH:

- Measures health behaviors and outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy.
- Studies the drivers of health disparities and interventions to find out what works best to improve maternal and infant health.
- Improves the quality of care for mothers and infants.
- Shares information to reduce risks during pregnancy and the infant’s first year.

OUR IMPACT: Health Equity Highlight
Eliminating Preventable Maternal Mortality

The Challenge
Non-Hispanic Black and American Indian or Alaska Native women are 2 to 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than non-Hispanic White women.

CDC’s Approach
CDC is working to enhance the Maternal Mortality Review Information Application system to:

- Document racism or discrimination as contributing factors in a maternal death.
- Add community indicators of social disadvantage.
- Help Maternal Mortality Review Committees diversify their memberships to include nonclinical and community perspectives.
- Collect information from interviews with family and friends of women who have died from pregnancy-related complications to get more information about the circumstances surrounding their death.

Each Year in the United States:

- 700 WOMEN die of pregnancy-related causes
- 50,000 WOMEN have severe pregnancy complications
- 1 IN 10 INFANTS (about 380,000) are born prematurely
- 3,400 INFANTS are lost to sudden unexpected infant death

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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