



Black Maternal Health Caucus

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. & Congresswoman Lauren Underwood

About the Black Maternal Health Caucus

Congresswomen Alma Adams and Lauren Underwood launched the Black Maternal Health Caucus to address one of the most urgent crises in the United States today: maternal mortality rates in America are the worst in the developed world, with 26.4 deaths per 100,000 live births. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 60 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in America are preventable. For every woman who dies, 70 experience “near misses”: cases of severe maternal morbidity that lead to significant short- or long-term consequences to a woman’s health.

The Black Maternal Health Caucus is organized around the goals of elevating the Black maternal health crisis within Congress and advancing policy solutions to improve maternal health outcomes and end disparities. The Caucus launched in April with 53 Members and has since grown to be one of the largest bipartisan caucuses in Congress, with 93 members as of November 2019.

Current legislation

<p>H.R. 4995: The Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding for Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs)• Funding for implicit bias training programs for medical providers• Funding to improve rural maternal health outcomes	<p>H.R. 4996: The Helping Medicaid Offer Maternity Services (MOMS) Act of 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incentives for states to extend Medicaid coverage for a full year postpartum• Study of coverage of doula services under State Medicaid programs• Study of the effects of Medicaid coverage for a full year postpartum, specifically for low-income women and women of color
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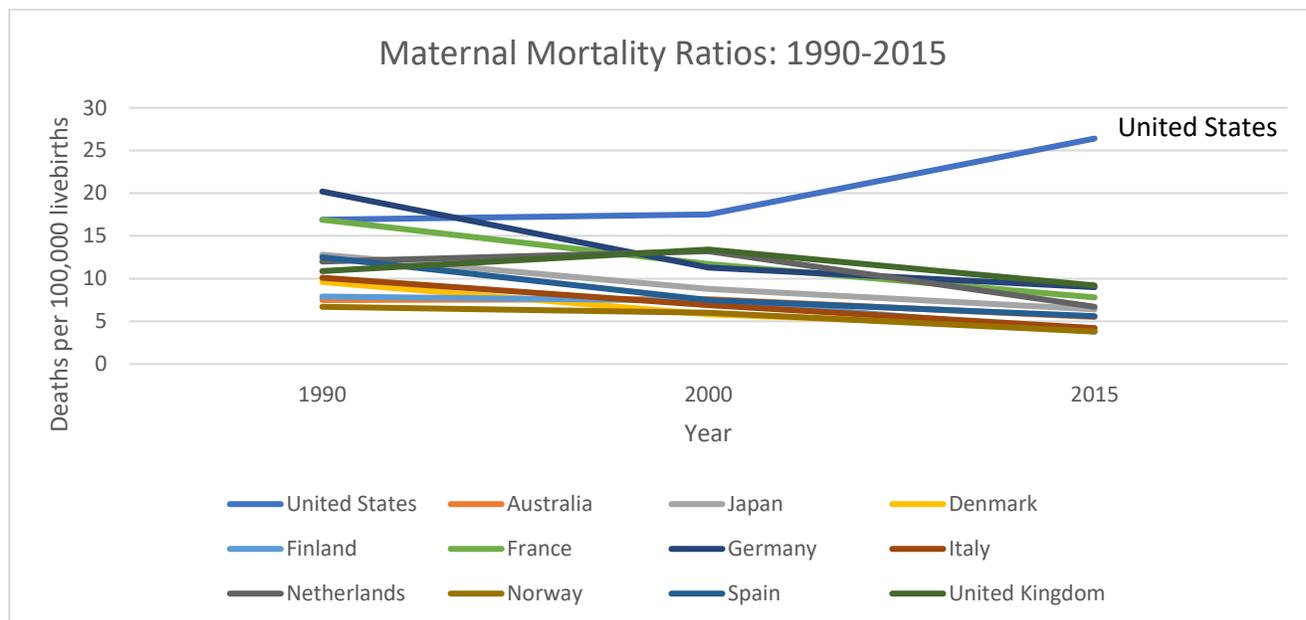
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Black Maternal Health: The Statistics

While maternal mortality rates fell 44 percent around the world from 1990-2015, maternal mortality in the United States increased by 16.7 percent during this period, making the United States the only developed country with a rising maternal mortality rate. In fact, the only countries with rising maternal death rates are the United States, Afghanistan, and Sudan.

As alarming as maternal mortality statistics are, the situation is even more dire for Black women, who are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications. Even a Black woman with a college degree is more likely to die from giving birth than a white woman without a high school diploma.



For Members interested in joining the Black Maternal Health Caucus, or for more information, please contact Kichelle Webster in Congresswoman Alma Adams' office at kichelle.webster@mail.house.gov or Jack DiMatteo in Congresswoman Lauren Underwood's office at jack.dimatteo@mail.house.gov.

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