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**Report to  
The Vermont Legislature**

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**Maternal Mortality Review Panel  
2021 Report to the Legislature**

**In Accordance with 18. V.S.A. § 1552**

**Submitted to:** House Committee on Human Services  
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

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## Maternal Mortality Review Panel Annual Report January 2021

### Introduction

The Maternal Mortality Review Panel (MMRP) was established by Act 35 (2011) in order to conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths for the purpose of identifying factors associated with these deaths and creating recommendations for systems changes for improving the health care and social systems for Vermont women and their families. Act 142 (2020) amended the MMRP’s charge to include in their review considerations of health disparities and social determinants of health, including race and ethnicity in maternal death reviews. Act 142 (2020) further required the MMRP to provide this annual report with the MMRP’s findings and recommendations.

### Summary of 2020 Activities

The MMRP held their first and only meeting of the year in February. Many of the MMRP members were called on to assist with the clinical and public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which significantly curtailed the MMRP’s work for 2020.

The MMRP completed the following activities in 2020:

- Created an Annual Calendar to coordinate MMRP activities;
- Scheduled bi-monthly meetings for the MMRP for 2021; and
- Established a process and templates for requesting authorized documentation for the panel’s review.

### Data Summary

| Federal Fiscal Year | Number of maternal deaths * | Comments   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2012                | 4                           | n/a  |
| 2013                | 3                           | n/a  |
| 2014                | 1                           | n/a  |
| 2015                | 2                           | n/a  |
| 2016                | 4                           | n/a  |
| 2017                | 3                           | n/a  |
| 2018                | 2                           | n/a  |
| 2019                | 5                           | n/a  |
| 2020                | 1                           | Data incomplete due to impacts related to the Covid-19 pandemic. |

\* defined as a death while pregnant or within a year after delivery

### Planned Activities for 2021

The MMRP will resume regular meetings, case reviews and the development of recommendations as is feasible based on the status of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following activities are planned for 2021:

- Expanding the MMRP membership in accordance with 18. V.S.A. § 1552.
- Reviewing the Department of Health’s Maternal Mortality Review Panel Rule and recommending revisions, if appropriate.
- Identifying opportunities to access additional case information in order to facilitate more comprehensive assessments of the clinical and systems factors associated with maternal deaths in Vermont.
- Drafting a legislative report that includes an assessment of factors influencing maternal deaths as well as recommendations.