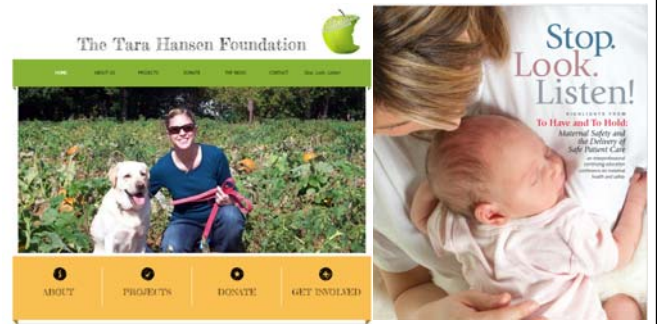


# Perspectives in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality

with  
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## Fall of 2013



### THE U.S. MATERNAL HEALTH CARE CRISIS

#### Numbers You Need To Know

In May 2011, Amnesty International launched a one year, update to its groundbreaking report, *Deadly Delivery: The Maternal Health Care Crisis in the USA*. From that update, here are numbers you need to know:

- 49% of women that have lower maternal mortality rates than the US.
- 127 babies die in the US every 100,000 live births.
- 2x the risk of maternal death in high-poverty areas is 2x that in low-poverty areas.
- 329% increase in US Cesarean rates in 2005. An all-time high following a 13 percentage point rise.
- 21% of women each year who die from pregnancy-related complications, die every 18 minutes.
- 34,000 African American women are 2 to 4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

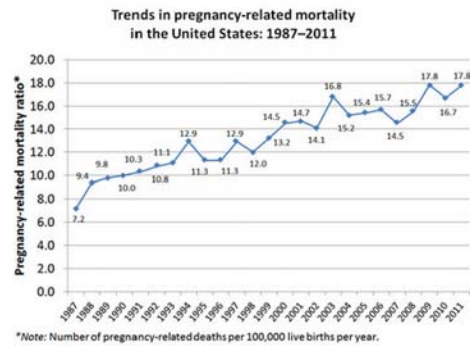
### DEADLY DELIVERY

#### THE MATERNAL HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN THE USA

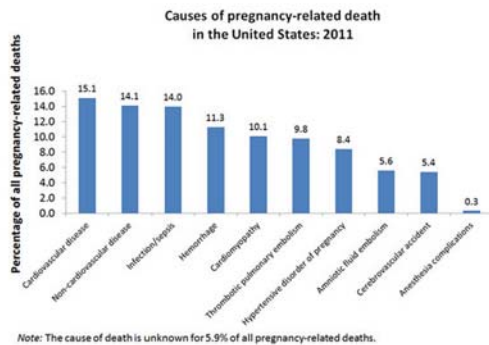
ONE YEAR UPDATE SPRING 2011

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

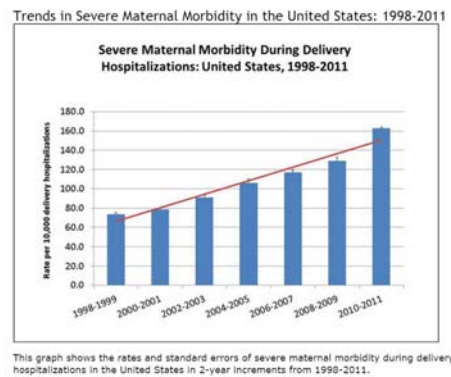
## CDC statistics



## CDC statistics



## CDC statistics



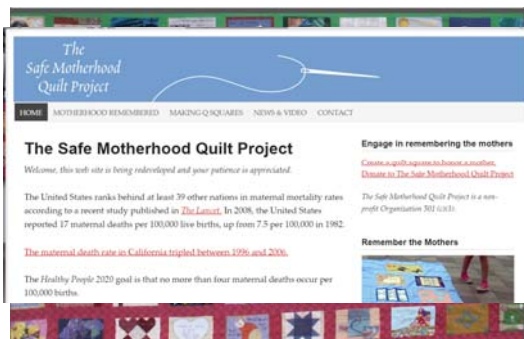
## Most recent CDC data (2011)

- Of the 1,751 deaths within a year of pregnancy termination that occurred in 2011 and were reported to CDC, 702 were found to be pregnancy-related. The pregnancy-related mortality ratio was 17.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011.
- Considerable racial disparities in pregnancy-related mortality exist. In 2011, the pregnancy-related mortality ratios were:
  - 12.5 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women.
  - 42.8 deaths per 100,000 live births for black women.
  - 17.3 deaths per 100,000 live births for women of other races.

