



# Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries

*Improving the health of mothers, babies and children*

## MATERNAL & PERINATAL SURVEILLANCE

### WHAT IS MATERNAL AND PERINATAL MORTALITY SURVEILLANCE?

This programme of work monitors maternal and perinatal mortality trends, identifies risk factors and provides more in-depth focus on specific clinical issues in order to inform improvements in practice. High quality local, regional and national data on mortality is provided to key healthcare commissioners, healthcare providers, policy makers and other stakeholders for this purpose. Maternal mortality data have been collected by CMACE and its predecessor bodies since 1952 and perinatal mortality data since 1994. Surveillance reports on maternal and perinatal mortality are produced on an annual basis and also in response to ad hoc requests.

Development work is currently being undertaken to establish an interactive database for authorised users at NHS Trusts to allow ongoing monitoring and comparative benchmarking on mortality.

### WHAT DOES SURVEILLANCE ADD?

Maternal and perinatal mortality is important. It is important to the individual mother, important in relation to the health of the public and important for planning health services. Understanding mortality is central to being able to improve outcomes and continuous surveillance is critical to identify trends and problem areas. Surveillance enables us to:

- Monitor changes in the rates, causes and risk factors associated with mortality
- Identify topics where it may be beneficial to carry out further more detailed studies
- Provide cases for detailed study in a full confidential enquiry
- Assist NHS Hospital Trusts, Strategic Health Authorities, Neonatal Networks and Primary Care Trusts monitor their mortality rates.

### WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Maternal mortality includes data on deaths of women during pregnancy or within 42 days of delivery or the end of the pregnancy. Perinatal mortality data includes stillbirths (i.e. in utero deaths from 24 weeks gestation) and each live birth resulting in a neonatal death (up to 28 days of age following delivery).

## HOW ARE DATA COLLECTED?

CMACE collect data in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Cases are notified by healthcare professionals in each hospital to the CMACE using the Maternal Death and Perinatal Death Notification Forms. Cases are also reported by pathologists, coroners, Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officers and others. This multiple source reporting leads to very high ascertainment of the deaths. Data are then entered on a database on a monthly basis. ONS data matching is conducted. Data are then cleaned by the central office prior to analysis.

Scotland has an independent surveillance system but through collaboration with NHS Quality Improvement Scotland, CMACE can produce UK wide mortality surveillance data.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

All the reports related to Maternal and Perinatal Mortality published to date are available from the publications page of the website [www.cmace.org.uk](http://www.cmace.org.uk).

For further information on this work please contact CMACE on [020 7486 1191](tel:02074861191).

Copies of our other reports and more information about CMACE together with contact details of our central and local offices can be found on our website or by telephoning [020 7486 1191](tel:02074861191).

