

PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED MORTALITY IN LOUISIANA

2020: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RELATED DEATHS

Louisiana's Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Committee identified substance use disorder (SUD) as a leading contributing factor for multiple deaths that occurred in 2020. Each SUD-related death identifies opportunities for substance use and mental health screening, referral, and treatment. Committee members use their expertise to develop evidence-based recommendations to prevent future deaths.

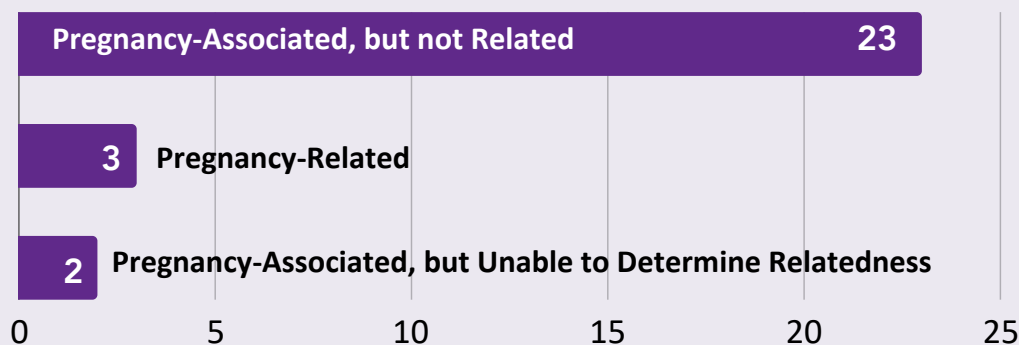


In 2020, the PAMR Committee identified a total of **28 accidental overdoses** in Louisiana.



Almost half of pregnancy-associated, but not related deaths were due to accidental overdose.

Accidental Overdoses Among Pregnancy-Associated Deaths



TOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTING SUD-RELATED DEATHS



Healthcare providers should screen patients for substance use using a validated verbal screening tool as part of comprehensive medical care.



State and federal government should develop programs to increase the number of licensed behavioral health providers certified in perinatal mood disorders. To reduce deaths related to SUD, underlying mental health conditions must be addressed.



Emergency Departments (ED) should provide patients and families with Naloxone take home kits when SUD is diagnosed in the ED.



Birthing facilities should co-locate behavioral health specialists into obstetric practices to facilitate brief intervention and referral to treatment for women who screen positive for SUD.



State and local governments should create public messaging campaigns to educate the community on harm reduction strategies for those impacted by SUD.



For more data on pregnancy-associated mortality, view **2020 Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Report** the PartnersForFamilyHealth.org/MaternalMortality