



# Maternal Health Incubator: *Data for Maternal Health Equity*

Association of  
American Medical Colleges

# The AAMC Center for Health Justice Welcomes You to the Inaugural Maternal Health Incubator

**Philip M. Alberti, PhD**  
Senior Director, Health Equity Research & Policy  
Founding Director, AAMC Center for Health Justice

**DAY 1: MATERNAL HEALTH INCUBATOR • MAY 24, 2022**

Health equity is the goal.  
Health justice is the path.

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**Every community begins at the  
same starting line for health.**

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# HEALTH JUSTICE

## Anti-Racist, Anti-Discriminatory

**Community  
Wisdom  
& Multisector  
Partnerships**

**Research →  
Policy Action**



Benfer, E "Health Justice: A Framework (and Call to Action) for the Elimination of Health Inequity and Social Injustice" (2015) American University Law Review, Vol 65, Issue 2

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Model

Influence

Ease the Path

# AAMC Center for Health Justice Focus Areas



## Trustworthiness

Guiding health care and other organizations as they work to demonstrate they are worthy of their communities' trust.



## Data for Health Equity

Developing tools and building connections to ensure communities thrive.



## Maternal Health Equity

Understanding health inequities for birthing people and advocating for evidence-based policy solutions.



## All in for Health Equity

A multisector, co-designed "experiment" to determine a new focus area for the center.

# AAMC Maternal Health Equity Portfolio

**Olufunmilayo Makinde, MPH**  
Health Equity Research Analyst,  
AAMC Center for Health Justice

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# What Brings Us Together Today?

- Maternal health inequities are not new
- Black and AIAN birthing people are **2-3 times** more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than their White counterparts
- Maternal mortality (and morbidity) disparities are present even when controlling for factors such as education and income

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6835a3.htm>

# Real Lives, Real Stories



Kira  
Johnson



Beyoncé  
Knowles-  
Carter



Stephanie  
Snook



Serena  
Williams



Allyson  
Felix



Shalon  
Irving

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# Maternal Health at AAMC

- **Raise** awareness of the severity and complexity of maternal health inequities
- **Advocate** for related policy solutions
- **Support** innovative research to eliminate inequities that threaten the health and wellbeing of all birthing people
- **Develop** resources, **convene** experts, and **provide** opportunities to strengthen efforts around maternal health

