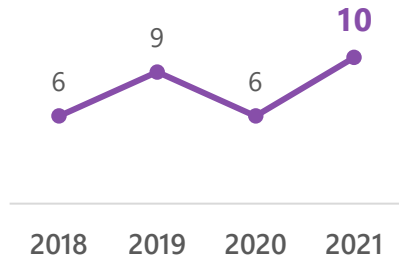


# Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Maine CY2021

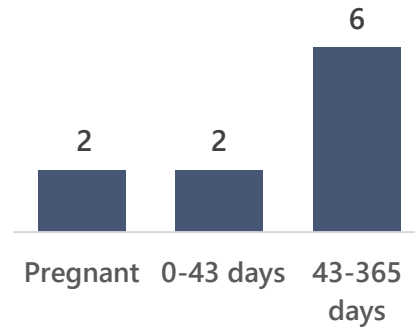


There were **ten pregnancy-associated deaths** in 2021.

**More pregnancy-associated deaths** occurred in **2021** than in the previous three years.



**Most** deaths occurred **between 43 days and one year** of delivery.



**9** decedents were **non-Hispanic White**.

**1** decedent was **non-Hispanic Black**.

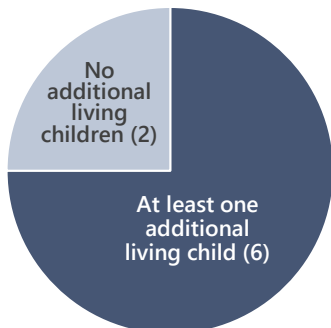
**Most** deaths were due to an **injury related cause**, including suicide (1), drug overdoses (2), and car accidents (3).



Source: Death certificate data (2021) Maine Data, Research and Vital Statistics (MEDRVS)

**Eight out of ten** decedents had a **live birth** within **one year** prior to death.

**Most** had **at least one living child** in addition to their most recent birth.



**5 in 8**

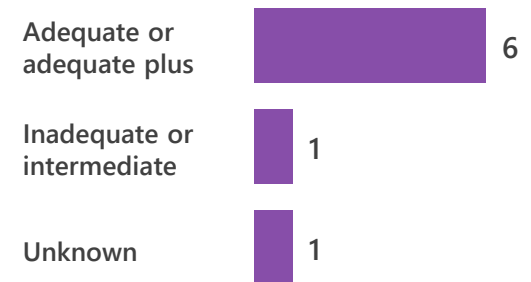
decedents' most recent deliveries were covered by **MaineCare**.

**Seven** were living in a **rural area** at the time of delivery.



**Two** were reported to have a **history of drug use** on infant's birth certificate.\*

The **majority received adequate prenatal care** for their most recent pregnancy.



Source: Birth certificate data (2020-2021) MEDRVS

\*See Technical Notes.

## Technical notes

A **pregnancy-associated death** is a death to any person during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy, regardless of cause.

**Ascertainment of deaths:** Pregnancy-associated deaths of Maine residents are ascertained by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Data, Research and Vital Statistics Program (MEDRVs) and reviewed by Maine's Maternal, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (MFIMR) panel. MEDRVs identifies pregnancy-associated deaths through a pregnancy status question on Maine's death certificate and through linkages between death certificates, birth certificates (for births occurring in the death year and the year prior), and fetal death certificates. Follow up with death certifiers is conducted for any death certificate with an affirmative pregnancy status. Medical and social service records are also obtained and reviewed for any pregnancy-associated death undergoing a review by the MFIMR panel.

**Data sources and limitations:** Data presented within this document are obtained from Maine death and birth certificates only and are limited to individuals who were Maine residents at the time of death. Deaths presented occurred in 2021; associated births may have occurred in 2021 or 2020. No associated fetal death records were identified for 2021 pregnancy-associated deaths. MFIMR panel review results were not available at the time of publication. All data presented in this document are subject to change pending review of deaths by the MFIMR panel.

### **Additional notes:**

*Birthing parent drug use on Maine birth certificates:* Beginning January 1, 2021, MEDRVs changed the wording of the birthing parent drug use field on the Maine birth certificate. From 2014-2020, the birthing parent drug use field asked whether the birthing parent had "drug dependence"; beginning in 2021, the wording changed to "drug use disorder." Two 2021 pregnancy-associated deaths linked to birth certificates indicating birthing parent drug use. One linked to a 2020 birth certificate indicating birthing parent "drug dependence." The linked to a 2021 birth certificate indicated birthing parent "drug use disorder."

*Obstetric deaths:* US CDC National Center for Health Statistics assigns all pregnancy-associated deaths an "obstetric" underlying cause of death when an affirmative death certificate pregnancy checkbox is the only evidence of pregnancy, and the cause is not an accident, injury, or another "incidental" cause. For more information, please see Hoyert DL, Miniño AM. Maternal mortality in the United States: Changes in coding, publication, and data release, 2018. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 69 no 2. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2020.