



INTRODUCTION

- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has been working toward developing a foundation for preventing maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in Canada
- The mission is to increase awareness of the issues surrounding pregnancy-related deaths and to promote change among individuals, healthcare systems, and communities in order to reduce the number of deaths
- *The goal is to prevent every future preventable death*
- Understanding health, practice, system and societal factors that contribute to maternal deaths is critical to identifying strategies for prevention
- Substance use and suicide are emerging as major contributors to maternal mortality in other countries

AIM

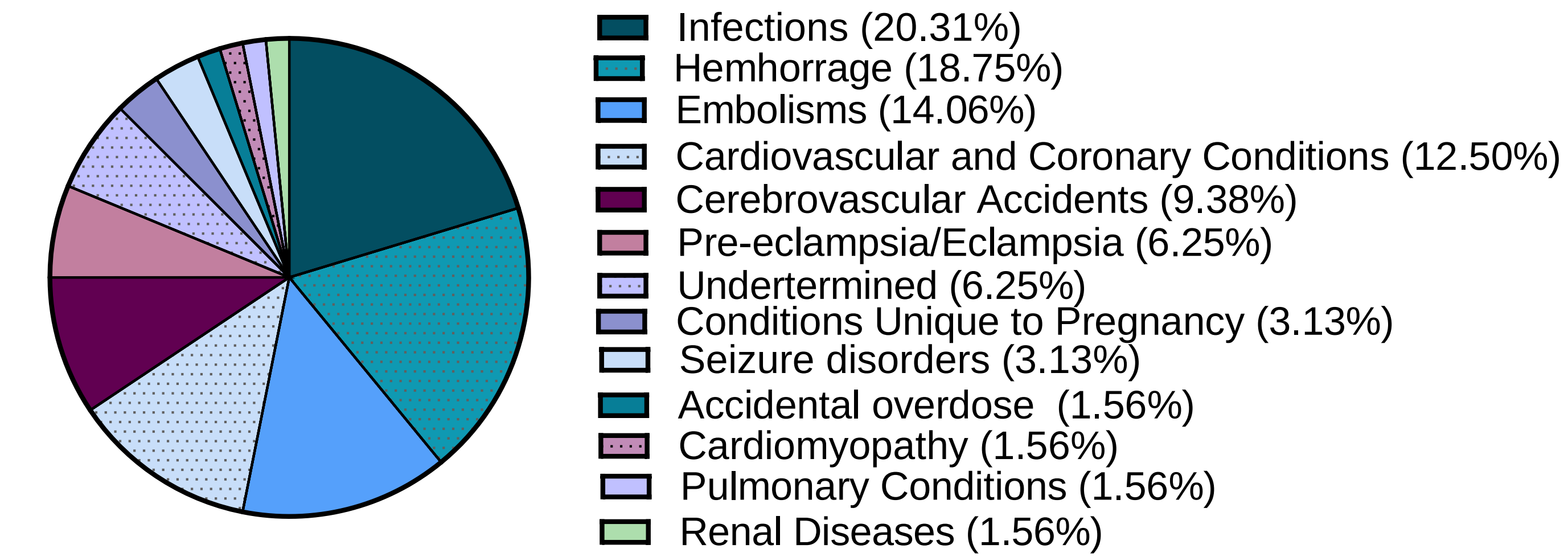
- The purpose of this study was to determine the causes of maternal mortality in Ontario over a 5 year period, including later maternal deaths.

METHODS

- Experts worked with provincial/territorial governments to develop a standardized approach to identifying, reviewing and reporting on maternal deaths in the Canadian healthcare system’s context
- A toolkit for provinces/territories to review maternal deaths, report on common indicators of maternal health and to make recommendations for prevention was created
- Deaths from all women of reproductive age from 2014-2019 were identified by vital statistics and investigated to determine if there had been a pregnancy in the previous 365 days
- The Toolkit was piloted by the The Ontario Coroner’s Maternal and Perinatal Death Review Committee (MPDRC); redacted case reports were used to identify factors related to maternal mortality in Ontario

