

## DataSpeak

### Moving the Needle on Maternal Health: Updates on Federal and State Initiatives

#### Maternal & Child Health Bureau

December 20, 2016

#### Questions and Answers

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**Q: What are the states with the highest maternal mortality rates? What are the risks associated with pre-eclampsia & hemorrhage?**

**A:** (William Callaghan) This is a difficult question to answer. As I discussed during the DataSpeak session, I have the most confidence in Pregnancy-related Mortality rates as determined using data from CDC's [Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System](#). Although state Divisions of Vital Statistics send us data, we are precluded by prior agreements from ever publishing state-level data. One obvious problem is that maternal deaths are rare and hence small states will have small numbers and will ultimately have very unstable rates for statistical reasons regarding random fluctuation. Also, again because the events are rare, cases by state could become identifiable. Hence PMSS only reports national data.

(Moderator) More information on pregnancy-related complications:

- [Pregnancy Complications](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Preeclampsia Research](#) (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- [Pregnancy Complications](#) (Office on Women's Health)

### About DataSpeak

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The Maternal and Child Health Bureau's DataSpeak webinar series is dedicated to the goal of helping MCH practitioners on the Federal, State, and local levels to improve their capacity to gather, analyze, and use data for planning and policymaking.

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This question and answer sheet was created by moderator Sarah Lifsey, MPP on January 6, 2017.