During 2017 and 2018, 46 Black women in Tennessee died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy. Of these deaths, 4 in 10 were determined to be pregnancy-related by a maternal mortality review committee. Of these pregnancy-related deaths, 63% occurred one week or later after delivery.

Top causes of pregnancy-related deaths among Black women:
1. Heart disease*
2. Preeclampsia and eclampsia
3. Embolism, infection and homicide

Black women in Tennessee are 3x as likely to die from pregnancy complications than White women. Of these pregnancy-related deaths, 100% were determined to be preventable.

Prevention Opportunities

**Clincs 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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