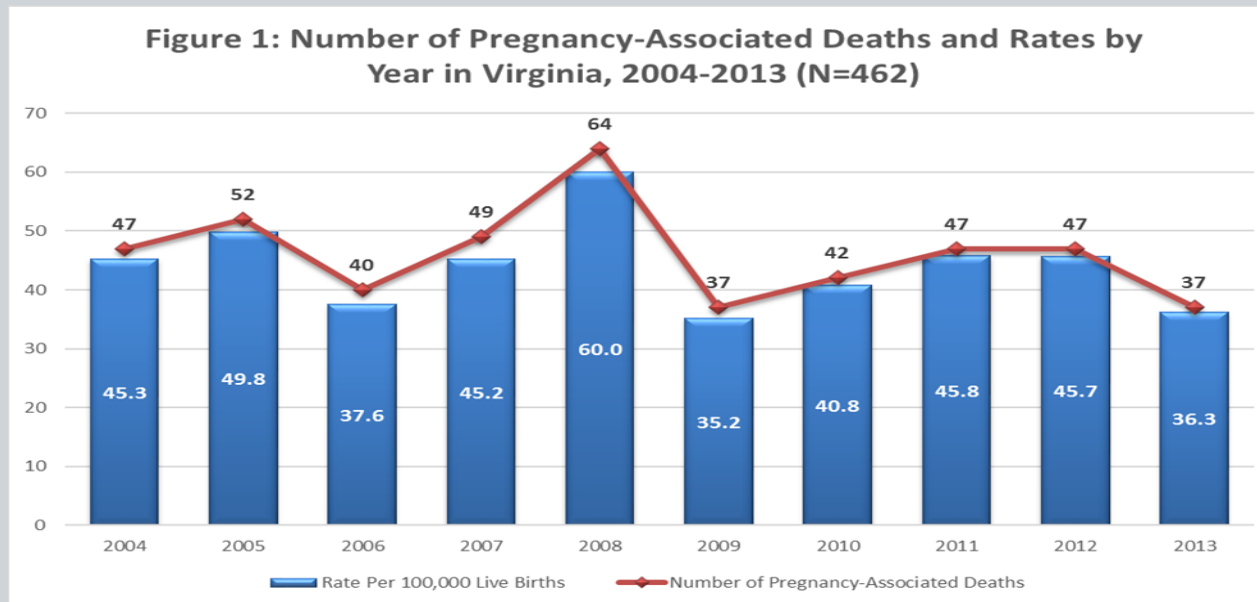


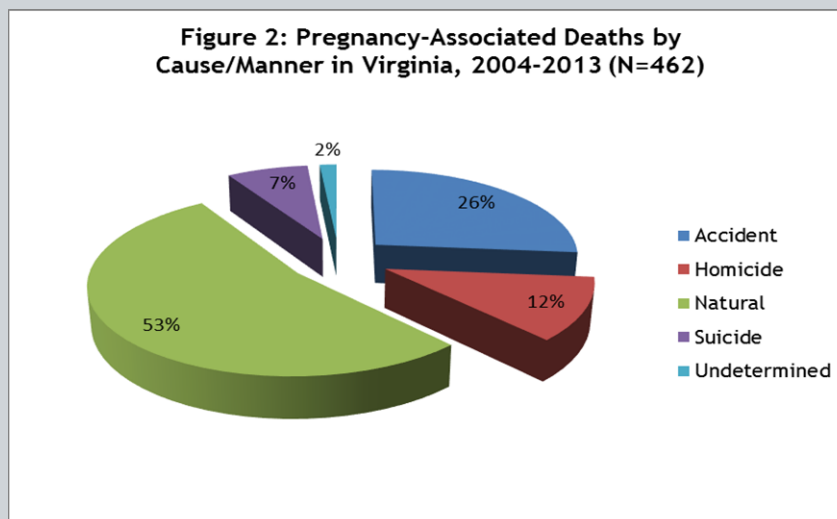
Virginia Maternal Mortality Data

Melanie J. Rouse, PhD
Maternal Mortality Projects Coordinator
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Division of Death Prevention
Virginia Department of Health





