

# MATERNAL 2019 DEATHS IN IDAHO

Summary of findings  
by the Maternal  
Mortality Review  
Committee



## FINDINGS:

**Five women** in Idaho died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy.

**All five of the deaths** could have been prevented.

**Three of the five deaths** were classified as pregnancy-related deaths (deaths either directly caused or exacerbated by the pregnancy).

In **three of the five deaths**, substance use disorder was a contributing factor.

The 2019 pregnancy-related mortality ratio (PRMR) in Idaho was 13.6 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births. In the United States, the most recent PRMR (2017) was 17.3 deaths per 100,000 live births.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Providers should utilize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for pregnant and postpartum women when applicable.
- Providers should follow up with women after a pregnancy loss, especially in women with known mental health or mood disorders.
- Facilities should screen for substance use disorders when a patient seeks reproductive care and provide a referral when substance use is identified, preferably a warm handoff or call to the facility to schedule the first appointment while the patient is present.
- Facilities should institute communication channels between providers, especially if potential high-risk scenarios have been identified in the prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods. This includes communication with outside facilities or providers.
- State funds should be allocated to the Division of Public Health to develop a statewide Perinatal Quality Collaborative.
- Idaho Medicaid should expand coverage for pregnant women to 12 months postpartum, regardless of pregnancy outcome.