WREN

Women's
Rights &
Empowerment
Network
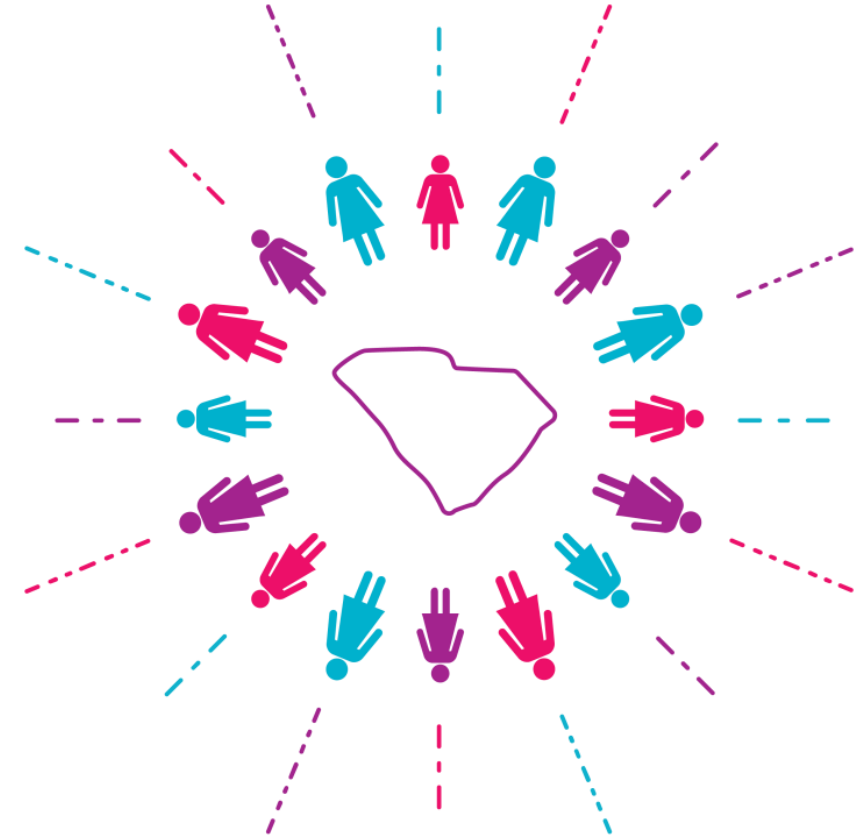
Insight to Action

Advancing Maternal Health in South Carolina

WREN aims to be the voice for South Carolina's women and girls by:

- Advocating for better policies

- Educating and mobilizing people

- Engaging individuals and organizations

- Building coalitions

Holistic Approach

- Education

- Employment

- Reproductive Rights

- Freedom from Violence

- Workplace Equity

- Maternal Health

- Leadership

- Civic Engagement

Racial Disparities in Maternal Health

Nationally, compared to white women, the pregnancy-related mortality ration is:

- More than 3x higher in black women

- 2.5x higher in American Indian/Alaska Native women

- Slightly higher in Asian/Pacific Islander women

Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. *Vital Signs*: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011-2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013-2017. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:423-429. DOI: https//dx.doi.org/10.15585?mmwr.mm6818e1external_icon

Pregnancy-related Deaths for 2011-2015:

31% while pregnant

36% at deliver or in the week after

33% 1 week to 1 year postpartum

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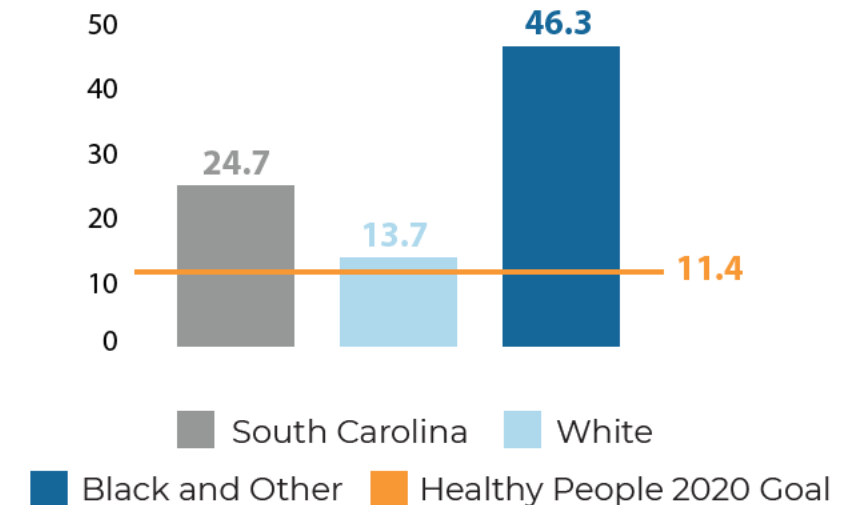Women's Rights & Empowerment Network

Racial Disparities in Maternal Health

Compared to the previous five-year period, the rate of pregnancy-related death increased among minority populations and in South Carolina overall.

South Carolina Pregnancy-Related Death by Race, 2013-2017[2]
Rate per 100,000 live births

Legend:
- South Carolina (gray): 24.7
- White (light blue): 13.7
- Black and Other (dark blue): 46.3
- Healthy People 2020 Goal (orange): 11.4

Vital Statistics (2018, November). South Carolina Vital and Morbidity Statistics 2017. Retrieved from: https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Vital-Morbidity-Statistics_2017.pdf

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Pregnancy Related Death

Common Causes:

- Cardiovascular and coronary conditions

- Hemorrhage

- Infection

- Embolism

Other Factors:

- Access to care

- Missed or delayed diagnoses

- Not recognizing the warning signs

Pregnancy-related Deaths | VitalSigns | CDC. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/maternal-deaths/index.html

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All women have the right to safe and respectful maternal health care that supports healthy pregnancies and births.

-Black Mamas Matter Alliance

SC Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee

Goals: MMMR

- Determine the annual number of pregnancy-associated deaths that are pregnancy related.

- Identify trends and risk factors among preventable pregnancy-related deaths.

- Develop actionable strategies for prevention and intervention.

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Policies that Impact Maternal Health

Enacted: Pregnancy Accommodations Act

May 18, 2018

Pending: Lactation Support Act

H.3200

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Policies that Impact Maternal Health

Birth Spacing

12 Month Supply of Birth Control Act (H.3279 & S.187)

- Ensures insurance coverage of a 12 month supply of birth control at one time.

Contraceptive Coverage for State Employees (Proviso)

- No cost sharing for contraception for state employees

Dignity with Pregnancy

Anti-Shackling of a Pregnant Person (H. 3967)

- Bans the use of restraints for an incarcerated person who is pregnant

Policies that Impact Maternal Health

Restrictions on Care

- 6 Week Abortion Ban (H. 3020)

  - Oversimplifies pregnancy

  - Criminalizes doctors

  - Drives healthcare providers out of state

  - Threatens accreditation of medical schools

Greenville, SC
Dr. Amy Crockett, MD

Where do we go from here?

- Adequately fund and support the work of the SC MMMR Committee.

- Address the obgyn workforce shortage, esp in our rural areas.

- Train providers to address racism and build a more diverse workforce.

- Expand access to health care coverage.

- Ensure all workers have access to paid family and medical leave and paid sick leave.

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Where do we go from here?

- Ensure all workers earn a living wage.

- Make child care affordable and accessible.

- Protect against harmful environmental factors.

- Have real conversations and action around systemic racism.

- Trust Women.

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Take Action & Stay Connected

- Join the network at www.scwren.org

- Social media: @WRENetwork

- Text "WREN" to 52886

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