

Accidental Poisoning or Drug Overdose During Pregnancy

Accidental poisoning or drug overdose is the leading cause of pregnancy-associated death in Michigan. Understanding the risks of drug use during pregnancy and how to prevent overdoses can help prevent these deaths. This handout will:

- Define pregnancy-associated death
- Explain other leading causes of pregnancy-associated death in Michigan
- Explain the rise of opioid-affected births in Michigan and how to prevent opioid overdose during pregnancy

What is pregnancy-associated death?

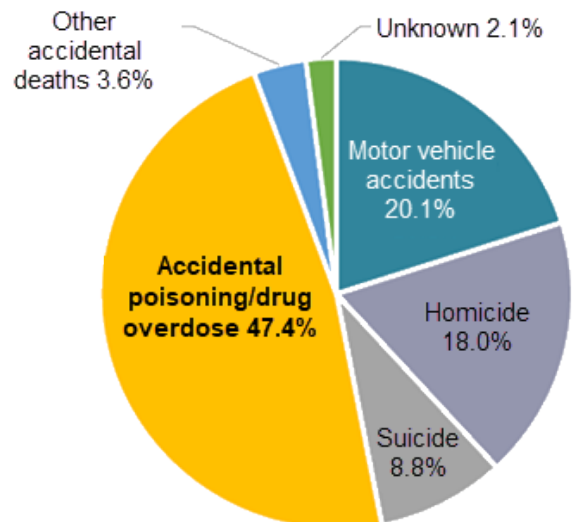
Pregnancy associated death is dying while pregnant or within 1 year of the end of a pregnancy due to a cause unrelated to pregnancy.

What causes pregnancy-associated death?

The most common cause of pregnancy-associated injury deaths in Michigan is accidental poisoning/drug overdose (45 out of 100 or 45%).

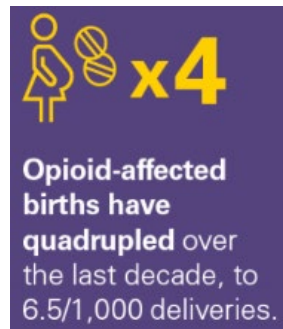
What are the other causes of Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Michigan?

This chart shows the causes of pregnancy-associated deaths in Michigan and their percentages from 2011-2016. Accidental poisoning/drug overdose is the leading cause of death (47 out of 100), followed by motor vehicle accidents (20 out of 100), homicide (18 out of 100) and suicide (9 out of 100).



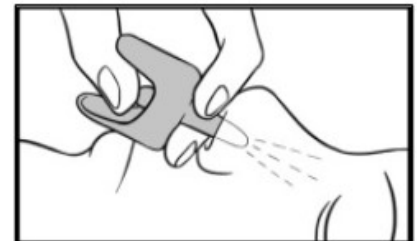
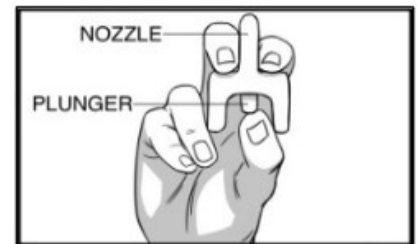
Opioids and pregnancy

- Opioid-affected births have quadrupled (increased by 4) over the last 10 years, to 6.5 affected out of 1000 births.
- Opioid use in pregnancy increases the risk of maternal death (death of the mother) and increases the risk of life-threatening health issues.



How can an opioid overdose be stopped?

Naloxone (Narcan, ®Evzio®) is a drug (nasal spray) that temporarily reverses the dangerous effects of an opioid overdose. It stops an overdose caused by opioid pain medication, methadone, buprenorphine or heroin. It helps a person to breathe again and wakes them up. The images here only show what Naloxone looks like. Visit the resources below to learn how to give Naloxone.



Where can I learn more?

- People at risk for overdose and their families can learn to spot an overdose and save a life. Scan this QR code with a smartphone to view a video on how to give Naloxone during an opioid overdose, or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ukyjj3z>.
- A step-by-step guide for giving Narcan can be found here: <http://michmed.org/rnw59>.



References:

- University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. *IHPI Brief: Substance use and pregnancy: What we know and what we can do*. 2019. Access at: https://ihpi.umich.edu/sites/default/files/2019-04/0124_Substance-Use-Pregnancy_BoE_FINAL-042419.pdf
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). *Maternal Deaths in Michigan 2011-2015*. 2018. Access at: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MMMS_2011-2015_Fact_Sheet_FINAL_635164_7.pdf

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