<https://www.aamchealthjustice.org/our-work/maternal-health-equity>

# Current and Future Activity

**Health Impact  
Assessments**

**Polling**

**Multisector  
Action Plan**

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# AAMC CHARGE

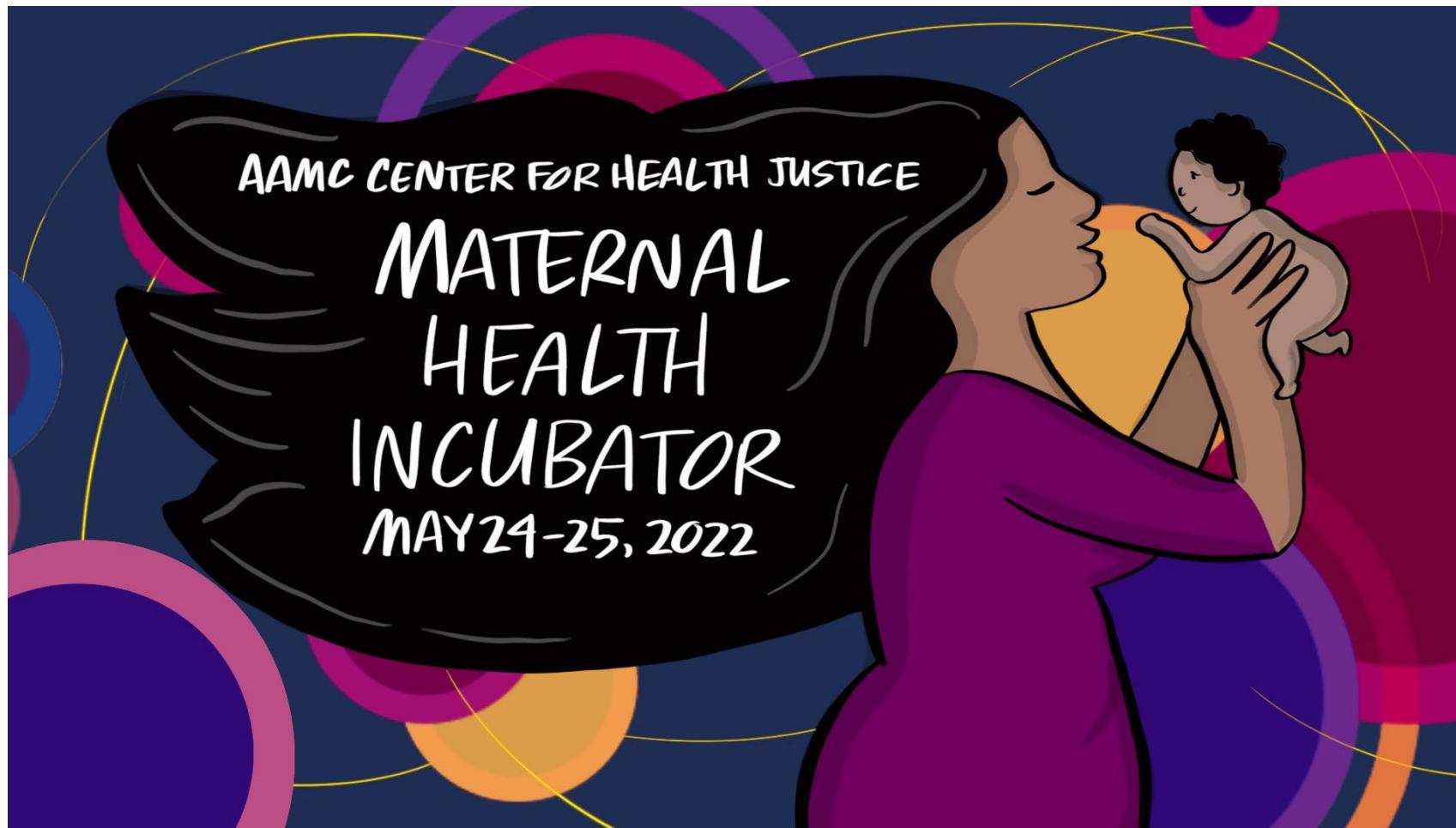


[www.aamc.org/charge](http://www.aamc.org/charge)

- 1,200+ participants and growing
- Multisector and open to all
- Action and policy-focused
- Conduit to local communities across the U.S.

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# Maternal Health Incubator



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# Maternal Health Incubator: Our Goals

- Develop a better understanding of how various data can help to close gaps in maternal health
- Explore how multisector and policy efforts can facilitate maternal health equity
- Learn from you and brainstorm together about interventions needed to improve maternal health data and outcomes

# Day 1 Agenda: Current Landscape

<b>11:10 AM</b>	Opening Address: It's More Than the Clinical
<b>11:30 AM</b>	Fireside Chat: Patient Perspectives
<b>12:30 PM</b>	Break
<b>12:45 PM</b>	Panel Discussions: Leading by Example
<b>2:15 PM</b>	Break
<b>2:30 PM</b>	What Birthing People in the U.S. Are Saying
<b>2:50 PM</b>	Closing Remarks

*\*All times are EST*

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# Opening Address: It's More Than the Clinical

**Zsakeba Henderson, MD, FACOG**

Senior Vice President of Maternal and Child Health Impact  
and Interim Chief Medical and Health Officer  
March of Dimes

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**HEALTHY  
MOMS.  
STRONG  
BABIES.**