## Are you surprised by these findings?

- We spend more of our GNP on healthcare than any other developed country in the world, yet we rank 50<sup>th</sup> for maternal mortality.
- CEOs of U.S. nonprofit hospitals earn an average of almost \$600,000 a year, with CEOs of large academic institutions have median salaries of more than \$1.5 million. These compensation rates are not tied to quality measures such as mortality rates.
- Yet, when hospitals look to cutting costs, staffing and education for staff are the first areas to come under fire.

## This affects all of us...



## Kolby's Story

- G1P0...unremarkable pre-pregnancy or prenatal history
- 33 weeks – increased BP...Pre-eclampsia labs WNL except for 24h urine (300+).
- No other S/S other than edema
- Bedrest
- 34 weeks – increased BP continues. Edema continues
- 35 weeks – higher BP. To L & D with intention to transfer and deliver

## Kolby's Story

- Hospital #1-
  - IV
  - MgSO4
  - IV anti-hypertensive
  - Ambulance to tertiary care facility

## Kolby's Story

- Hospital #2-
  - Cervical ripening x 2.5 days
  - Remains hypertensive
  - MgSO4/Anti-hypertensives continue
  - Labs WDL except K...low
  - SROM/clear followed by rapid labor/delivery
    - Vigorous baby girl 😊
  - O2 required for momma immediate PP period

## Kolby's Story

- Hospital #2 continued-
  - Baby – clinically stable, breastfeeding initiated
  - Momma –
    - BPs remain elevated. On anti-hypertensives
    - Otherwise unremarkable
  - DC'd to home after 2.5 days

## Kolby's Story

- 12h after DC (0100)...
  - Acute onset of coughing & shortness of breath
- Ambulance ride #2
  - Lasix
  - Nitro
  - CPAP
  - Initial O2 sat...62%

## Kolby's Story

- Hospital #3
  - ED
  - ICU
  - Mother/Baby
    - 4 day stay
    - IV/O2/Meds/RT
  - Diagnosis: **Acute Flash Pulmonary Edema** secondary to Pre-eclampsia

## Risk Management & Safety

- **Risk Reduction** - creating systems and supporting work environments where preventable adverse outcomes are avoided, thus *reducing the possibility of litigation*
- **Mitigation of Risk** - *managing liability exposure* following an adverse outcome (preventable or unpreventable).

## So what can we do?

- We must begin making honest assessments of our individual strengths and weaknesses as clinicians
- Next we need to look at our institutions and systems, where are our knowledge gaps? What areas need improvement?
- At the broader level, we must begin to look at statewide health and health disparities.
- And most importantly, we must engage our communities - patients and families that are our neighbors, our friends, and our shared responsibility when it comes to safety.
- These findings on preterm birth rates, maternal mortality & morbidity, and knowledge gaps in normal labor & delivery care must be seen not as tragedies, but as opportunities - chances for us to create safer systems and informed populations, two keys for improved healthcare in the United States.

## Successful programs

- California, Illinois, and New York are three states that have developed exemplary programs in the reduction of maternal mortality & morbidity secondary to hemorrhage.
- Let's take a look at some of the highlights and key points, and review resources that provide direction for state public health initiatives, healthcare system changes, and individual professional growth.
- How many of these resources are familiar to you & your colleagues? Who else needs to know?

# California's Collaborative Success

A California Toolkit to Transform Maternity Care  
 Improving Health Care Response to  
 Obstetric Hemorrhage



- California Pregnancy Related Maternal Mortality Review (CA-PAMR) found that OB hemorrhage was one of the leading causes for maternal death and a major contributor to maternal morbidity, much of the mortality deemed preventable.
- In 2009, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) performed a survey of California maternity services and found most hospitals were lacking in updated hemorrhage treatment methods. Few hospitals had massive transfusion protocols and most lacked an updated obstetric hemorrhage protocol.
- CMQCC and the Hemorrhage Task Force developed a toolkit, "Improving Health Care Response to Obstetric Hemorrhage."