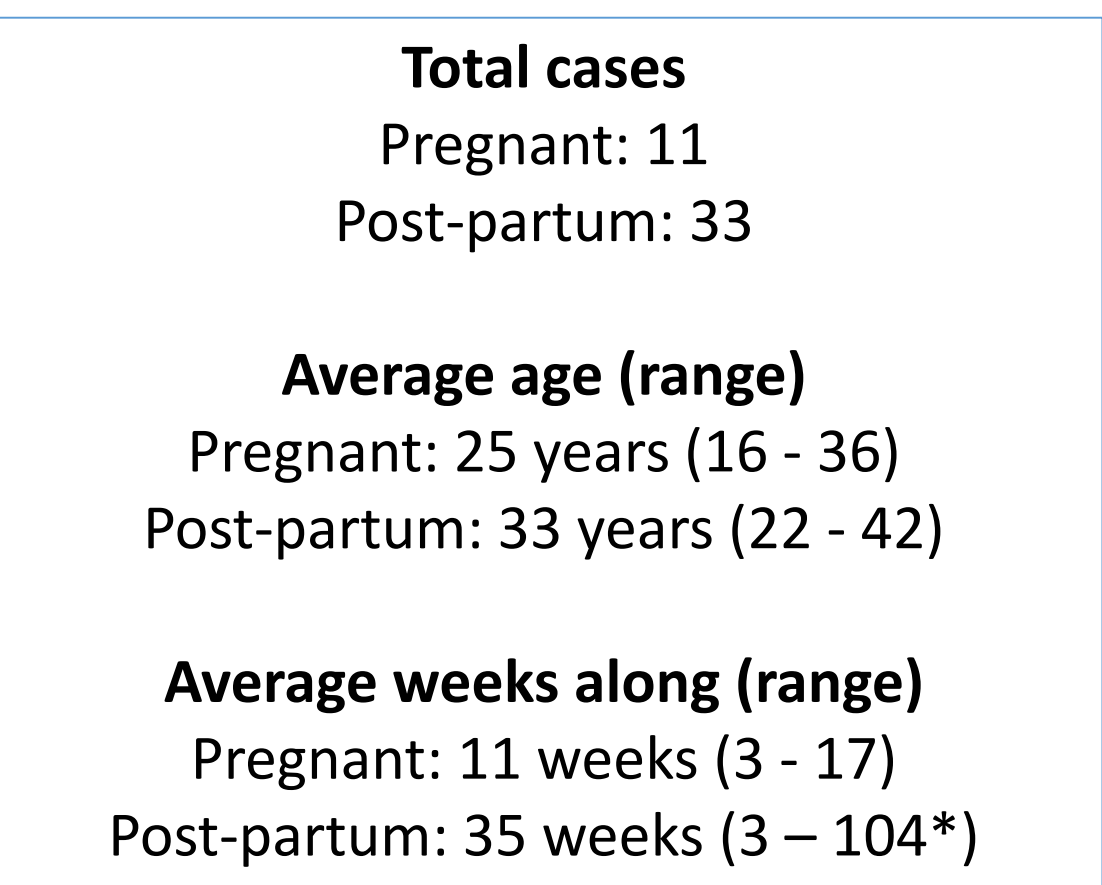
RESULTS

Percent of Maternal Deaths

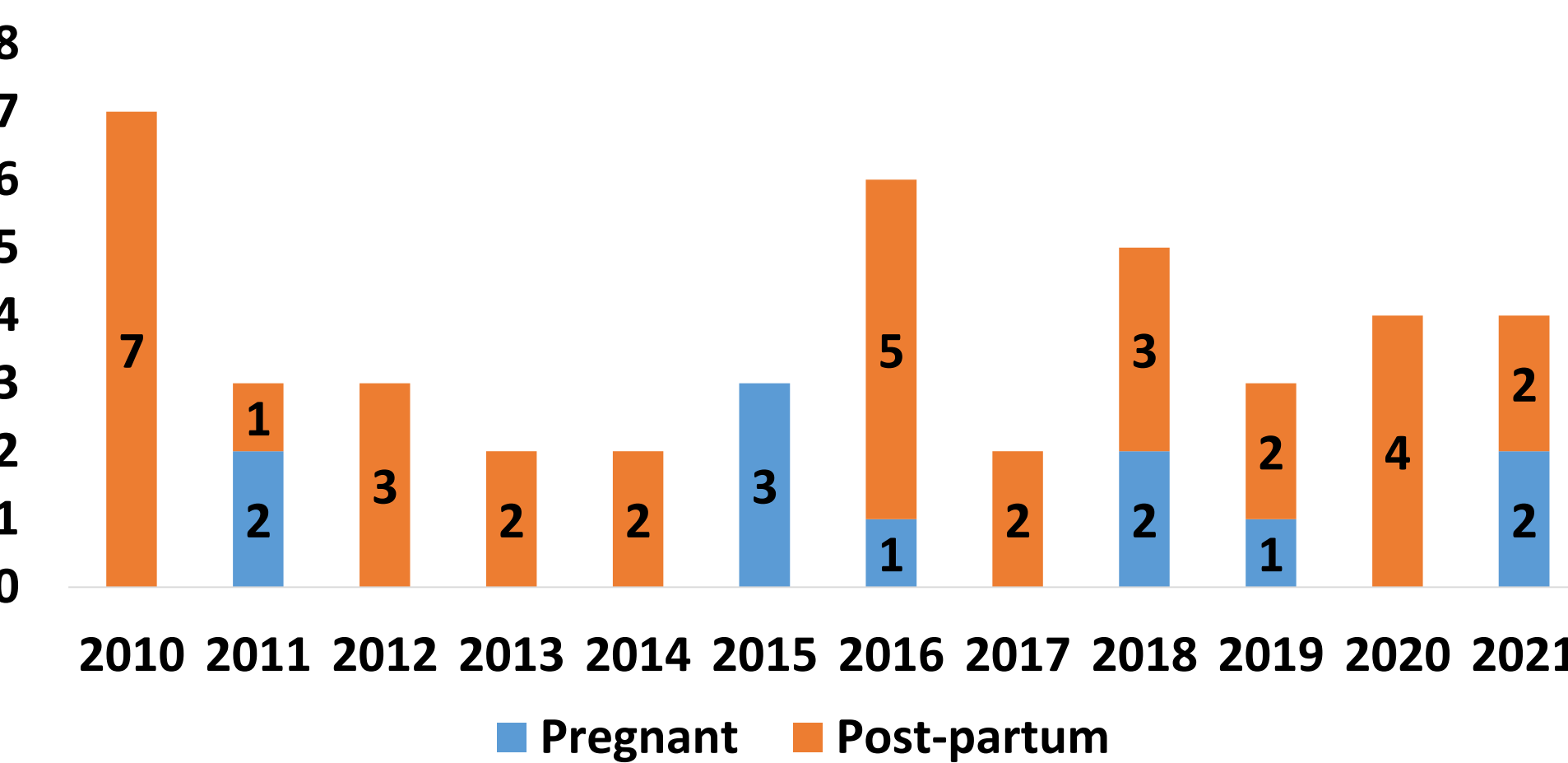


