

Health E-Stat 100: Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2023

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This report presents maternal mortality rates for 2023 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—the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births—are shown in this report by age group and race and Hispanic origin.

This report updates a previous one that showed maternal mortality rates for 2018–2022 (2). In 2023, 669 women died of maternal causes in the United States, compared with 817 in 2022 (2) (Figure 1, Table). The maternal mortality rate for 2023 decreased to 18.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared with a rate of 22.3 in 2022.

In 2023, maternal mortality rates decreased significantly for White non-Hispanic (subsequently, White) and Hispanic women (Figure 2, Table). The observed decrease for Asian non-Hispanic (subsequently, Asian) and increase for Black non-Hispanic (subsequently, Black) women was not statistically significant. In 2023, the maternal mortality rate for Black women was 50.3 deaths per 100,000 live births and was significantly higher than rates for White (14.5), Hispanic (12.4), and Asian (10.7) women.

Rates decreased significantly for women ages 25–39 and age 40 and older between 2022 and 2023 (Figure 3, Table). Rates in 2023 were 12.5 deaths per 100,000 live births for women younger than age 25, 18.1 for those ages 25–39, and 59.8 for those age 40 and older. The rate for women age 40 and older was nearly five times higher than the rate for women younger than age 25. Differences in the rates between age groups were statistically significant.

Data sources and methods

Data are from the National Vital Statistics System mortality file (3). Consistent with previous reports, the number of maternal deaths does not include all deaths during pregnancy or among recently pregnant women but only those deaths with the underlying cause of death assigned



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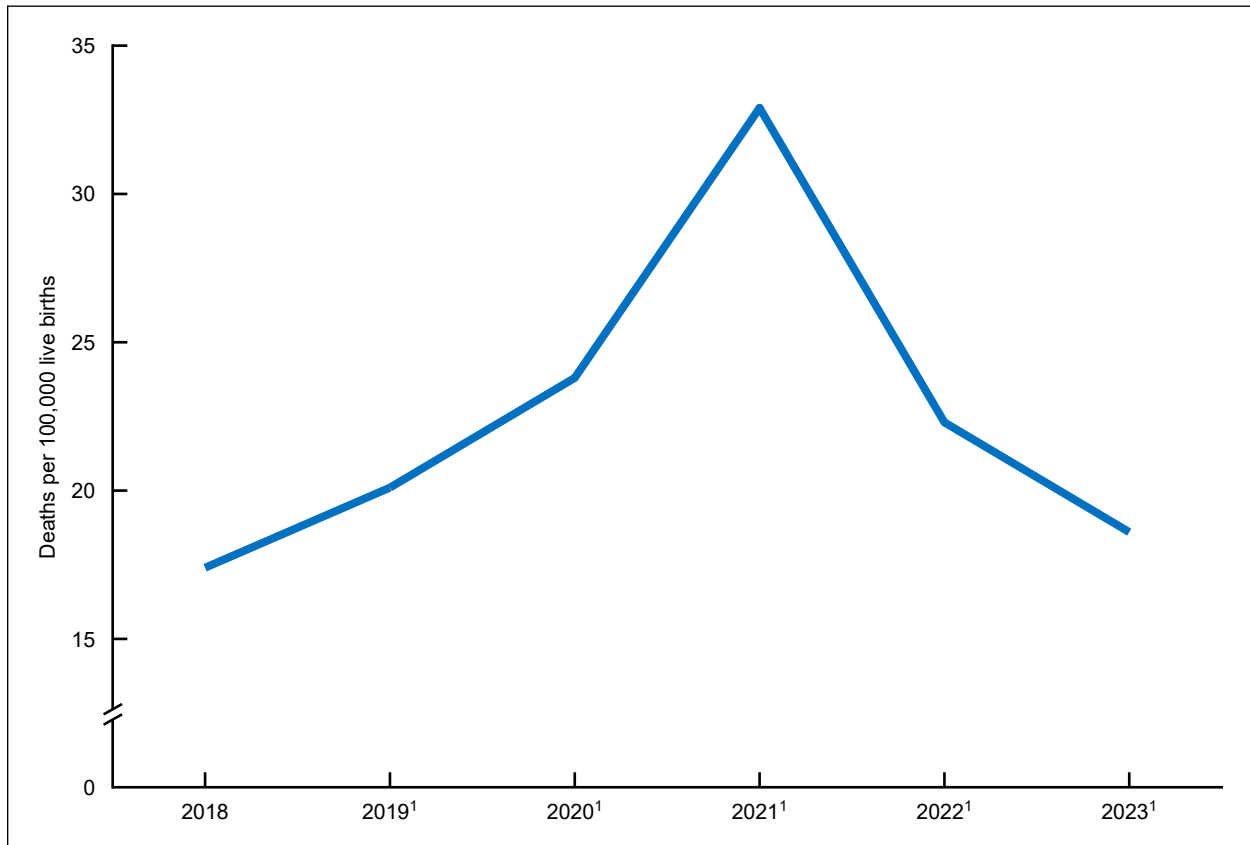
to *International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* codes A34, O00–O95, and O98–O99. Maternal mortality rates are per 100,000 live births, based on data from the National Vital Statistics System natality file. Maternal mortality rates fluctuate from year to year because of the relatively small number of these events, and possibly because of issues with the accuracy of reporting maternal deaths on death certificates (4). Efforts to improve data quality are ongoing, and these data will continue to be evaluated for possible errors. Data are shown for only the four largest race and Hispanic-origin groups for which statistically reliable rates can be calculated, and numbers and rates are suppressed for those groups for which statistically reliable rates cannot be calculated (5). Additional details and data on provisional maternal mortality rates are available (6,7).