- The number and rate of deaths varied from year to year with no clear pattern suggesting a clear reason for an increase or decrease.
- Preliminary numbers for 2015 and 2016 suggest increases in number and rate.
 - 2015: n = 47, rate = 46.0
 - 2016: n = 62, rate = 61.3



- A majority of the pregnancy-associated deaths (54.8%) occurred 43 or more days after the pregnancy ended.
 - Correlated to a woman's health coverage benefits
- Leading causes of death:
 - Cardiac Disorders (12.9%)
 - Accidental Overdoses (12.9%)
 - Motor Vehicle Accidents (11.8%)
 - Homicide (11.5%)
 - Suicide (7.5%)

- The pregnancy-associated death rate for Black women between 2009 and 2013 was significantly higher than their White counterparts.

Table 1: Pregnancy-Associated Mortality in Virginia, 2009 - 2013: Rates and Racial Disparities

	2009 (n=37)			2010 (n=42)			2011 (n=47)			2012 (n=47)			2013 (n=37)		
Pregnancy-Associated Rate*	35.2			40.8			48.8			49.6			38.2		
Race	No.	%	Rate*	No.	%	Rate*	No.	%	Rate*	No.	%	Rate*	No.	%	Rate*
Black	16	43.2	73.3	18	42.9	80.2	19	42.8	86.3	23	44.0	105.3	13	35.1	60.1
White	19	51.4	27.3	21	50.0	30.2	24	49.0	34.5	22	50.0	32.9	22	59.5	33.8
Other	2	5.4	18.2	3	7.2	27.4	4	8.2	36.3	2	6.0	14.2	2	5.4	13.0

- There were significant differences by race in regards to manner of death with Black women more often dying of natural causes.

Table 2: Manner of Death by Race Among Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Virginia, 2009-2013

Manner of Death	White	Black	Other
Natural	49(45.8%)	59(66.3%)	7(63.6%)
Accidental	37(34.6%)	13(14.6%)	3(27.3%)
Homicide	9(8.4%)	11(12.4%)	3(27.3%)
Suicide	11(10.3%)	3(3.4%)	0(0.0%)
Undetermined	1(0.9%)	3(3.4%)	0(0.0%)

- There were also significant differences in the leading causes of death by race.

White Women:

Leading Cause of Death	N	%
Accidental Overdose	20	18.7%
Motor Vehicle Accident	14	13.1%
Cancer	11	10.3%
Infection	11	10.3%
Suicide	11	10.3%

Other Race:

Leading Cause of Death	N	%
Disorder of the Central Nervous System	3	27.3%
Homicide	3	27.3%
Accidental Overdose	2	18.2%
Motor Vehicle Accident	1	9.1%
Pulmonary Embolism	1	9.1%

Black Women:

Leading Cause of Death	N	%
Cardiac Disorder	16	18.0%
Homicide	11	12.4%
Exacerbation of a Chronic Disease	10	11.2%
Pulmonary Embolism	7	7.9%
Motor Vehicle Accident	6	6.7%

Risk Factors Identified Among Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Virginia

- Mental Illness
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
- Chronic Substance Abuse
 - Need to explore impact of the opioid crisis
- Chronic Medical Conditions

The Maternal Mortality Review Team concluded from its most recent review (report pending):

- Many chronic conditions, including chronic substance abuse and chronic mental illness, are not adequately addressed prior to pregnancy, during the pregnancy, during the postpartum period and beyond.
- Lack of coordinated care leaves many women without appropriate screenings, referrals and/or being left to navigate the complicated health care system on their own.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

MELANIE ROUSE, PHD

MELANIE.ROUSE@VDH.VIRGINIA.GOV

804.205.3857