Total=100

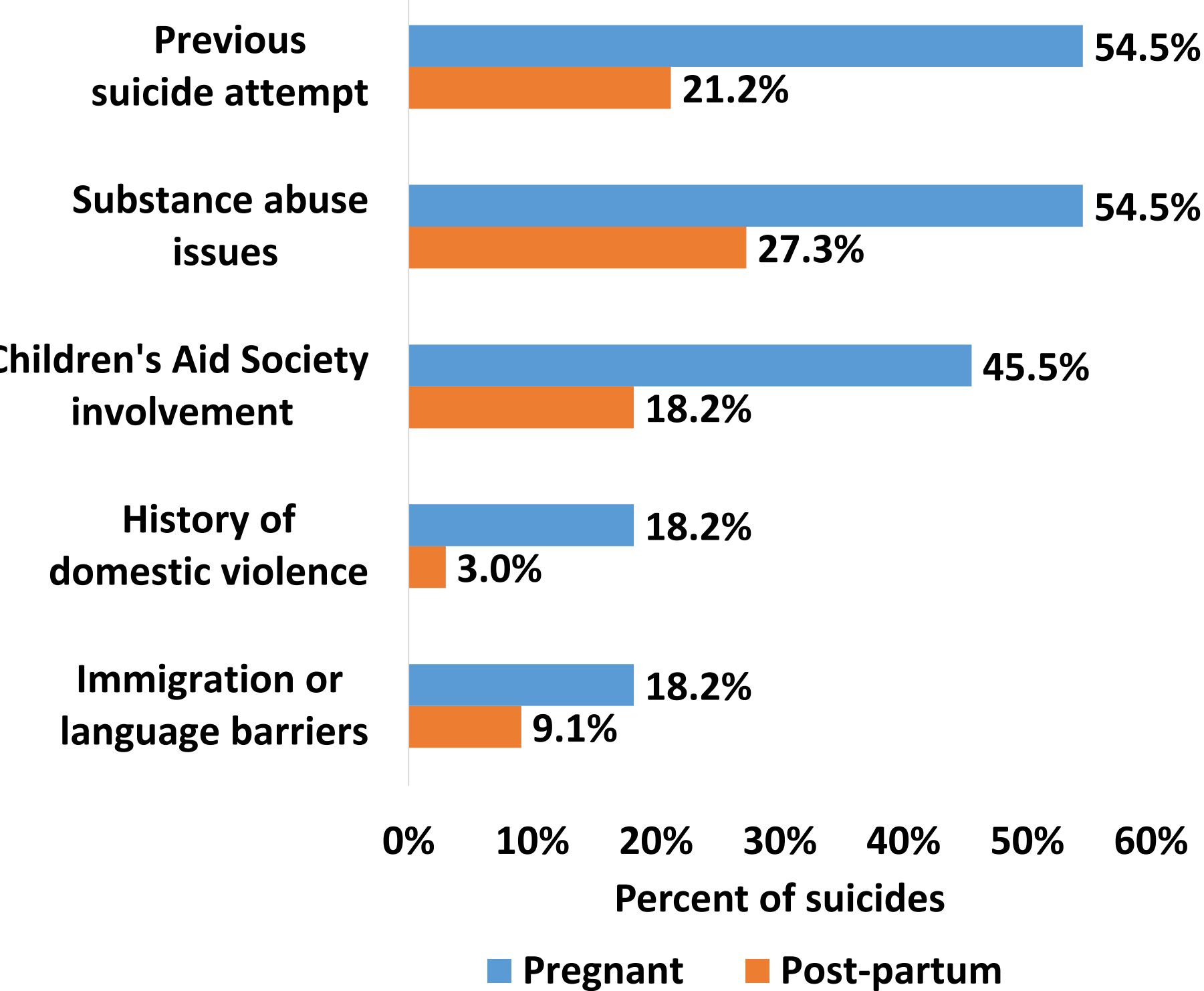
Suicides in pregnant and post-partum (≤12 months post-delivery) individuals