## CMQCC Obstetric Hemorrhage Care Guidelines: Checklist Format

Prenatal Assessment & Planning		
Identify and prepare for patients with special considerations: Placenta Previa/Accreta, Bleeding Disorder, or those who Decline Blood Products Screen and aggressively treat severe anemia: If oral iron fails, initiate IV Iron Sulfate Protocol to reach desired Hgb/Hct, especially for at risk mothers		
Admission Assessment & Planning	Ongoing Risk Assessment	
Verify Type & Antibody Screen from prenatal record If not available: OOrder Type & Screen (add w/notify if 2 <sup>nd</sup> visit needed for confirmatory) If prenatal or current antibody screen positive (if not low titer anti-D from Rho-GAM): OType & Crossmatch 2 units PRBCs All other patients: OStandard O to blood bank	Evaluate for development of additional risk factors in labor: • Prolonged 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage labor • Prolonged oxytocin use • Active bleeding • Chorioamnionitis • Magnesium sulfate treatment OIncrease Risk Level (see below) and consent for Type & Screen or Type & Crossmatch OTrack multiple risk factors as High Risk	
Evaluate for Risk Factors (see below): Omedium risk OOrder Type & Screen OReview Hemorrhage Protocol OHigh risk OOrder Type & Crossmatch 2 units PRBCs OReview Hemorrhage Protocol ONotify OB Anesthetist OAlertly review who may decline transfusion OIdentify OB provider for plan of care OIdentify consult with OB anesthetist OReview Consent Form		

Admission Hemorrhage Risk Factor Evaluation		
Low (Low entry)	Medium (Type and Screen)	High (Type and Crossmatch)
NO prenatal anemia noted Single pregnancy All chronic vaginal births No recent medical disorder No history of preeclampsia No history of PTMs Large placenta (normal)	Risk factors: 1-4 of the following: Multiple gestation +1 chronic vaginal births History of preeclampsia Large placenta (normal)	Risk factors: 5-6 of the following: History of preeclampsia History of PTMs History of placental abruption History of severe anemia History of active bleeding History of chorioamnionitis Magnesium sulfate treatment History of prolonged labor Prolonged oxytocin use

**STAGE 0: All Births: Prevention & Recognition of OB Hemorrhage**

Action Management of Third Stage

- O Oxytocin infusion: 10-20 units oxytocin/1000ml solution titrate infusion rate to uterine tone or 10 units IM; do not give oxytocin as IV push
- O Vigorous fundal massage for at least 10 seconds
- O Changing Quantitative Evaluation of Blood Loss
- O Using formal methods, such as graduated containers, visual comparisons and weight of blood soaked materials (1gm = 1cc)
- O Changing Evaluation of Vital Signs

If Cumulative Blood Loss >100ml vaginal birth or >1000ml C/S OR: Vital signs >15% change or HR >110, BP <84/44, O2 sat <95% OR: Increased bleeding during recovery or postpartum, proceed to STAGE 1

### STAGE 1: OB Hemorrhage

Cumulative Blood Loss >100ml vaginal birth or >1000ml C/S OR: Vital signs >15% change or HR >110, BP <84/44, O2 sat <95% OR: Increased bleeding during recovery or postpartum

MOBILIZE	ACT	THINK
<b>Primary nurse: Physician or Midwife</b> O Activate OB Hemorrhage Protocol and Checklist <b>Primary nurse:</b> O Notify obstetrian (in-house and attending) O Notify charge nurse O Notify anesthesiologist	<b>Primary nurse:</b> O Call out if access is not present, at least 18-gauge O Increase IV fluids rates (Lactated Ringers preferred) and increase Oxytocin rate (10-20 units/1000ml solution). Treat Oxytocin infusion rate to uterine tone O Continue vigorous fundal massage O Administer Methergin 0.2 mg IM per protocol (if not hypertensive), give once O No response, move to alternate agent, if good response, may give additional 0.2 mg O Vital Signs, including O2 sat & level of consciousness (LOC) q 5 minutes O Weigh materials, calculate and record cumulative blood loss q 5-15 minutes O Administer oxygen to maintain O2 sat at >95% O Empty bladder: straight cath or place Foley with urimeter O Type and Crossmatch for 2 units Red Blood Cells STAT (if not already done) O Keep patient warm	Consider potential etiology: • Uterine atony • Trauma/accident • Retained placenta • Uterine Inversion • Coagulopathy • Placental Accreta • Uterine Rupture

