



NEWS RELEASE

Delivery-Related Maternal Mortalities in the Hospital Decreased by 24% from 2008-2018

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Premier Inc. analysis of national maternal and infant health trends also finds:

- The disparity gap for mortality among white and black mothers has narrowed
- Severe maternal morbidities increased, pointing to needed changes in women's healthcare both pre- and post-partum
- The maternal population is aging and more expecting mothers across age groups are suffering from substance misuse

CHARLOTTE, N.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Maternal mortalities in the hospital at the time of delivery have decreased by 24 percent over the past decade, according to a **nationally representative analysis** of U.S. hospital data. The Premier Inc. analysis also showed the disparity gap for black women and all other races narrowed over time, finding an 80 percent decrease in black mothers experiencing in-hospital, delivery-related mortalities.

The Premier® analysis, which explored maternal and infant health outcomes at the time of delivery, leveraged the **Premier Healthcare Database** and included standardized inpatient data from 8.9 million births (approximately 25 percent of births nationally) that occurred in 903 hospitals across 45 states between 2008-2018. Premier's database is best-in-class and provides focused insights that are standardized, current through 2018 and pulled directly and consistently from hospitals.

"Improving maternal and infant health is a national priority," said Susan DeVore, CEO of Premier. "Premier's analysis clearly shows the significant progress made by hospitals to reduce disparities and maternal death. It is imperative

that mothers get to the hospital to safely deliver their babies or if complications arise. This analysis provides additional insights into policy and clinical actions that should be taken to address maternal and infant health across the care continuum. It also underscores the critical need to better integrate care delivery between the hospital and pre- and post-care services for mothers and their newborns, as well as to better manage high-risk complications.”

Premier’s analysis identified a 36 percent increase in severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rates, including a 79 percent higher SMM rate for black women than white women. Women with commercial insurance had the lowest SMM rates. SMM, **as measured by the CDC**, includes unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- or long-term health effects, including eclampsia, cardiac arrest and sepsis.

The increase in SMM rates could be due to several factors, such as changes in coding, age, race, payer, type of delivery, substance misuse, region and hospital type. Potential multifactorial causes of increasing SMM rates require additional detailed analyses, which Premier plans to conduct. For example, there is a clear correlation between increased rates of SMM and the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 coding in 2015. The changes in ICD-10 coding may demonstrate a capability to identify additional complications and SMM at a greater level of accuracy, enabling a better understanding of preventable harm and complications associated with pregnancy. Furthermore, the Premier analysis confirmed a **higher risk** of SMM and mortality is associated with women who receive lifesaving blood transfusions as a result of pregnancy-related complications, with black women receiving significantly higher rates of transfusions.

“Premier’s distinctive insights into the current state of maternal mortality in the United States are a clear indication of the steps hospitals have taken to improve maternal care,” said Andrew J. Healy, MD, Medical Director of Obstetrics at Baystate Health, a member of the **Premier Perinatal Collaborative**. “However, there is room for improvement, especially when it comes to addressing the increasing SMM rates as identified in the analysis. That is why hospitals must focus on sharing data and best practices transparently, with other health systems, in order to establish a systemwide model of care for mothers and their newborns. It is imperative to measurably close gaps across the care continuum to minimize the risk for severe complications and death as a result of pregnancy.”

Additionally, the analysis confirmed that more women are having babies at an older age. Specifically, women giving birth who are older than 35 years of age increased by 24 percent and by 12 percent for mothers 25-35. Women giving birth younger than 25 decreased by 29 percent.

Premier’s analysis also explored the impact of substance misuse on maternal and infant health, pinpointing a 153 percent increase in mothers with substance use disorders and a 140 percent increase in babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

This is Premier’s first analysis on maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, which was conducted as part of its

Bundle of Joy™ campaign. The campaign is designed to test and scale measurable improvement in the quality, safety and cost of care for mothers and babies in the U.S. Premier plans to conduct additional analyses on the key drivers of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, as well as the costs associated with these trends, which will serve as a baseline for measuring hospital improvement.

Premier's **research** and **analytics** capabilities provide a source of truth that enables stakeholders across the industry to identify, target and monitor critical quality and safety improvement opportunities. Specifically, Premier has the industry's only integrated analytics dashboard that enables a comprehensive analysis of an organization's select perinatal and neonatal data sets. Premier also offers consulting support, collaborative initiatives and partnerships with private and public organizations to test, advance and scale national efforts to improve maternal and infant health.

About Premier's Maternal & Infant Health Trends Analysis

In July 2019, Premier conducted a national trend analysis to explore maternal and infant health outcomes at the time of delivery. The analysis leveraged the **Premier Healthcare Database** and included standardized inpatient data from 8.9 million births that occurred in 903 hospitals across 45 states between 2008-2018. The data in the Premier analysis represent approximately 25 percent of all U.S. in-hospital births and were comparable in patient and hospital demographics to the data used by the CDC in its **Vital Signs** report on pregnancy-related deaths. Patient demographics and clinical outcomes were measured using the CDC's methodology for SMM, which includes the birth admission definition as the denominator and the numerator, as well as additional standardized national methodologies. Premier's analysis includes trends through the end of 2018, whereas CDC data stopped at 2015. Premier's data is also standardized because it is pulled directly and consistently from hospitals as its source. The CDC uses a combination of mortality data pulled from various sources, including the National Vital Statistics System, death certificates from each state and the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System. For the full report, visit www.premierinc.com/maternalhealthtrends.

About Premier's Bundle of Joy Campaign

The Bundle of Joy campaign builds on Premier's long-standing commitment to safe and healthy mothers and babies across its network of more than 4,000 hospitals, provider collaboratives and partnerships with employers and other industry organizations. To learn more, visit www.premierinc.com/bundleofjoy.

About Premier Inc.

Premier Inc. (NASDAQ: PINC) is a leading healthcare improvement company, uniting an alliance of more than 4,000 U.S. hospitals and health systems and approximately 175,000 other providers and organizations to transform

healthcare. With integrated data and analytics, collaboratives, supply chain solutions, and consulting and other services, Premier enables better care and outcomes at a lower cost. Premier plays a critical role in the rapidly evolving healthcare industry, collaborating with members to co-develop long-term innovations that reinvent and improve the way care is delivered to patients nationwide. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Premier is passionate about transforming American healthcare. Please visit Premier's news and investor sites on www.premierinc.com; as well as **Twitter**, **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, **Instagram** and **Premier's blog** for more information about the company.

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