

**Title:** Maternal Mortality Increasingly Targets American Women  
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A literature review on the increasing maternal mortality rate in the United States focuses on the definition and causes with the hope of finding an explanation for the disparities of maternal mortality between white American born women and black women. There is no standard definition or procedure when it comes to maternal mortality in the U.S. The data we have collected throughout the years is not truly accurate due to the effect of the addition of the 2003 standard death certificate which included questions that pertained to the pregnancy status of women at the time of death. The causes of maternal mortality are a mixture of chronic diseases, increased obesity and diabetes, more cesarean sections performed and inconsistent obstetric care. African American women are 3 to 4 times more likely than white women to die from a pregnancy-related cause due to a lack of health care insurance, substandard care and a health care system with engraved unconscious biases. Researchers have found that California's method of instituting a maternal mortality review board with the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative has helped reduce their maternal mortality rate. California created tool kits for maternal mortality situations to improve the care mothers receive in emergency situations. Ultimately, more conclusive and adequate research has to be done so that all of the inconsistencies involving the health care system and maternal mortality are resolved.

## Works Cited

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