**PROBLEM**

Rising rates of preventable maternal morbidity and mortality in Tennessee - 81% of deaths were determined to be preventable with 44% having a good chance of being prevented in 2017 & 18. In 2018 1 in 3 deaths had substance use disorder (SUD) as a contributing factor and cardiovascular and coronary conditions were the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths - non-Hispanic Black women were 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy related deaths 2017 & 18. All as reported in Tennessee Maternal Mortality 2020 Annual Report (the “Report”).

The United States was ranked as 55th in the world for the highest infant mortality in 2017 - 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births - one infant death every 15 hours. Tennessee had a higher infant mortality rate in 2018 - 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Non-Hispanic black infants are at roughly twice the risk of infant mortality than white infants. Approximately 20 percent of infant deaths in Tennessee each year are due to unsafe sleeping conditions. Since the early 2000’s the incidence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in Tennessee 10-fold, far exceeding the national 3-fold increase over the same time. All as reported by the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH).

**ACTION**

In 2020 TIPQC launched its Speakers Bureau to educate providers, health caregivers, and staff practicing within Tennessee hospitals on evidence-based practice recommendations for Health Equity of Care, Safe Sleep, treatment of opioid use disorder in pregnancy, postpartum hemorrhage, maternal hypertension, maternal mental health, and opioid exposed newborns. The Speakers Bureau was funded by a grant through the Maternal Mortality Review and Prevention Committee of Tennessee Department of Health. TIPQC had at least 47 potential speakers in its bureau, 36 of which signed up for professional presentation training provided through TIPQC. The Speakers Bureau was made up of healthcare professionals with expertise in the area of their presentations including 27 MDs, 2 PhDs, 2 DNP, 3 NP, and 8 RN. TIPQC’s Speakers Bureau has made 57 presentations to over 1500 healthcare providers.

**WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE**

The collaborative and statewide efforts of TIPQC and its 19 active Speakers Bureau presenters.

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For more information, please contact Brenda Barker, TIPQC Executive Director, at brenda.barker@tipqc.org, or visit our website at www.tipqc.org.