



Conference Highlight

A Million Moments for Maternal Mortality Prevention

Kansas Department of Health and Environment. (2025). *A million moments for maternal mortality prevention* [Conference highlight summary]. Prepared by the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research on behalf of Kansas Connecting Communities.

Fast Facts

239
Attendees

32
Speakers

18
Sessions

17
Exhibitors

On August 7 and 8, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and a dedicated planning committee hosted the first Million Moments for Maternal Mortality Prevention Conference. Partially funded by Kansas Connecting Communities (KCC), the two-day conference highlighted the many factors that contribute to maternal death, including physical and mental health conditions, substance use, intimate partner violence, and the systems that shape care and access.

Participants described gaining a deeper understanding of perinatal substance use and trauma, along with renewed commitment to addressing personal biases and improving patient communication. Many highlighted plans to enhance referrals, broaden collaboration across disciplines, and adopt more trauma-informed, strengths-based language when working with patients and families. One attendee noted, "Every touch and interaction matters. Make the most of all of the moments with clients. Listen and be present."

The conference evaluation shows strong engagement and measurable gains in participants' skills and confidence. 94% of participants rated the conference as "Excellent." 76 attendees—primarily social workers, nurses, and other health professionals—reported significant growth in all key competencies, from analyzing the intersection of mental and physical health, substance use, and intimate partner violence to implementing



Why this topic and why now?

A planning committee, comprised of care professionals and lived experts, decided on three training tracks: healthcare, behavioral health, and community partners. These tracks were chosen to ensure each group receives sessions tailored to their unique role in the system of care. This ensured that each group was equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to contribute their vital piece of the puzzle and strengthen the collaborative network that makes comprehensive, life-saving care possible.

evidence-based, team-based care. One attendee noted, "I left the conference with a strong desire as a social worker, mother, and someone who has given birth, to do more for the perinatal and postpartum populations." After the event, most planned to apply interdisciplinary screening tools, use empathy-based communication, and strengthen interagency collaboration. As one participant summarized, "This event gives us more tools to provide collaborative care."

Overall, the conference received enthusiastic praise for its organization, speaker quality, and opportunities for cross-disciplinary dialogue. Suggestions for future sessions included small-group collaboration, expanded outreach to engage more maternal and child health providers, and additional topics such as postpartum community support and trauma across the lifespan. The evaluation makes clear that the event effectively advanced interprofessional collaboration and equipped participants with practical strategies to help reduce preventable maternal mortality.

Funding and Partnerships

The Million Moments for Maternal Mortality Prevention Conference trained 239 professionals through braided and blending funding across many programs and sources.



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mmp
Conference
Day 1



mmp
Conference
Day 2

Leading Causes and Contributors of Maternal Deaths in Kansas

2016-2022 Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee (KMMRC) Data, Preliminary



Mental health contributed to **1 in 4** pregnancy-associated deaths

Substance use contributed to **1 in 3** pregnancy associated and related deaths

153
maternal
deaths
in Kansas

105 **Pregnancy-Associated Deaths**
30 unable to determine relatedness
Motor vehicle crashes, cardiovascular conditions, mental health conditions, homicide, unintentional poisoning/overdose

45 **Pregnancy-Related Deaths**
37 determined preventable
Cardiovascular conditions, infections, embolism, mental health conditions

Postpartum Period

(12 months after delivery or the end of pregnancy)

69.9% (107 deaths) of the 153 maternal deaths occurred during the postpartum period.

56.3% of pregnancy-related deaths occurred during the postpartum period.

2016-2022 Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee (KMMRC) Data, Preliminary. KMMRC reviews cases of maternal deaths, and identifies all maternal deaths as occurring during pregnancy or within a year of pregnancy in order to collect data on maternal mortality.