**Physician or midwife:**  
 O Rule out retained Products of Conception, incarceration, hematoma  
 O Support IV access: both and still open  
 O Inspect for uncontrolled bleeding at all levels, esp. broad ligament, posterior uterine and retained placenta

**Once stabilized: Modified Postpartum Management with increased surveillance**

If Continued bleeding or Continued Vital Signs instability, and <1500 ml cumulative blood loss proceed to STAGE 2

#### UTEROTONIC AGENTS for POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE

Drug	Dose	Route	Frequency	Side Effects	Contraindications	Storage
Prostaglandin (Oxytocin)	15-20 units	IM	Continuous	Headache, flushing, hypertension, tachycardia, uterine cramping, uterine hyperstimulation with fetal compromise, uterine rupture, and/or death	Hyperstimulation, 10% fetal disease	Room temp
Methylergometrine (Methergin)	0.2 mg	IM	Q 2-4 hours Do not repeat until 15-45 min after last dose. It is essential to monitor heart rate as it may increase in patients with HTN or PHTN	Headache, flushing, hypertension, tachycardia, uterine cramping, uterine hyperstimulation with fetal compromise, uterine rupture, and/or death	Hyperstimulation, 10% fetal disease, tachycardia, uterine cramping, uterine hyperstimulation with fetal compromise, uterine rupture, and/or death	Refrigerated
Hemaferrin (15-methyl H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ) (Ferahemol)	250 mg	IM or IV	One time	Headache, flushing, hypertension, tachycardia, uterine cramping, uterine hyperstimulation with fetal compromise, uterine rupture, and/or death	Cholera in women with hepatic disease, uterine hyperstimulation with fetal compromise, uterine rupture, and/or death	Refrigerated
Cytotec (Misoprostol)	800-1000mg	Per rectum (PR)	One time	Headache, flushing, hypertension, tachycardia, uterine cramping, uterine hyperstimulation with fetal compromise, uterine rupture, and/or death	None	Room temp

### STAGE 2: OB Hemorrhage

Continued bleeding or Vital Signs instability, and <1500 ml cumulative blood loss

MOBILIZE	ACT	THINK
<b>Primary nurse (or charge nurse):</b> O Call anesthesiologist to bedside O Call Anesthesiologist O Activate Response Team <b>PHONE</b> O Notify Blood bank (as directed) O Notify Hematology and/or 2 <sup>nd</sup> OB O Notify Obstetrian O Notify nursing supervisor O Assign single person to communicate with blood bank O Call medical social worker or assign other family support person	<b>Team leader (OB physician):</b> O Additional uterine medication: Hemaferrin 250 mg IM (if not contraindicated) OR Methergin 300-1000 mg IV O Call repeat Hemaferrin up to 3 times every 20 min. (note 75% response to first dose) O Order type STAT (CBC/PTs, Chem 12, PTT/APTT, Fibrinogen, AAG) O Transfuse PRBCs based on clinical signs and response, do not wait for lab results <b>Primary nurse:</b> O Establish 2 <sup>nd</sup> large bore IV at least 18-gauge. Maintain adequate fluid volume with lactated Ringers and adequate uterine tone with oxytocin infusion O Assess and announce Vital Signs and cumulative blood loss q 5-10 minutes O Set up blood administration set and blood warmer for transfusion O Administer meds, blood products and draw labs, as ordered O Assess patient warm <b>Second nurse (or charge nurse):</b> O Place Foley with urimeter (if not already done) O Obtain portable light and OR procedure tray or Hemorrhage cart O Obtain blood products from the blood bank O Assist with move to OR (if indicated) O Determine availability of thawed plasma, fresh frozen plasma, and platelets. Initiate delivery of platelets if not present on site O Consider thawing 2 FFP (300 ml). Use if transfusing >2 units PRBCs O Prepare for possibility of massive hemorrhage	Sequentially advance through procedures and other interventions based on etiology: <b>Vaginal birth</b> • Manual or vacuum • Uterine and repair <b> Cesarean</b> • Uterine atony or lower uterine segment bleeding: • B-Lynch Suture, Uterine Ligatures • Hemostatic agents • Selective embolization (interventional radiology if available & appropriate) <b> Cesarean</b> • Uterine hemostatic suture, e.g. B-Lynch Suture, Clamp, Multiple Ligatures • Intrauterine Balloon • Intrauterine Tampon • Uterine Artery Ligation • Hemostatic and uterine relaxation drugs for manual reduction • Amniotic Fluid Embolism • Maximal aggressive respiratory, vasopressor and blood product support • If vital signs are worse than estimated or measured blood loss, proceed to OR <b> Once stabilized: Modified Postpartum Management with increased surveillance</b>

