

SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY IN NEW YORK STATE (2017-2022)



Department
of Health



What is Severe Maternal Morbidity?

Severe maternal morbidity refers to a group of **potentially life-threatening health conditions or complications** that occur unexpectedly during childbirth. Severe maternal morbidity can result in **short- and long-term consequences** for the health and wellbeing of birthing people beyond pregnancy.

Severe Maternal Morbidity Rates Have Increased In New York State

- During 2017-2022, the severe maternal morbidity rate was **103.2 per 10,000 deliveries**
 - This means that on average, about **1 in 100 New Yorkers** experienced severe morbidity when they gave birth during this time, affecting roughly **2,144 birthing people each year**
 - The most common types of severe complications were **hemorrhage (severe bleeding)** and **kidney-related complications**
- Rates **increased by 50%** between 2017 and 2022, affecting **1 in 120** New Yorkers in 2017, compared to **1 in 80** in 2022

1 in 100
birthing
people during
2017-2022



There Were Stark Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Severe Maternal Morbidity

- Black (non-Hispanic) and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Hispanic and non-Hispanic)** birthing people experienced the highest rates at **more than two times** the rate of White, non-Hispanic people
- Severe maternal morbidity rates **increased** during 2017-2022 for **nearly all racial and ethnic groups**

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Severe Maternal Morbidity Varied By Other Health & Social Factors

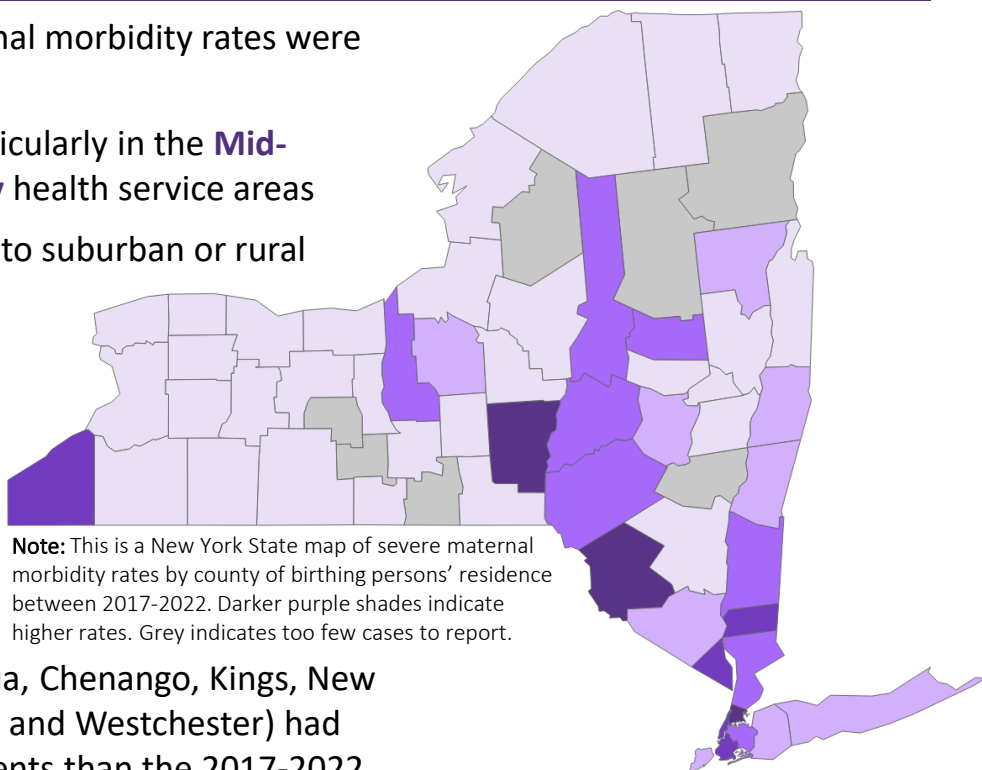
- Severe maternal morbidity was **more common** among people with:
 - Medicaid** insurance versus those with private insurance or who paid out-of-pocket for their deliveries
 - Health conditions** (like diabetes, hypertension, or heart disease)
- Except for teens, rates **increased for birthing people in every age group** between 2017-2022, including New Yorkers in their 20s



Severe Maternal Morbidity Rates Varied By Region

- During 2017-2022, severe maternal morbidity rates were highest among people living in:

- Downstate New York**, particularly in the **Mid-Hudson and New York City** health service areas
- Urban counties** compared to suburban or rural counties



Note: This is a New York State map of severe maternal morbidity rates by county of birthing persons' residence between 2017-2022. Darker purple shades indicate higher rates. Grey indicates too few cases to report.

- Nine counties** (Bronx, Chautauqua, Chenango, Kings, New York, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Westchester) had **higher** rates among county residents than the 2017-2022 statewide rate
- During this time, **hospitals** located in:
 - Downstate** health service areas (**Mid-Hudson, New York City, and Nassau-Suffolk**) had the **highest rates**
 - The **Western New York** service area had the **lowest rates**



DATA NOTES & METHODOLOGY

- Data presented in this document were obtained from the New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS), an all-payer database of state inpatient hospitalizations in non-military hospitals.
- Findings are based on analyses of hospital discharge records for delivery hospitalizations occurring between January 1, 2017-December 31, 2022, among New York State residents identified as female and ages 12-55 years in the records.
- Severe maternal morbidity events were identified using diagnosis and procedure billing codes included in a standard, validated measure of 20 indicators developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Blood transfusions were not included as an indicator, aligned with recent guidance from the CDC and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.
- Rates were calculated as the number of severe maternal morbidity events divided by the number of delivery hospitalizations, multiplied by 10,000 (the rate indicates how many people experience severe maternal morbidity out of every 10,000 deliveries).
 - Unless otherwise specified, rates in this document refer to the combined rate across 2017-2022.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

This document is a summary of the New York State Department of Health Report “Severe Maternal Morbidity in New York State, 2017-2022”. Access the full report here: [\[INSERT LINK TO FULL REPORT\]](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE NEW YORK STATE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW INITIATIVE :



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