# **MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH DATA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Zsakeba Henderson, MD, FACOG**

**SVP Maternal Child Health Impact**

**Interim Chief Medical and Health Officer**



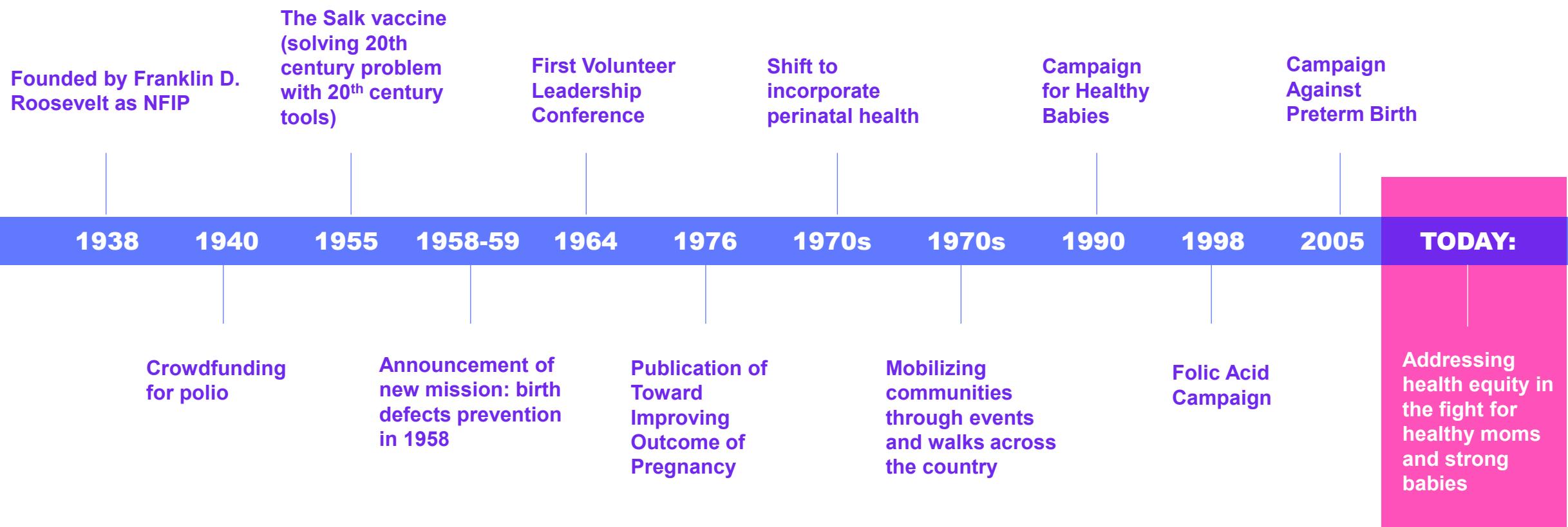
## OUR MISSION

**MARCH OF DIMES  
LEADS THE FIGHT  
FOR THE HEALTH  
OF ALL MOMS AND  
BABIES.**

## OUR VISION

**WE IMAGINE A  
WORLD WHERE  
EVERY MOM AND  
BABY IS HEALTHY  
REGARDLESS OF  
WEALTH, RACE,  
GENDER OR  
GEOGRAPHY.**

# AN 80+ YEAR LEGACY





# MOMS AND BABIES ARE FACING AN URGENT HEALTH CRISIS

The U.S. has one of the  
**WORST RATES**

of maternal death in the developed world. African American women are significantly more likely to die.

Women of color are up to

**50%**

more likely to give birth prematurely. Their children can face a 130 percent higher infant death rate.

**1 IN 7**

women are treated for depression some time between the year before or after pregnancy. Over half of the cases of postpartum depression go undiagnosed..