**No Evaluate Bleeding and Vital Signs**  
 If cumulative blood loss >1500ml, >2 units PRBCs given, VS unstable or suspicion for DIC, proceed to STAGE 3

### STAGE 3: OB Hemorrhage

Cumulative blood loss >1500ml, >2 units PRBCs given, VS unstable or suspicion for DIC

MOBILIZE	ACT	THINK
<b>Nurse or Physician:</b> O Activate Massive Hemorrhage Protocol <b>PHONE</b> O Notify advanced C/n surgeon (e.g. Sur Oncologist) O Notify adult intensivist O Call in second anesthesiologist O Call in CR staff O Reassign staff as needed O Call in supervisor, CNS, or manager O Continue OB Hemorrhage Record (in OR, anesthesiologist will assess and document VS) O If transfer considered, notify ICU <b>Blood Bank:</b> O Prepare to issue additional blood products as needed - stay ahead	<b>Establish team leadership and assign roles</b> <b>Team leader:</b> OB physician + OB anesthesiologist, anesthesiologist and/or obstetrian/and/or intensivist <b>Order Massive Hemorrhage Pack:</b> PRBCs + FFP + 1 plasma pack + 15-see rates in right column O Move to OR if not already there O Request CBC/PTs, Chem 12, PTT/APTT, Fibrinogen, ABO STAT q 30-60 min <b>Anesthesiologist</b> (as indicated): O Arterial blood gases O Central hemodynamic monitoring O CVP or PA line O Airway line O Vasopressor support <b>Primary nurse:</b> O Announce VS and cumulative measured blood loss q 5-10 minutes O Apply upper body warming blanket if feasible O Low fluid warmer and/or rapid infuser for fluid & blood product administration O Apply sequential compression stockings to lower extremities O Circulate in OR <b>Second nurse and/or anesthesiologist:</b> O Continue to administer meds, blood products and draw labs, as ordered	• Selective Embolization (IR) • Interventions based on etiology not yet completed • Prevent hypothermia, Acidosis <b>Conservative or Definitive Surgery:</b> • Omentum Ligament • Hysterectomy <b>For Resuscitation: Aggressively Transfuse Based on Vital Signs, Blood Loss</b> <b>KEY: Hgb/Hct RATIO of FFP to RBC</b> <b>Either: 6:4:1 PRBCs: FFP: Platelets OR: 4:4:1 PRBCs: FFP: Platelets</b> <b>Unresponsive Coagulopathy:</b> • After 8-10 units PRBCs and coagulation factor replacement may consider replacement of Factor Vite <b>Once Stabilized: Modified Postpartum Management: consider ICU.</b>

#### BLOOD PRODUCTS

Product	Indications
<b>Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBC)</b>	Indicated for anemia (hemoglobin <8-10 gm/dL)—assuming no samples in the lab and assuming no antibody are present Transfuse to normalize blood counts (may wait)
<b>Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP)</b>	Indicated to treat coagulopathy Indicated to treat thrombocytopenia (platelet count <50,000) Indicated to treat fibrinogen deficiency (fibrinogen <1.0g/L) Indicated to treat hypofibrinogenemia (fibrinogen <1.0g/L)
<b>Platelets (PLTs)</b>	Local variation in dose to release may need to come from local blood bank
<b>Cryoprecipitate (Cryo)</b>	Indicated to treat hypofibrinogenemia (fibrinogen <1.0g/L)

