New Research Claims CDC Overstated Maternal Death Rates

Health Equity 03.31.24

New research claims that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has overstated its reported figures of maternal death rates during the past 20 years. The primary alleged culprit is the CDC's introduction in 2003 of a new "pregnancy checkbox" on death certificates, which did not require corroborating cause-of-death information. CDC has stated they disagree with the study's findings and claim methods used in research are known to undercount the mortality rate. Regardless, this potential discrepancy in reported data does not undermine the fact that a maternal health crisis continues to exist in the United States.