FACTS ABOUT RISING PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS IN DELAWARE AND THE U.S.

The United States is one of very few developed countries where deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth are increasing. Black mothers are particularly at risk. In Delaware, maternal mortality rates are on the rise, as are risk factors for pregnancy-related complications such as obesity, pre-eclampsia, and high blood pressure. The good news is that over 50 percent of maternal deaths are preventable.

IN DELAWARE, risk factors such as OBESITY, PRE-ECLAMPSIA, AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE ARE ON THE RISE in women of reproductive age.

IN DELAWARE, 53% of pregnancy-related deaths are PREVENTABLE.

IN THE U.S., BLACK WOMEN ARE 4X MORE LIKELY TO DIE during pregnancy and childbirth than white women.

IN DELAWARE, almost 65% OF MATERNAL PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS occur within 42 days postpartum.

IN DELAWARE, SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY ROSE by 37% between 2010 and 2014.

IN DELAWARE, approximately 60% OF PREGNANCIES ARE UNPLANNED, which significantly increases the risk of poor health outcomes for moms and babies.

IN THE U.S., BLACK WOMEN SUFFER from life-threatening pregnancy complications TWICE AS OFTEN AS WHITE WOMEN.

IN DELAWARE, about 40% OF WOMEN WHO DIED from pregnancy-related causes ALSO HAD A SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION.

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Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion State of Delaware, Child Death Review Commission, Delaware Maternal Mortality Review Report, cases from calendar years 2011–2017