## New York State & ACOG District II

### Optimizing Protocols in Obstetrics

#### MANAGEMENT OF OBSTETRIC HEMORRHAGE

### Core Elements

- Definition
- Risk Factors/Etiology
- Initial Interventions
- Medical Treatment
- Surgical Treatment
- Defined Care Team and Escalation Role Clarity
- Checklist Algorithm
- Transfusion Policy
- Drills

ACOG DISTRICT II

### WHAT MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW CAN ACCOMPLISH: ILLINOIS'S MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Illinois is one of only a few states to routinely review maternal morbidity, as well as mortality. All Illinois birthing hospitals are required to report any obstetrics patient admitted to the ICU or who receives more than 3 units of blood. Quality Improvement standards for case review are in place in all birthing hospitals.

In 2010, Illinois's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) completed their Statewide Obstetric Hemorrhage Education Program. Based on the cases they reviewed, the MMRC developed and implemented a comprehensive education program – including lecture, hands-on skills training to evaluate volume of blood loss, simulation and debriefing sessions – which was completed by over 35,000 physicians, midwives, and obstetric nurses between July 2008 and December 2009. The program was mandatory and reportedly very well received by participants and hospitals. A final hospital assessment in 2010 found that all Illinois birthing hospitals now have Rapid Response Teams (RRT) trained to respond to hemorrhage, and many hospitals have expanded the RRT to include all obstetric emergencies.

Preliminary data supports great improvement in the statewide response to hemorrhage and allows the MMRC to focus efforts on assessing preventability of near miss or severe morbidity, which can ultimately reduce the number of maternal deaths.<sup>73</sup>

## Illinois State Mandated Obstetric Hemorrhage Education Project

### Key Points

- Illinois Department of Public Health & Perinatal Advisory Committee
- Sanctions for failure to train/participate

### Program Components

- Benchmark assessment validation
- Didactic lecture and discussion
- Skill stations
- Simulation drills
- Debriefing

## New Directions & New Responsibilities

- We are making strides in disclosure, transparency and evaluation of medical and nursing error.
- Our next goals must include involving and educating the consumers of perinatal care, and evaluation of the evidence that is based on patient outcomes.
- Both physicians and nurses also need to look at sharing information across disciplines, and using each other's literature jointly when creating educational programs.

### Maternal Morbidity & Mortality

Women are the cornerstone of a healthy and prosperous world—we must act now to eliminate preventable deaths and injuries.

Two to three women die every day in the United States from complications that occur while giving life. Approximately half of these maternal deaths have been determined to be preventable. African American women have 3-4 times more deaths than women of all other racial/ethnic groups.

Deaths are just the tip of the iceberg.

Every 10 minutes a woman in the United States almost dies of pregnancy-related complications. Postpartum hemorrhage is a leading cause of these complications, with an estimated 2.9% of the women who give birth in the U.S. will bleed too much. This means about 125,000 women a year are affected. In addition, in the last 10 years, there was a 183% increase in the number of women who had a blood transfusion around the time they gave birth.

## Childbirth Connection

FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

95 Years of Transforming Maternity Care

FOUNDED 1918

January 1918

NINETY-FIVE YEARS

First Nurse

NCA founded to improve the health of underserved mothers and babies through maternity care and education.