References

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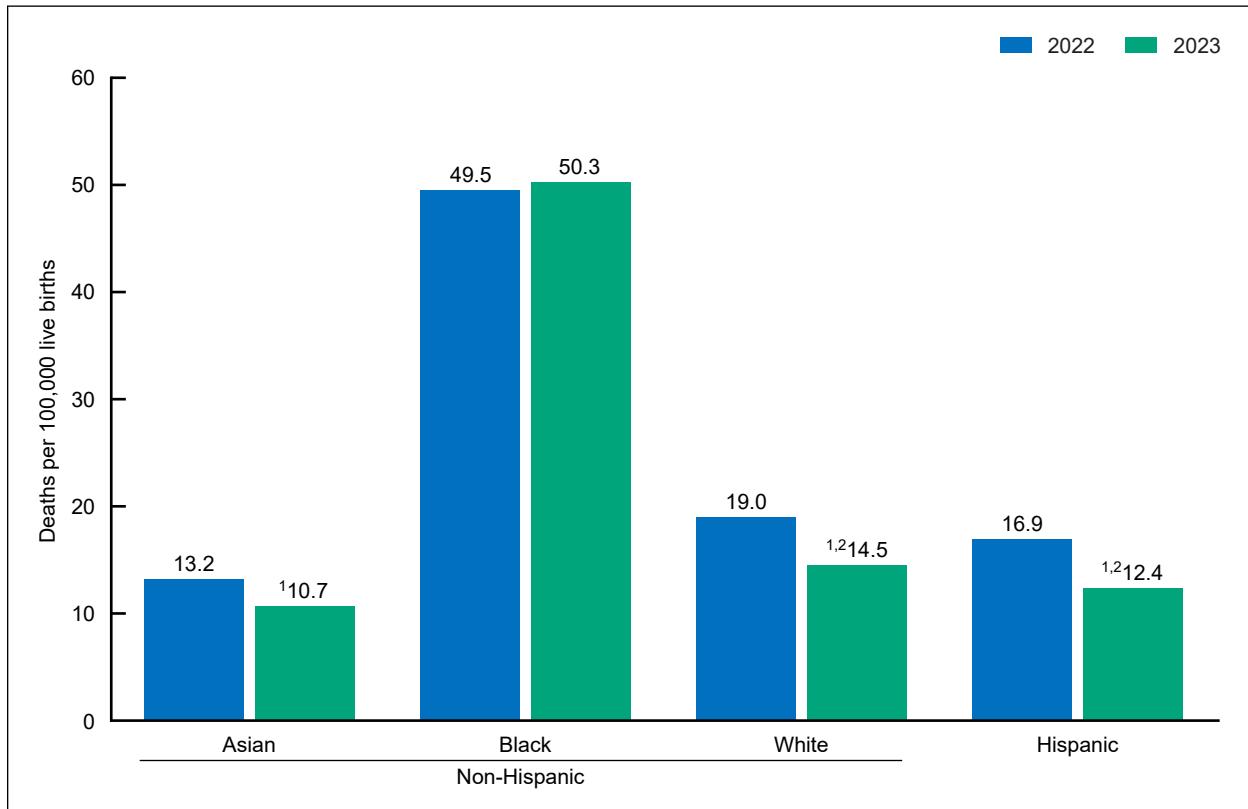
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Figure 1. Maternal mortality rate: United States, 2018–2023

¹Statistically significant change in rate from previous year ($p < 0.05$).

