



# Black Maternal Health Week – Infant mortality in Georgia is still high, what can be done to save more lives?

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**AUGUSTA, Ga. (April 14, 2021)** – Earlier this week, President Joe Biden proclaimed that April 11-17 would be Black Maternal Health Week in America.

In Georgia, the state has consistently been ranked as one of the most dangerous places in this country to be a new mother.

Approximately 26 Georgia women die from pregnancy complications for every 100,000 live births, compared to the national average of about 17 women. But even more devastating is the fact that about 60% of the state's maternal deaths between 2012 and 2016 were found to be preventable, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health.

And the mortality rates are much more tragic for Black women in Georgia. African American women are almost three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women in Georgia. Black mothers in rural areas of Georgia are at an even higher risk.

"Maternal and infant mortality are really significant indicators of the quality of health in any area, so my colleagues around Georgia really felt challenged to do something that we hadn't done in a long time in our state, which was to get the data," says [Dr. Chad Ray](#), interim section chief of the [Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology](#) at the [Medical College of Georgia](#) at Augusta University. "Because you can't really fix something unless you know who and why. And then you assemble the stakeholders to formulate a plan to make a dent and to move the needle on something that is just so important."

This is an important topic that impacts mothers in Georgia and across the entire United States. And if you are a journalist looking to cover this topic – then let us help.

[Dr. Chad Ray](#) is an expert in the areas of maternal mortality and global women's health initiatives. He is available to speak with media about Black Maternal Health Week - simply click on his name to arrange an interview today.

[Read more](#) on how [Augusta University](#) is combating Georgia's maternal mortality rates.

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Augusta University is Georgia's innovation center for education and health care, training the next generation of innovators, leaders and healthcare providers in classrooms and clinics on four campuses in Augusta and locations across the state. More than 9,000 students choose Augusta for educational opportunities at the center of Georgia's new cybersecurity hub, and experiential learning that blends arts and application, humanities and the health sciences. Augusta is home to Georgia's only public academic health center, where groundbreaking research is creating a healthier, more prosperous Georgia and world-class clinicians are bringing the medicine of tomorrow to patient care today.

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