**MATERNAL HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT**

Reproductive Health Care

What is the unmet need for family planning services per 100 live births?	25.4%
Does the state have a public financing program and/or provisions to refuse to provide contraceptive and related services?	No
Does the state require providers to cover pregnancy complications if other providers are not covered?	No
Does the state have a waiver from Medicaid to provide expanded access to family planning services?	Yes
What percentage of women in need of publicly funded contraceptive services and supplies had been reached by public sector providers?	11.1%

Indicators of Steps to Respect, Fulfill, and Protect the Right to Maternal Health

Maternal Outcomes and Accountability

What is the maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)? <sup>1</sup>	6.2
What is the state maternal mortality ranking? <sup>2</sup>	10
Does the state meet the Healthy People Goal of 4.3 deaths (per 100,000 live births)? <sup>3</sup>	No
Does the state have a death certificate pregnancy checkbox? <sup>5</sup>	Yes
Does the state have a Maternal Mortality Review Board? <sup>6</sup>	No
Does the state have mandatory reporting of maternal deaths? <sup>7</sup>	No
Does the state have cultural competency requirements for medical licensure? <sup>8</sup>	No

US Health Care System

What percentage of USMC cases offer case management?	33%
What is the total number of people who are incarcerated in the states?	2,030,000
What percentage of women are sentenced? <sup>11</sup>	25.1%
What percentage of women are being in a medically underserved area? <sup>12</sup>	25.4%
What is the Medicaid eligibility level for working parents in states (for a family of three)? <sup>13</sup>	45%
What is the Medicaid eligibility level for working parents in states (for a family of three)? <sup>14</sup>	17,000
What percentage of people/babies are being under the federal poverty line? <sup>15</sup>	20.1%

# Oregon Perinatal Collaborative

## Oregon Perinatal Collaborative

The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC), a group of perinatal health care leaders in Oregon, commits to safely reduce the rate of Cesarean Sections (C-Section) births, particularly for women who haven't delivered in this manner before. In order to safely reduce first-time C-Sections, the OPC leaders are implementing strategies for a successful birth in labor and delivery departments throughout Oregon. The OPC recommends all Oregon Providers delivering babies review and adopt these best practices strategies that will support safe deliveries in all labor units. The OPC will continue to monitor and revise these strategies for best practice on a regular basis.

Oregon Perinatal Collaborative: Steering Committee Members

Members	Association	Function
Aaron Laughly MD	OBGYN	Chair
Beth Jacobson	March of Dimes	Member
Bruce Gustafson MD	OR Health Authority	Member
Daniel Lobbey MD	HealthShare Oregon	Collaborative Leader
Debbie Heim	Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center	Member
Deane Widdie	OR Association Hospital & Health Systems	Collaborative Leader
Bill Greenstein MD	March of Dimes Program Services Chair	Member
Debra Nelson MD	Lepore	Collaborative Leader
Helen Bellows MD	HealthShare Oregon	Member
Joanne Higgins	March of Dimes	Collaborative Leader
Kathy Oswald	Providence	Member
Lauri Durham	Providence	Member
Leona Logue	Lepore	Member
Lori Irwin	OBGYN	Member
Lyn Jacobs MD	Virginia Garcia	Member
Mark Tomlinson MD	Providence St. Vincent's	Collaborative Leader
Michael Bryant	Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center	Member
Melba Christman	Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation	Member
Patricia Chantillon	Kaiser Permanente	Member
Shelene Morgan	Lepore	Member
Suzanne Lubarsky MD	Kaiser Permanente	Member
Tahara Bennett MD	Trinity	Member
Therese Gordon	March of Dimes - OR Consultant / Facilitator	Member/Facilitator

# JOGNN

## IN FOCUS

### The Effect of Collaboration on Obstetric Patient Safety in Three Academic Facilities

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#### ABSTRACT

Interprofessional collaboration is critical to the provision of safe patient care and provider satisfaction. Collaboration is an active process that can help maximize positive patient outcomes. Three academic institutions implemented collaborative processes as part of their perinatal patient safety initiatives based on anecdotal experiences and safety culture surveys that demonstrated positive outcomes. Reliable tools and additional research are needed to measure the extent and impact of collaboration on patient outcomes in perinatal care.

**Keywords**  
collaboration  
communication  
interprofessional  
collaboration  
patient safety  
perinatal patient safety  
teamwork

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## It is not the population...

*“Blaming women for the rise in maternal mortality, e.g., they need to take better care of themselves, will not solve the current issues. Indeed, the bulk of the solutions that will have the greatest impact are those solutions that occur at the system-level beyond the control of the individual woman.”*

- Debra Bingham,  
Former Executive Director  
California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative  
28 February 2010