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality data file.

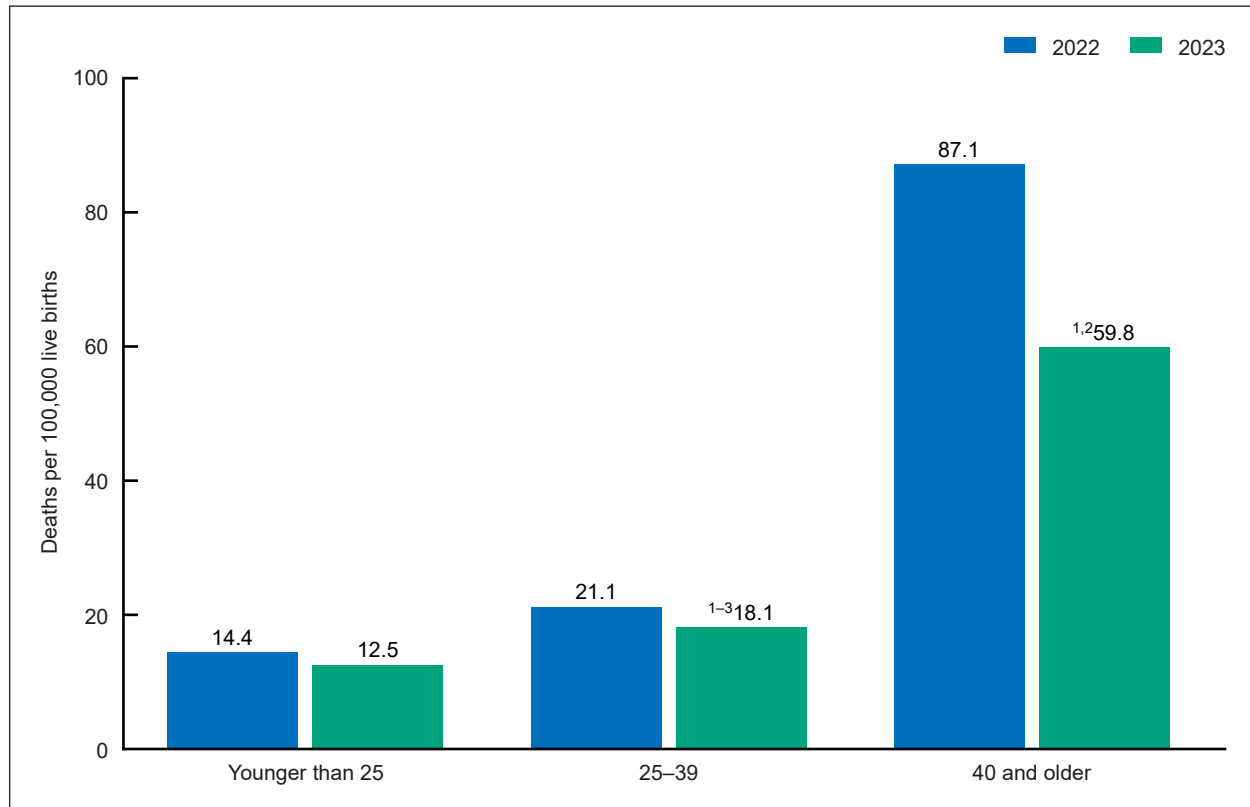
Figure 2. Maternal mortality rate, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2022 and 2023

¹Statistically significant difference from Black non-Hispanic women ($p < 0.05$).

²Statistically significant decrease in rate from previous year ($p < 0.05$).

NOTES: Race groups are single race. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality data file.

Figure 3. Maternal mortality rate, by age: United States, 2022 and 2023

¹Statistically significant decrease in rate from previous year ($p < 0.05$).

²Statistically significant difference from younger than 25 ($p < 0.05$).

³Statistically significant difference from 40 and older ($p < 0.05$).

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality data file.

