**DID YOU KNOW?**

Non-Hispanic Black women in Kansas experience **2 times the rate** of non-Hispanic White women.

SMM is a physical or psychologic condition that either results from or is aggravated by pregnancy and has an adverse effect on a woman’s health\(^1\). It is measured by identifying women with at least **1 of 21 medical conditions** while hospitalized. SMM can be considered a NEAR MISS for maternal mortality, as without identification and treatment, in some cases, these conditions would lead to maternal death.

Despite decreasing SMM rates of non-Hispanic Black (NHB) women during 2016-2019, the overall rate of SMM per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations was 100.4, **87.3% higher** than the rate among non-Hispanic white women (53.6). **The SMM rate for NHB women was significantly higher than any other race and ethnicity.**

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**How providers can help decrease disparities in SMM:**

- Establish a “culture of equity” to include implementing **Quality Improvement projects** that address disparities.
- Collect race, ethnicity, and language data; use that data to improve patient services.
- Train all staff on **unconscious bias** and racial disparities.
- Engage in **shared decision making** with patients and families.
- Educate and communicate about **disparities in your community.**
- Invest in early post-partum care programs such as **Home Visiting.**
- Learn about the **long term psychological toll of structural racism.**
- Strive to create a **workforce** that reflects the community served.

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**Risk Factors for SMM**

- Increased maternal age
- Delivery paid for by Medicaid (KanCare)
- Low-income socioeconomic status
- Identify as a non-Hispanic Black woman

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**The FIVE MOST COMMON Maternal Morbidities During All Delivery Hospitalizations in Kansas:**

1. **Acute renal failure**
2. **Disseminated intravascular coagulation**
3. **Sepsis**
4. **Hysterectomy** (Some conditions involve procedural intervention, such as hysterectomy)
5. **Adult/acute respiratory distress syndrome**

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**Prevention of SMM:**

Similar to maternal mortality, in some cases SMM can be prevented. Improving maternal health could play a role in prevention!

- Ensure women receive early and adequate prenatal care and have access to **prenatal education.**
- Screen for and manage risk factors and health conditions (including chronic disease and behavioral health [**substance use, mental health**]).
- Engage women in **reproductive health planning** to include **pregnancy intention screening** and preconception care counseling.

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