The Alaska Maternal Child Death Review (MCDR) Committee reviews all deaths of women while pregnant or within one year of the end of pregnancy, due to any cause.

### Number of pregnancy-associated deaths (most recent 10 years)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
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### 2012-2017 Update

**Drug or alcohol overdose** was the most common cause (27%) of the 56 Alaskan pregnancy-associated deaths that occurred 2012-2017.

- **Number of deaths**
  - Drug/alcohol overdose: 15
  - Other medical causes: 14
  - Pregnancy-related: 7
  - Suicide: 6
  - Unintentional injury: 5
  - Assault/homicide: 5
  - Unknown: 4

**Pregnancy-related deaths** were 13% of all Alaskan pregnancy-associated deaths.

Alaska’s 2012-2017 pregnancy-related mortality rate is lower than the most recent U.S. rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate per 100,000 live births</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.0</td>
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<td>Alaska 2012-2017</td>
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<td>10.5</td>
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### Additional MCDR Committee Findings

Among 54 pregnancy-associated deaths reviewed:

- **85%** (n=46) were **potentially preventable**.
- **Mental health conditions contributed to 30%**.
- **Drug or alcohol abuse or substance use disorders contributed to 52%**.

The Alaska Perinatal Quality Collaborative was launched in January 2019 to enable birthing facilities and partners to work together to prevent maternal mortality and serious pregnancy-related illness. Find out more at [https://www.ashnha.com/alaska-perinatal-quality-collaborative/](https://www.ashnha.com/alaska-perinatal-quality-collaborative/)

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