

# Racial Inequity in Pregnancy-Related Deaths



During 2017 and 2018, 46 Black women in Tennessee died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy

**4 in 10**



Of these deaths were determined by a maternal mortality review committee to be pregnancy-related

**63%**

Of these pregnancy-related deaths occurred one week or later after delivery

Black women in Tennessee are **3x** as likely to die from pregnancy complications than White women

**Top causes of pregnancy-related deaths among Black women:**

1. Heart disease\*
2. Preeclampsia and eclampsia
3. Embolism, infection and homicide

**100%** of pregnancy-related deaths to Black women were determined to be preventable

## Prevention Opportunities



### Clinics and Hospitals Systems

- Provide continuing education for healthcare providers on the following topics: signs and symptoms of preeclampsia; evaluation and current treatment guidelines for cardiac conditions in pregnant and postpartum women
- Develop interpersonal violence screening and care coordination protocols
- Implement a policy for all staff to complete implicit bias training



### Healthcare Providers

- Ensure consultation and transfer to the appropriate level of obstetric care for patients with high risk conditions
- Ensure consistent screening, assessment and treatment for high risk conditions
- Utilize a quality measures checklist for cardiac conditions
- Complete implicit bias training

\*includes cardiovascular, coronary conditions and cardiomyopathy



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