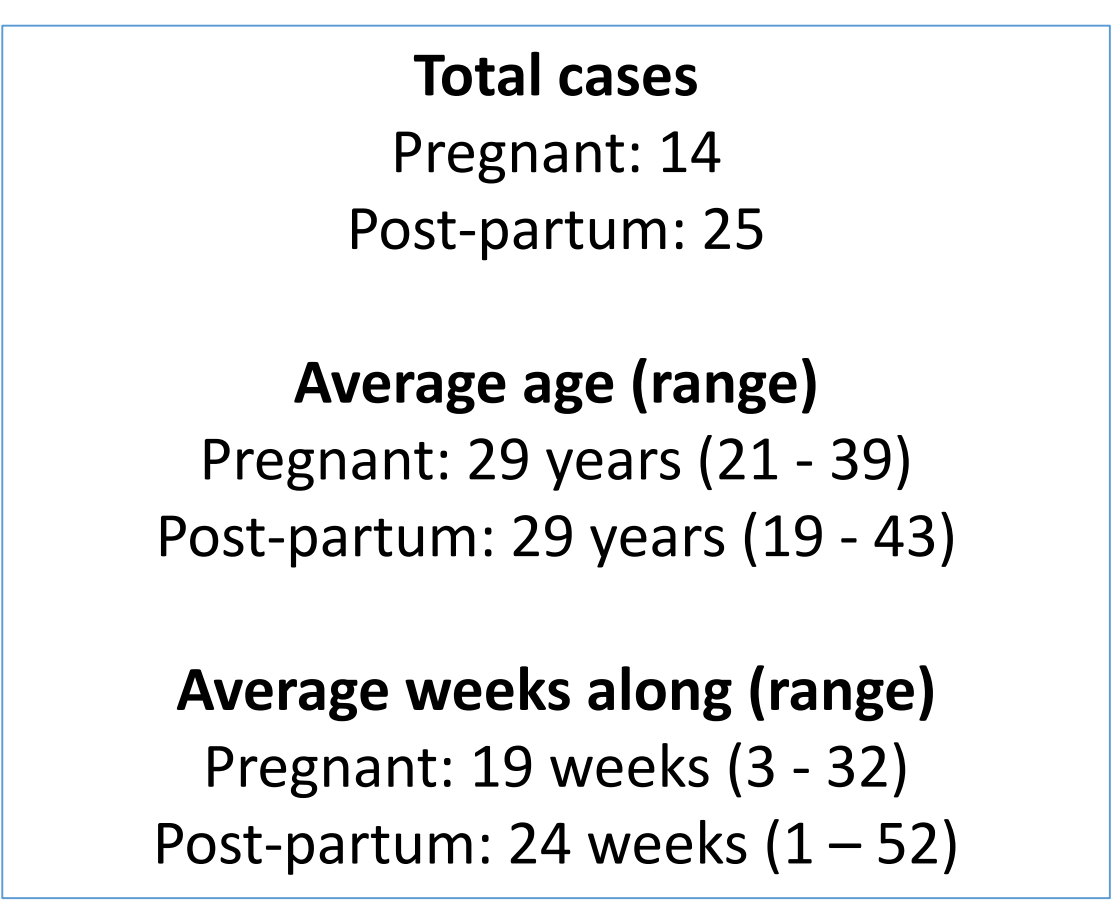
Number of suicides cases per year



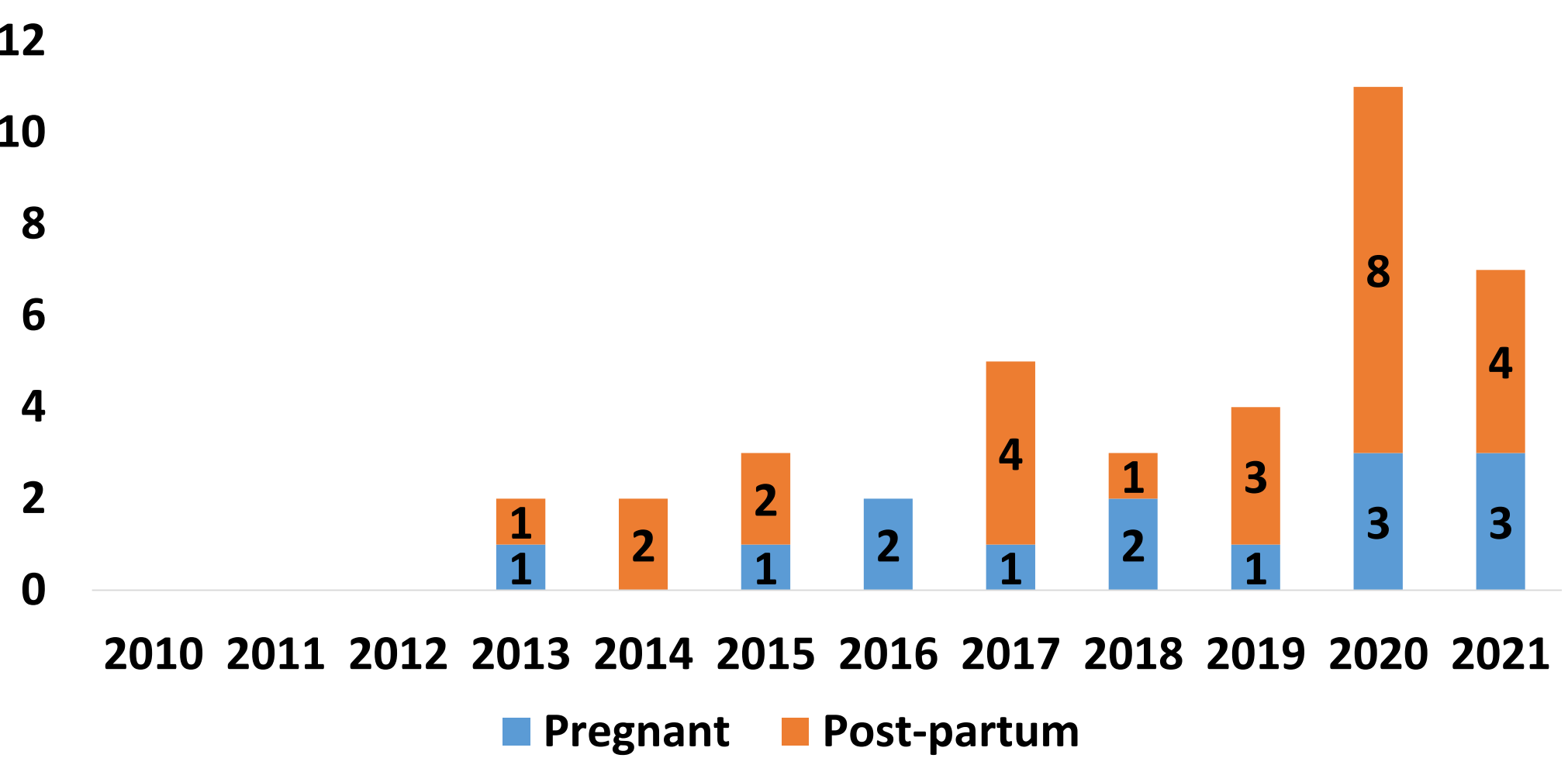
Other relevant factors



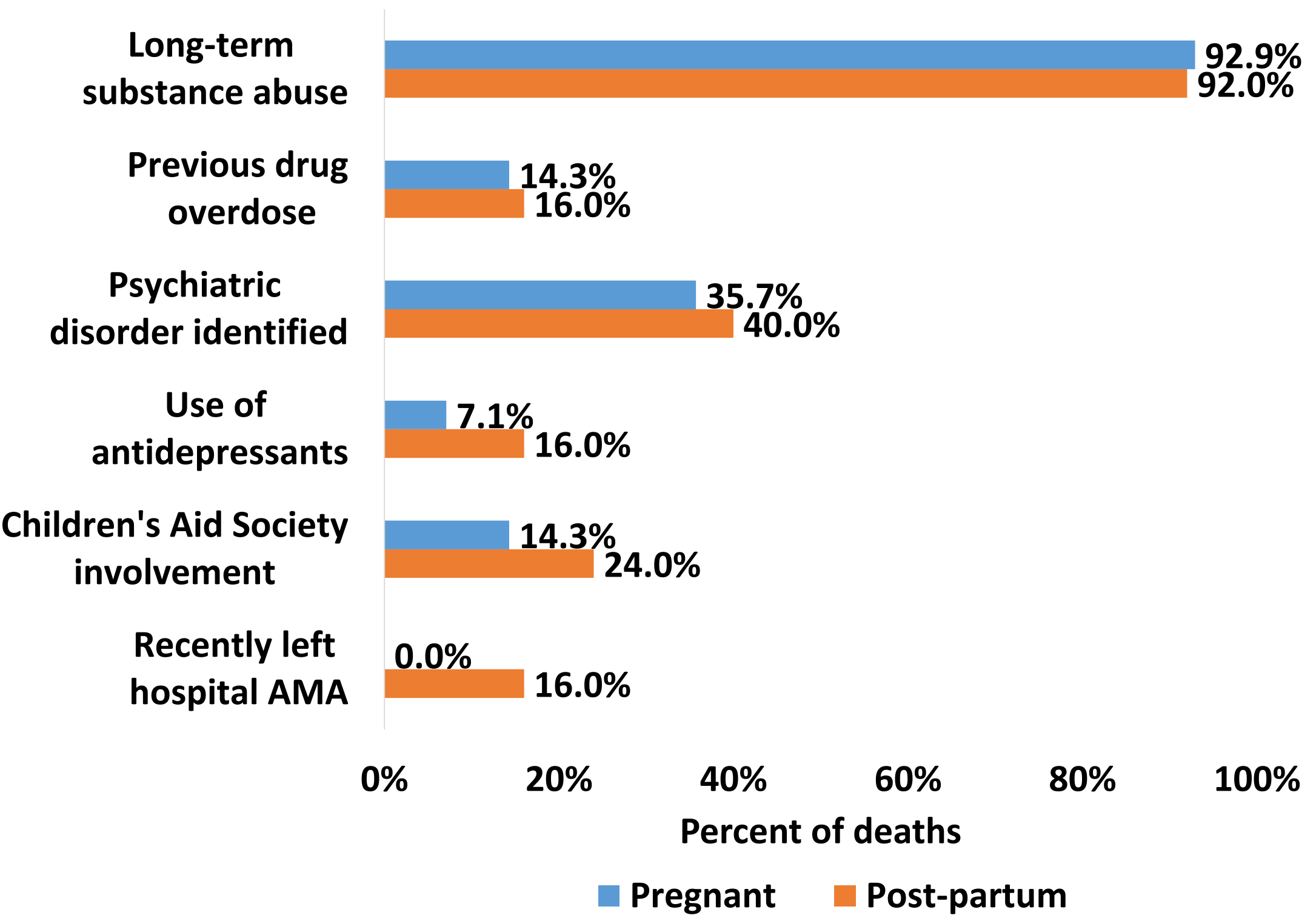
Substance use deaths in pregnant and post-partum (≤12 months post-delivery) individuals



Number of substance abuse deaths per year



Other relevant factors



CONCLUSIONS

- The findings of this study provide important guidance for maternal mortality review committees across Canada as they begin to use the toolkit to investigate maternal deaths and identify focused opportunities for improving outcomes.
- Similar to other countries, substance use and suicide are emerging as critical contributors to maternal deaths in Ontario.