Table. Number of live births and maternal deaths, and maternal mortality rate, by race and Hispanic origin and age: United States, 2018–2023

Race and Hispanic origin and age	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of live births						
Total ¹	3,791,712	3,747,540	3,613,647	3,664,292	3,667,758	3,596,017
Younger than 25	907,782	877,803	825,403	797,334	784,299	759,713
25–39	2,756,974	2,739,976	2,658,445	2,731,223	2,738,802	2,689,250
40 and older	126,956	129,761	129,799	135,735	144,657	147,054
Asian, non-Hispanic ²	240,798	238,769	219,068	213,813	218,994	215,738
Younger than 25	16,338	15,071	12,993	11,149	11,002	10,352
25–39	211,331	210,177	193,139	189,405	193,025	190,128
40 and older	13,129	13,521	12,936	13,259	14,967	15,258
Black, non-Hispanic ²	552,029	548,075	529,811	517,889	511,439	491,494
Younger than 25	176,243	169,853	159,541	149,435	140,498	131,977
25–39	358,276	360,206	351,648	349,170	349,740	337,697
40 and older	17,510	18,016	18,622	19,284	21,201	21,820
White, non-Hispanic ²	1,956,413	1,915,912	1,843,432	1,887,656	1,840,739	1,787,051
Younger than 25	391,829	374,129	348,666	336,792	324,604	309,033
25–39	1,504,888	1,480,595	1,433,839	1,486,249	1,449,365	1,410,849
40 and older	59,696	61,188	60,927	64,615	66,770	67,169
Hispanic	886,210	886,467	866,713	885,916	937,421	945,200
Younger than 25	275,553	270,948	258,635	255,806	264,310	266,416
25–39	579,553	584,109	576,690	597,703	637,735	642,429
40 and older	31,104	31,410	31,388	32,407	35,376	36,355
Number of maternal deaths						
Total ¹	658	754	861	1,205	817	669
Younger than 25	96	111	114	163	113	95
25–39	458	544	607	854	578	486
40 and older	104	98	140	188	126	88
Asian, non-Hispanic ²	32	33	27	36	29	23
Younger than 25	*	*	*	*	*	*
25–39	25	28	20	24	21	17
40 and older	*	*	*	*	*	*
Black, non-Hispanic ²	206	241	293	362	253	247
Younger than 25	27	32	46	62	44	37
25–39	137	179	198	242	172	181
40 and older	42	30	49	58	37	29
White, non-Hispanic ²	291	343	352	503	350	259
Younger than 25	41	49	40	57	35	26
25–39	207	248	253	364	259	195
40 and older	43	46	59	82	56	38
Hispanic	105	112	158	248	158	117
Younger than 25	21	23	20	36	25	27
25–39	72	71	111	184	108	77
40 and older	12	18	27	28	25	13

See footnotes at end of table

Table. Number of live births, maternal deaths, and maternal mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin and age: United States, 2018–2023—Con.

Race and Hispanic origin and age	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Maternal mortality rate ³					
Total ¹	17.4	20.1	23.8	32.9	22.3	18.6
Younger than 25	10.6	12.6	13.8	20.4	14.4	12.5
25–39	16.6	19.9	22.8	31.3	21.1	18.1
40 and older	81.9	75.5	107.9	138.5	87.1	59.8
Asian, non-Hispanic ²	13.3	13.8	12.3	16.8	13.2	10.7
Younger than 25	*	*	*	*	*	*
25–39	11.8	13.3	10.4	12.7	10.9	8.9
40 and older	*	*	*	*	*	*
Black, non-Hispanic ²	37.3	44.0	55.3	69.9	49.5	50.3
Younger than 25	15.3	18.8	28.8	41.5	31.3	28.0
25–39	38.2	49.7	56.3	69.3	49.2	53.6
40 and older	239.9	166.5	263.1	300.8	174.5	132.9
White, non-Hispanic ²	14.9	17.9	19.1	26.6	19.0	14.5
Younger than 25	10.5	13.1	11.5	16.9	10.8	8.4
25–39	13.8	16.8	17.6	24.5	17.9	13.8
40 and older	72.0	75.2	96.8	126.9	83.9	56.6
Hispanic	11.8	12.6	18.2	28.0	16.9	12.4
Younger than 25	7.6	8.5	7.7	14.1	9.5	10.1
25–39	12.4	12.2	19.2	30.8	16.9	12.0
40 and older	38.6	57.3	86.0	86.4	70.7	35.8

* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability.

¹Total includes deaths for race and Hispanic-origin groups not shown separately, including women of multiple races and Hispanic origin not stated.

²Race groups are single race.

³Maternal mortality rates are deaths per 100,000 live births.

NOTES: Maternal causes are those assigned to codes A34, O00–O95, and O98–O99 of the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision*. Maternal deaths occur while pregnant or within 42 days of being pregnant. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOURCES: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality and natality data files.