

US Maternal Death Rates Up Sharply

CDC Oblivious to COVID-19 Illness and Vaccination as Determinants

By [Dr. Peter McCullough](#)

Theme: [Science and Medicine](#)

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[Courageous Discourse](#)

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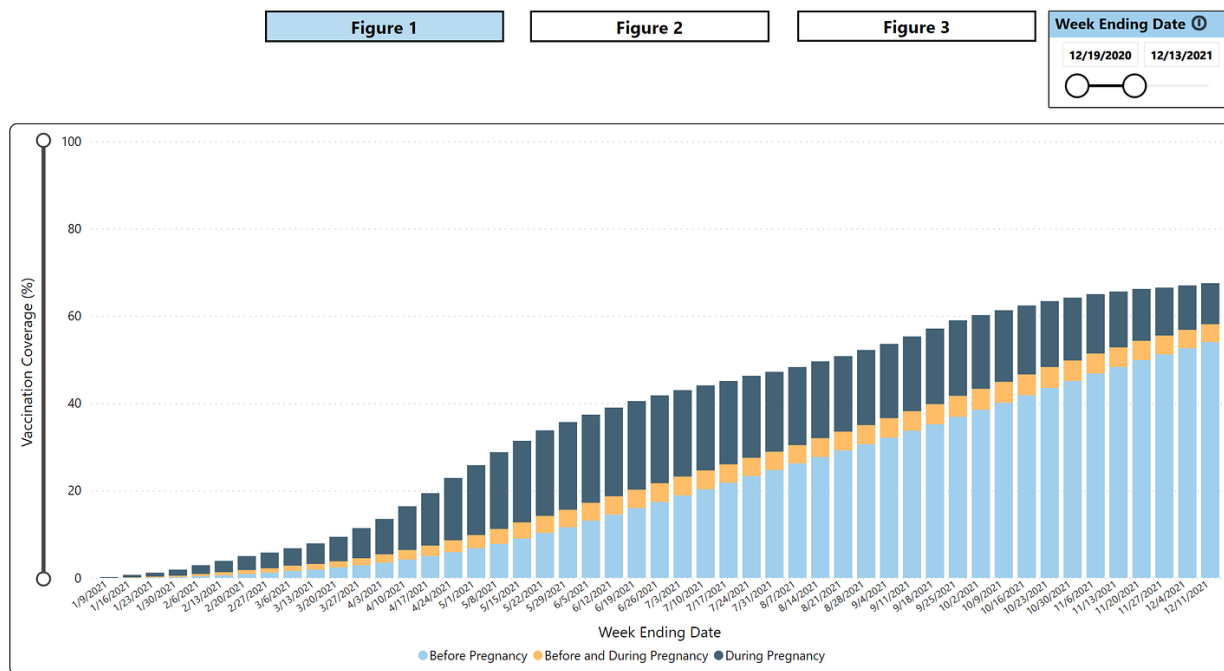
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Modern obstetrical care in the US has had a major impact in reducing maternal death rates over several decades. Now there is reversal of these trends. From the start of the pandemic there have been reports with mixed results for mortality among pregnant women with COVID-19 infection and after COVID-19 vaccination. Sadly, many women have had both exposures in 2021 and beyond.

The CDC reports that ~65% of women have taken a vaccine—most before conception and the remainder through the term of gestation. This occurred because the CDC advised that pregnant women take this risk with no assurances on the health of the mother or baby through pregnancy.

Figure 1: Percent of Pregnant People Ages 18–49 Years Who Completed the Primary Series of COVID-19 Vaccine Before and During Pregnancy, by Timing of Vaccination and Week Ending Date — Vaccine Safety Datalink,* United States December 14, 2020 – December 11, 2021



COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant people aged 18-49 years overall, by race and ethnicity, and date reported to CDC – Vaccine Safety Datalink,* United States, Accessed April 10, 2023

Now the CDC is reporting record maternal death rates in 2021 compared to prior decades and in the report by Hoyert et al, has shown a stepwise increase for death during or shortly after pregnancy. All groups are up but the worst is for African American women.

Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2021

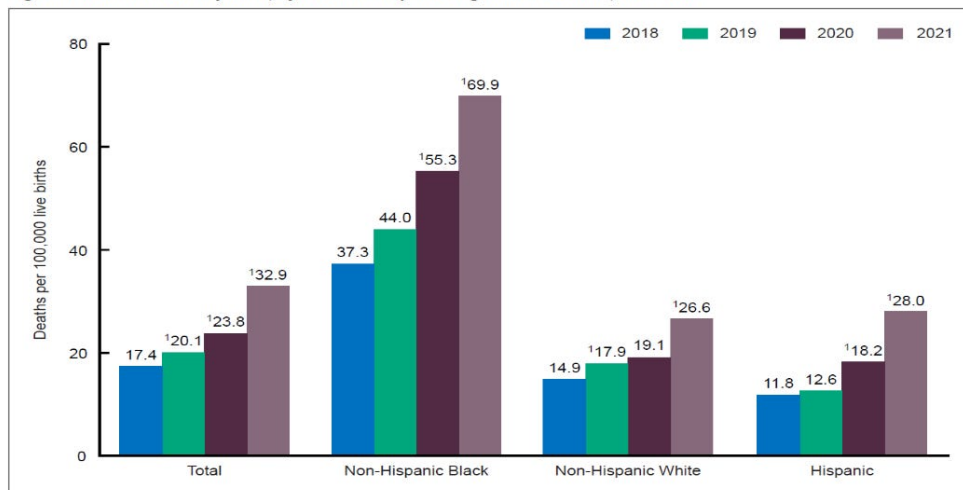
by Donna L. Hoyert, Ph.D., Division of Vital Statistics

This report presents maternal mortality rates for 2021 based on data from the National Vital Statistics System. A maternal death is defined by the World Health Organization as “the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes (1).” Maternal mortality rates, which are the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, are shown in this report by age group and race and Hispanic origin.

NCHS Health E-Stats

March 2023

Figure 1. Maternal mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2018–2021



¹Statistically significant increase from previous year ($p < 0.05$).

NOTE: Race groups are single race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

Hoyert, CDC, Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2021

While lockdowns, reduced access to prenatal care, and a variety of factors could be related to maternal outcomes, the CDC report is willfully blind to major exposures 1) acute COVID-19 which could have played a role in 2020 and 2) COVID-19 vaccination which was prevalent in 65% of mothers in 2021. The CDC must open up all data on COVID-19 cases and vaccination to researchers for urgent epidemiologic evaluation of these disturbing trends. Death among pregnant women should be a top priority for public health researchers.

Women of childbearing age and pregnant women should refrain from COVID-19 vaccination given its pregnancy category X status and the absence of any assurances on short or long-term safety.

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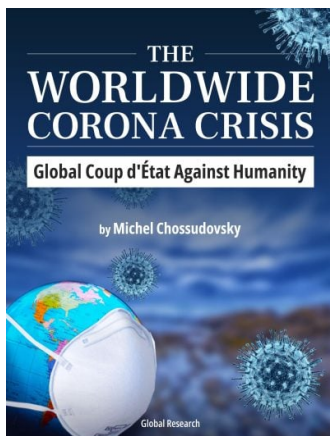
Sources

[COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant people aged 18-49 years overall, by race and ethnicity, and date reported to CDC – Vaccine Safety Datalink,* United States, April 10, 2023](#)

[Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2021 Donna L. Hoyert, Ph.D., Division of Vital Statistics, Accessed April 10 2023](#)

[McCullough PA. COVID-19 Vaccines Remain Pregnancy Category X Products Should Never Have Been Administered in Pregnant Women and Those of Childbearing Age](#)

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