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Pregnancy-Related Mortality

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In the study, "The Black-White Disparity in Pregnancy-Related Mortality from Five Conditions Differences in Prevalence and Case-Fatality Rates," published by the *American Journal of Public Health*, researchers reported that there is a high disparity among Black women concerning pregnancy-related mortality. Between 1988 and 1999, data was collected from the National Hospital discharge Survey and from the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, stated Myra Tucker, physician at CDC, who was a part of the research team. Researchers calculated case-related fatality rates for preeclampsia, eclampsia, abruption placentae, placenta previa and postpartum hemorrhage, which account for 26 percent of all pregnancy-related deaths. According to the *United Press International*, the study reported that fatality rates among Black women with the conditions were two to three times higher than their white counterparts. For every 100,000 women who had preeclampsia, 27 white women died while approximately 73 Black women died. The study also showed that for every 100,000 women who developed postpartum hemorrhage, one white woman died, compared with 68 Black women. In order to determine the reasons behind the disparity, researchers stated that a "complex interaction of biological and health services factors must be untangled," reported *Reuters Health*.