

Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee (KMMRC)

<http://www.kansasmch.org/mmr.asp>

Purpose: The purpose of the review is to determine the factors contributing to maternal mortality in Kansas and identify public health and clinical interventions to improve systems of care. Maternal Mortality includes deaths occurring during pregnancy and up to one year after pregnancy.

Vision: The Maternal Mortality Review Committee's vision is to eliminate preventable maternal deaths in Kansas.

Mission: The mission is to increase awareness of the issues surrounding pregnancy-related death and to promote change among individuals, communities, and healthcare systems in order to reduce the number of deaths.

Goals: The goals of the Maternal Review Committee are to:

- Perform thorough record abstraction in order to obtain details of events and issues leading up to a mother's death.
- Perform a multidisciplinary review of cases to gain a holistic understanding of the issues.
- Determine the annual number of maternal deaths related to pregnancy (pregnancy related mortality).
- Identify trends and risk factors among pregnancy related death in Kansas.
- Recommend improvements to care at the individual, provider, and system levels with the potential for reducing or preventing future events.
- Prioritize findings and recommendations to guide development of effective preventive measures
- Recommend actionable strategies for prevention and intervention.
- Disseminate the findings and recommendations to a broad array of individuals and organizations.
- Promote the translation of findings and recommendations into quality improvement actions at all levels.

There are **six (6) key decisions** that maternal mortality review committees make for each death reviewed:

- 1) Was the death pregnancy related?
- 2) What was the cause of death?
- 3) **Was the death preventable?**
- 4) **What were the critical contributing factors to the death?**
- 5) **What are the recommendations and actions that address those contributing factors?**
- 6) **What is the anticipated impact of those actions if implemented?**

NOTE: While all six questions are essential, the last four questions highlight the unique and critical role of the review committees: preventability, contributing factors, recommendations for improvement and measurement of impact.

Authority & Protections:

K.S.A. 65-177 provides authority for the KDHE to conduct studies to reduce morbidity or mortality; all data shall be treated as confidential. Interviewing patients or family members must be done pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2422d. Provides authority for non-identifying aggregate statistical and narrative reports/publications.

K.S.A. 65-2422d authorizes the secretary to use birth, death and still birth certificates as identifiable data for purposes of maternal and child health surveillance and monitoring. The secretary or the secretary's designee may interview individuals for purposes of maternal and child health surveillance and monitoring only with an approval of the health and environmental institutional review board as provided in title 45, part 46 of the code of federal regulations

