

**Table 43. Maternal mortality for complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, according to race, Hispanic origin, and age: United States, selected years 1950–2001**

[Data are based on death certificates]

<i>Race, Hispanic origin, and age</i>	1950 <sup>1</sup>	1960 <sup>1</sup>	1970	1980	1990	1995	1998	1999 <sup>2</sup>	2000	2001
Number of deaths										
All females . . . . .	2,960	1,579	803	334	343	277	281	391	396	399
White . . . . .	1,873	936	445	193	177	129	158	214	240	228
Black or African American . . . . .	1,041	624	342	127	153	133	104	154	137	150
American Indian or Alaska Native . . . . .	---	---	---	3	4	1	2	5	6	5
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	---	---	---	11	9	14	17	18	13	16
Hispanic or Latino <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	47	43	42	67	81	81
White, not Hispanic or Latino <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	125	84	116	149	160	151
Deaths per 100,000 live births										
All females . . . . .	73.7	32.1	21.5	9.4	7.6	6.3	6.1	8.3	8.2	8.8
All ages, crude . . . . .	83.3	37.1	21.5	9.2	8.2	7.1	7.1	9.9	9.8	9.9
Under 20 years . . . . .	70.7	22.7	18.9	7.6	7.5	3.9	*	6.6	*	8.8
20–24 years . . . . .	47.6	20.7	13.0	5.8	6.1	5.7	5.0	6.2	7.4	6.9
25–29 years . . . . .	63.5	29.8	17.0	7.7	6.0	6.0	6.7	8.2	7.9	8.5
30–34 years . . . . .	107.7	50.3	31.6	13.6	9.5	7.3	7.5	10.1	10.0	10.1
35 years and over <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	222.0	104.3	81.9	36.3	20.7	15.9	14.5	23.0	22.7	18.9
White										
All ages, age adjusted <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	53.1	22.4	14.4	6.7	5.1	3.6	4.2	5.5	6.2	6.5
All ages, crude . . . . .	61.1	26.0	14.3	6.6	5.4	4.2	5.1	6.8	7.5	7.2
Under 20 years . . . . .	44.9	14.8	13.8	5.8	*	*	*	*	*	7.4
20–24 years . . . . .	35.7	15.3	8.4	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.1	4.0	5.6	5.3
25–29 years . . . . .	45.0	20.3	11.1	5.4	4.8	4.0	4.9	5.4	5.9	5.8
30–34 years . . . . .	75.9	34.3	18.7	9.3	5.0	4.0	4.9	7.0	7.1	8.1
35 years and over <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	174.1	73.9	59.3	25.5	12.6	9.1	11.0	16.6	18.0	11.4
Black or African American										
All ages, age adjusted <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	---	92.0	65.5	24.9	21.7	20.9	16.1	23.3	20.1	22.4
All ages, crude . . . . .	---	103.6	60.9	22.4	22.4	22.1	17.1	25.4	22.0	24.7
Under 20 years . . . . .	---	54.8	32.3	13.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
20–24 years . . . . .	---	56.9	41.9	13.9	14.7	15.3	12.7	14.0	15.3	14.6
25–29 years . . . . .	---	92.8	65.2	22.4	14.9	21.0	17.2	26.6	21.8	24.7
30–34 years . . . . .	---	150.6	117.8	44.0	44.2	31.2	27.7	36.1	34.8	30.6
35 years and over <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	---	299.5	207.5	100.6	79.7	61.4	37.2	69.9	62.8	71.0
Hispanic or Latino <sup>3,6</sup>										
All ages, age adjusted <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	7.4	5.4	5.2	7.9	9.0	8.8
All ages, crude . . . . .	---	---	---	---	7.9	6.3	5.7	8.8	9.9	9.5
White, not Hispanic or Latino <sup>3</sup>										
All ages, age adjusted <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	4.4	3.3	4.0	4.9	5.5	5.8
All ages, crude . . . . .	---	---	---	---	4.8	3.5	4.9	6.4	6.8	6.5

--- Data not available.

\* Rates based on fewer than 20 deaths are considered unreliable and are not shown.

<sup>1</sup>Includes deaths of persons who were not residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup>Starting with 1999 data, changes were made in the classification and coding of maternal deaths under ICD–10. The large increase in the number of maternal deaths between 1998 and 1999 is due to changes associated with ICD–10. See Appendix II, *International Classification of Diseases (ICD); Maternal death*.

<sup>3</sup>Prior to 1997, excludes data from States lacking an Hispanic-origin item on the death certificate. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin.

<sup>4</sup>Rates are age adjusted to the 1970 distribution of live births by mother's age in the United States. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

<sup>5</sup>Rates computed by relating deaths of women 35 years and over to live births to women 35–49 years. See Appendix II, Rate: Death and related rates.

<sup>6</sup>Age-specific maternal mortality rates are not calculated because rates based on fewer than 20 deaths are considered unreliable.

NOTES: Underlying cause of death code numbers are based on the applicable revision of the *International Classification of Diseases (ICD)* for data years shown. See Appendix II, tables IV and V. The race groups, white, black, Asian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaska Native, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 1950 and 1960, rates were based on live births by race of child; for all other years, rates are based on live births by race of mother. See Appendix II, Race. Rates are not calculated for American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian or Pacific Islander mothers because rates based on fewer than 20 deaths are considered unreliable. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System; numerator data from annual mortality files; denominator data from annual natality files; Arias E, Anderson RN, Kung HC, Murphy SL, Kochanek KD. Deaths: Final data for 2001. National vital statistics reports. Vol 52 no 3. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2003.