



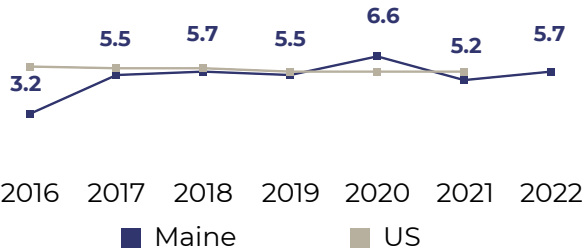
# FETAL MORTALITY, 2022

A summary of Maine's late fetal deaths (≥28 weeks gestation)

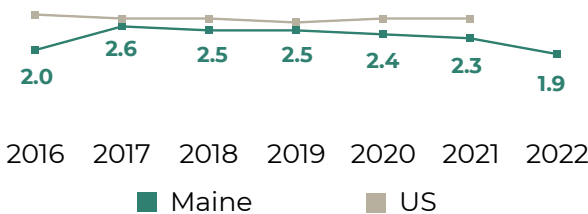


## FETAL MORTALITY RATE

In 2022, the **total fetal mortality rate** (≥20 weeks) in Maine was **5.7** resident deaths per 1,000 live resident births + fetal deaths (n=69).

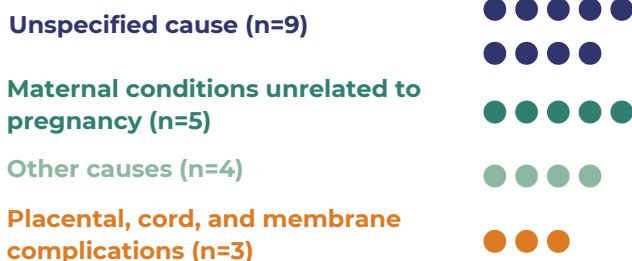


The **late fetal mortality rate** (≥28 weeks gestation) in Maine was **1.9** resident deaths per 1,000 live resident births + fetal deaths ≥28 weeks (n=23).



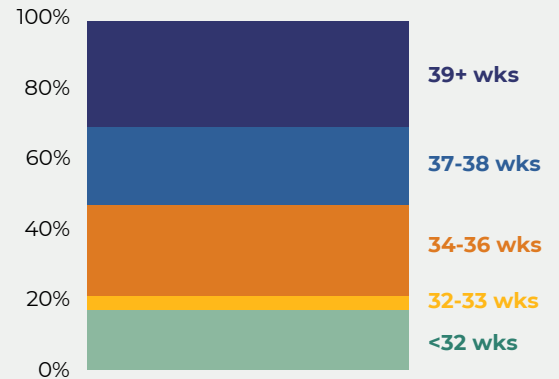
## CAUSE OF DEATH

Nationwide, fetal deaths are commonly registered with an unspecified cause. In 2022, the four most common causes of late fetal death in Maine were:



## GESTATIONAL AGE AT DEMISE

Half of late fetal deaths were **term stillbirths** (occurring at or after 37 weeks gestation).



## WEIGHT AT DEMISE

The majority of late fetal deaths occurred to fetuses of **normal birthweight**.



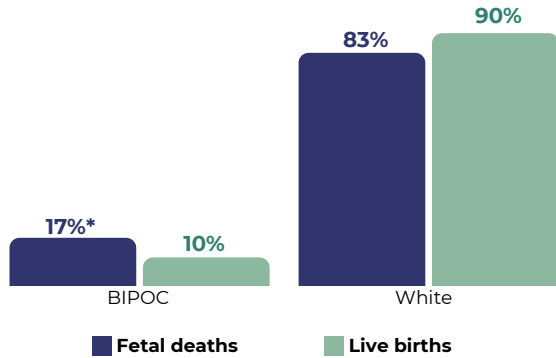
# DISPARITIES IN FETAL MORTALITY, 2018-2022

Demographic, socioeconomic, and maternal health characteristics of late fetal deaths occurring between 2018-2022 (n=136) to Maine residents.



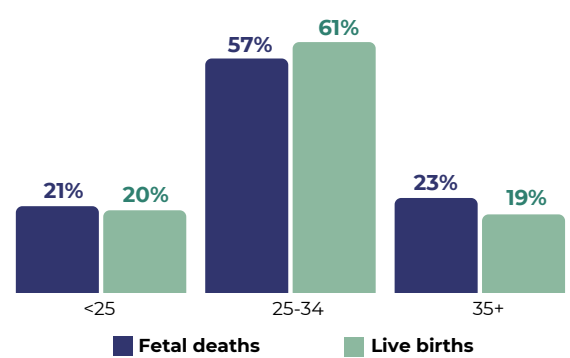
## RACE

17%\* (n=18) of late fetal deaths were to **Black, Indigenous, and birthing people of Color (BIPOC)** vs. 10% of live births\*\*



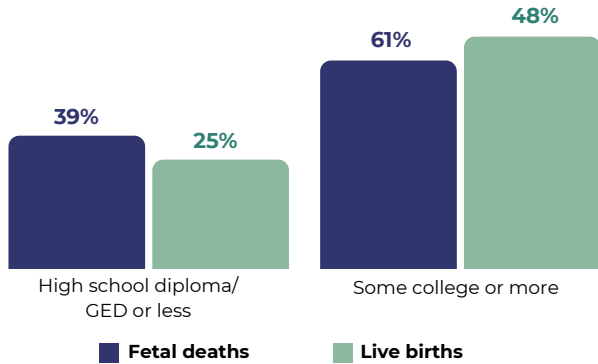
## AGE

23% (n=31) of late fetal deaths were to birthing people **aged 35+** vs. 19% of live births



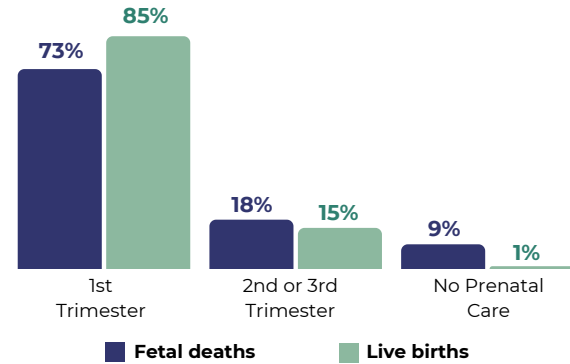
## EDUCATION

39% (n=47) were to birthing people **with a high school diploma or less** vs. 32% of live births



## PRENATAL CARE

73% (n=90) **began prenatal care in the first trimester** vs. 84% of live births



## MATERNAL HEALTH CONDITIONS



18% (n=24) had **hypertensive conditions** vs. 14% of live births



13%\* (n=18) had **diabetes** (gestational or preexisting) vs. 10% of live births



19% (n=26) had at least one **previous c-section** vs. 14% of live births

\*Rates are calculated with fewer than 20 in the numerator. Interpret with caution.

\*\*Race data were not available for 2018 fetal deaths; race data are shown for 2019-2022.

**Data source:** Fetal death certificates, Maine CDC Data, Research, and Vital Statistics (DRVS). Fetal death certificates are collected for fetuses  $\geq 20$  weeks gestation at the time of death. This report displays data from fetal death records for fetuses  $\geq 28$  weeks gestation at the time of death (late fetal deaths).

MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

## WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT FETAL MORTALITY?

The Maine Maternal, Fetal, and Infant Mortality Review (MFIMR) Panel is charged to:

- identify factors that contribute to maternal, fetal, and infant mortality
- identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current maternal/infant health care delivery system
- make recommendations to decrease the rate of maternal, fetal, and infant mortality.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/mch/perinatal/maternal-infant/>