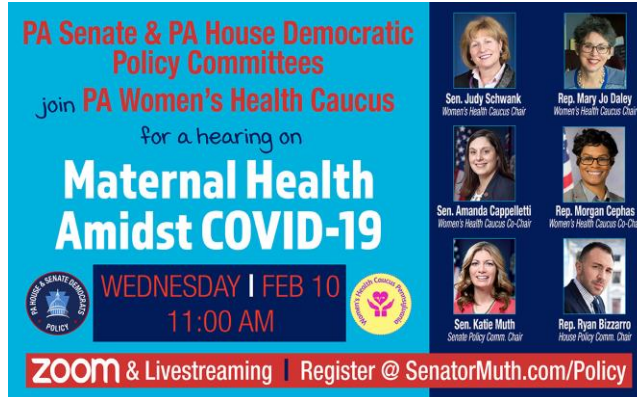


**Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology**

**PA Joint Democratic Policy Committees & Women's Health Caucus**  
**Testimony Briefing Materials Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



**Professional Titles:**

**Mark B. Woodland, MS, MD, FACOG**

Chair, Department of OBGYN, Reading Hospital/Tower Health

Interim Academic Chair, Department of OBGYN, Drexel University College of Medicine

Member and Chair, PA State Board of Medicine

**Background Comments:**

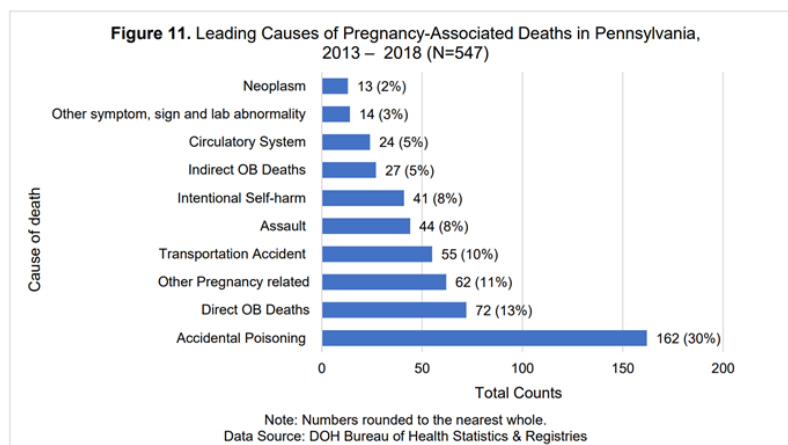
1. **123 for Maternal Health Awareness**- This year health on 126, Maternal Mental Health
2. **February is Black History Month** – founded by a son of ex-slaves and black historian in 1926, Carter G. Woodson to celebrate black history and contributions, but disparities still exist and are only emphasized in maternal health and mortality.
3. **Heart Health Month** – NIH and AHA 1<sup>st</sup> Friday “wear red day” until COVID, heart disease the number one cause of death for men and women annually (CDC 2019)
  - a. Heart disease: 659,041
  - b. Cancer: 599,601
  - c. Accidents (unintentional injuries): 173,040
  - d. Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 156,979
  - e. Stroke (cerebrovascular diseases): 150,005

**Women's/Maternal Health and COVID:**

1. **COVID & Women/Maternal Health** –
  - a. PA Case: 754,240 (women>men), Deaths: 22,467 (women=> men)
    - i. Death Rate: 2.97%
  - b. CDC Pregnancy Report: cases:64,075, deaths: 74
    - i. Death rate: <0.2%
  - c. Disparity, more per capita black and Hispanics with COVID

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2. **Vaccine & Pregnancy** – 2 ways to gain immunity, disease and potential morbidity/mortality risk or vaccine and minimized risk of adverse event.
  - a. **ACOG/SMFM** – COVID-19
    - i. vaccines should not be withheld from pregnant individuals who meet criteria for vaccination based on recommended priority groups
    - ii. vaccines should be offered to lactating individuals like non-lactating individuals when they meet criteria for receipt of the vaccine based on prioritization groups outlined by the ACIP.
  - b. **WHO** – confusion, original statement was if low risk of exposure, don't get vaccine if pregnant or breast feeding. This statement has been walked back.
  - c. **PA Vaccine Distribution**
3. **Diversity & Disparity of Maternal Health Care** –
  - a. **HRSA Maternal Morbidity & Mortality 2019 Summit** – since 1990 worldwide maternal mortality rate dropped 44%, but in US it has increased. In 2015, US ranked 46 among 181 countries
    - i. Causes: maternal mental health, obesity and related diseases (diabetes and hypertension), OUD and public health emergencies)
  - b. **COVID & Race/Ethnicity** – C19 is a “public health emergency” – per capita, more Hispanic and black women infected and get sick from C19.
    - i. More diverse provider population is directly correlated with better care.
4. **Maternal Mental Health and Maternal Mortality** – PA MMRC established by Act 24 in 2018 report
  - a. **Mortality** – while pregnant up to 1-year post-partum
    - i. **“Accidental Poisoning”** – 2013 19% to 2018 44%
    - ii. **Indirect/Direct OB Deaths** – only about 19% of deaths



5. **Importance of Provider Wellness and Maternal Health** – Medscape Report “Death by 1000 Cuts: 2021 Report on Burnout & Suicide”
  - a. Almost 50% of providers feel burned out.
  - b. Maternal health providers is top 10 profession
  - c. During COVID, female providers 51% more likely to be burnout then male 36%

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- d. Good news, exercise is number 1 stress relief.

### Recommendations:

1. Support diversification of our provider work force by improving the pipeline:
  - a. Encourage institutions to recruit students in percentage that resembles the state population.
2. Support education of public and providers as to the risks associated with racial and ethnic effects on health care.
3. Enhance monitoring and education of maternal mental health issues.
4. Understand the impact of “public health emergencies” on providers as well as patients

### References:

1. PA C19 Dashboard - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx>
2. PA 2019 Report on State of Health Equity - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Health%20Equity/The%20State%20of%20Health%20Equity%20in%20PA%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>
3. CDC C19 Report - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pregnant-population>
4. ACOG C19 & Pregnancy - <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/vaccinating-pregnant-and-lactating-patients-against-covid-19>
5. WHO Vaccine & Pregnancy - <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/the-moderna-covid-19-mrna-1273-vaccine-what-you-need-to-know>
6. HRSA 2019 Summit on Maternal Mortality - <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/maternal-mortality/Maternal-Mortality-Technical-Report.pdf>
7. PA Report on Pregnancy associated Deaths - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Pregnancy%20Associate%20Deaths%202013-2018%20FINAL.pdf>
8. MS Death by 1000 Cuts - <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2021-lifestyle-burnout-6013456>

Thank you,



**Mark B. Woodland, MS, MD, FACOG**

Chair OBGYN, Reading Hospital/Tower Health  
Academic Chair (Interim) and Clinical Professor OB/GYN  
Drexel University College of Medicine