

THE NATIONAL AUDIT OF SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY

Severe maternal morbidity has become an important quality indicator of obstetric care and maternal welfare in developed countries over the last decade.

In collaboration with the multidisciplinary specialist NPEC Maternal Morbidity Group, the NPEC has collected and analysed pseudoanonymised* maternal morbidity data from Irish maternity units since 2011. The NPEC also conducts detailed assessments of pertinent morbidities and morbidity-related topics such as: critical care in obstetrics and major obstetric haemorrhage.

The purpose of the audit is to provide both baseline evidence for reflective practice and action planning by public maternity health care providers, public health professionals and policy makers in Ireland.

"The findings of the SMM audits over the last nine years continues to lend itself to educating our obstetric and midwifery staff; greater education results in earlier identification and treatment of SMM and more positive outcomes for women; our partners, daughters, sisters, mothers and friends."

Claire Jones, Patient Representative on the NPEC SMM Group.



16 Maternal Morbidities/Care Events audited, defined as:

- major obstetric haemorrhage (MOH)
– estimated blood loss \geq 2500ml and or transfused 5 units of blood
- uterine rupture
- peripartum hysterectomy
- eclampsia
- renal or liver dysfunction
- pulmonary oedema
- acute respiratory dysfunction
- pulmonary embolism
- cardiac arrest
- coma
- cerebrovascular event
- status epilepticus
- septicæmic shock
- anaesthetic complications

- admission to an intensive care or coronary care unit
- interventional radiology

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NATIONAL
PERINATAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTRE

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Based on the findings of Severe Maternal Morbidity in Ireland Annual Report 2021



THE NATIONAL PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) is a national clinical audit and research centre based at University College Cork with offices at Cork University Maternity Hospital.

OUR OBJECTIVE

The NPEC's objective is to collaborate with Irish maternity services to translate clinical audit data and epidemiological evidence into improved maternity care for families in Ireland.

COLLABORATE WITH US

At the NPEC we are always looking to collaborate. Get in touch with if you are looking for opportunities for students, data requests or research collaborations.



In this audit, a case of SMM was defined as a pregnant or recently-pregnant woman who experienced any one of sixteen maternal morbidities/care events.

374 SMM

Among 58,593 maternities in the 19 Irish maternity units in 2021

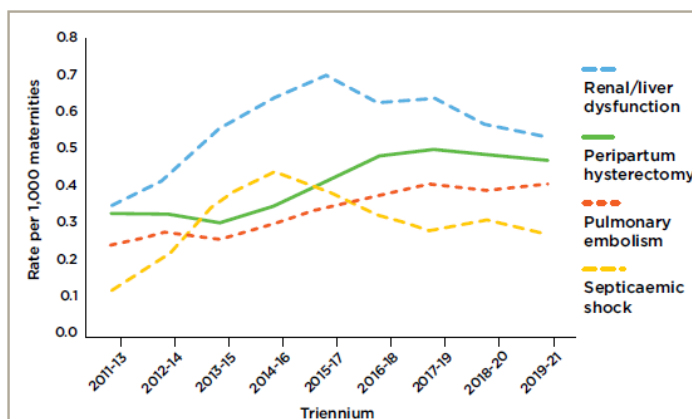
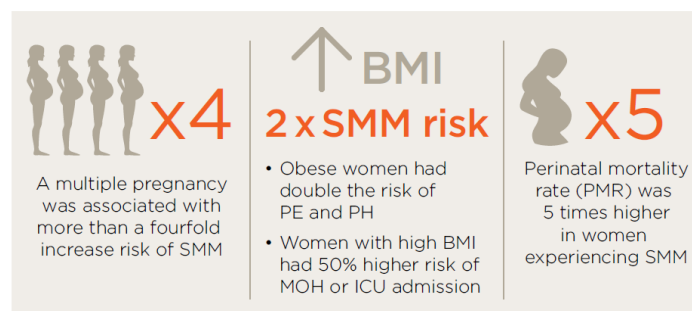


Figure 1: Trend in the rate of renal or liver dysfunction, peripartum hysterectomy, pulmonary embolism and septicaemic shock, 2011-2021



1/158

Incidence of women experiencing a SMM is one in 158 maternities (6 per 1000 maternities)



151 women

(40%) were admitted to Intensive Care Unit/Critical Care Unit

Most common morbidities

