

# Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review in Missouri: What It Is and Why It Matters



In 2019, the Missouri legislature passed a law to establish the “**Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board**” (PAMR) to improve data collection and reporting of maternal deaths in Missouri. The 17-member Board meets regularly with officials from the state’s Department of Health and Senior Services to review instances in which a woman or birthing person dies during or up to one year after pregnancy. Trends are documented and analyzed, and data is shared with the public in an annual report.

## Recommendations to the Missouri Legislature include:

- Provide funding for a statewide Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PQC) by 2023.
- Establish and fund a statewide Perinatal Psychiatry Access Program to aid health care providers in providing evidence-based mental health care, including SUD treatment, to Missouri women and birthing people.
- Extend Medicaid coverage to one year postpartum for all conditions (including medical, mental health, and SUD), even if the woman or birthing person did not start treatment prior to delivery, to aid women and birthing people whose conditions are exacerbated in the postpartum period.
- Fund Medicaid expansion by 2023.

To learn more about and read the PAMR report, visit <https://health.mo.gov/data/pamr/>

To learn more about what it will take to advance racial equity in pregnancy outcomes, family well-being, and community health, visit [www.generatehealthstl.org](http://www.generatehealthstl.org).



## PAMR Report Findings

**185**

Missouri women and birthing people **died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy** from 2017-2019, for an average of 61 deaths per year.

**3-4x**

The ratio of deaths for Black women and birthing people was **more than three times** greater than the ratio for White women and birthing people.

**75%**

of pregnancy-associated deaths in MO **were determined to be preventable**



**Mental health conditions were the leading underlying cause** of pregnancy-related deaths, **followed by cardiovascular disease**; all pregnancy-related deaths due to mental health conditions were determined to be preventable.

To read the full list of findings in the PAMR report, click the image to the right or visit <https://health.mo.gov/data/pamr/>