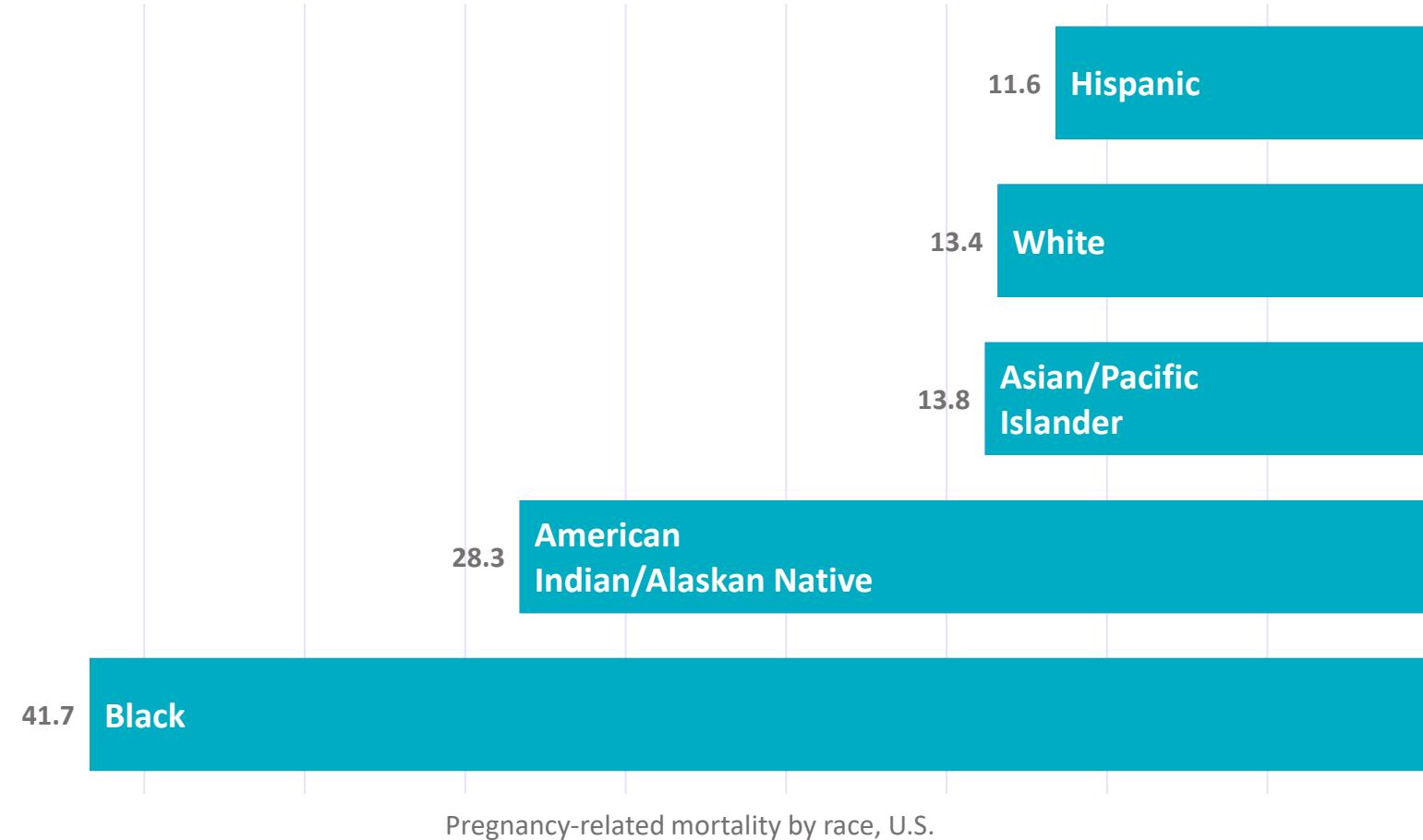
Premature birth and its complications are the largest contributors to

**INFANT DEATH**

in the U.S. and globally.

# DISPARITIES IN PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH

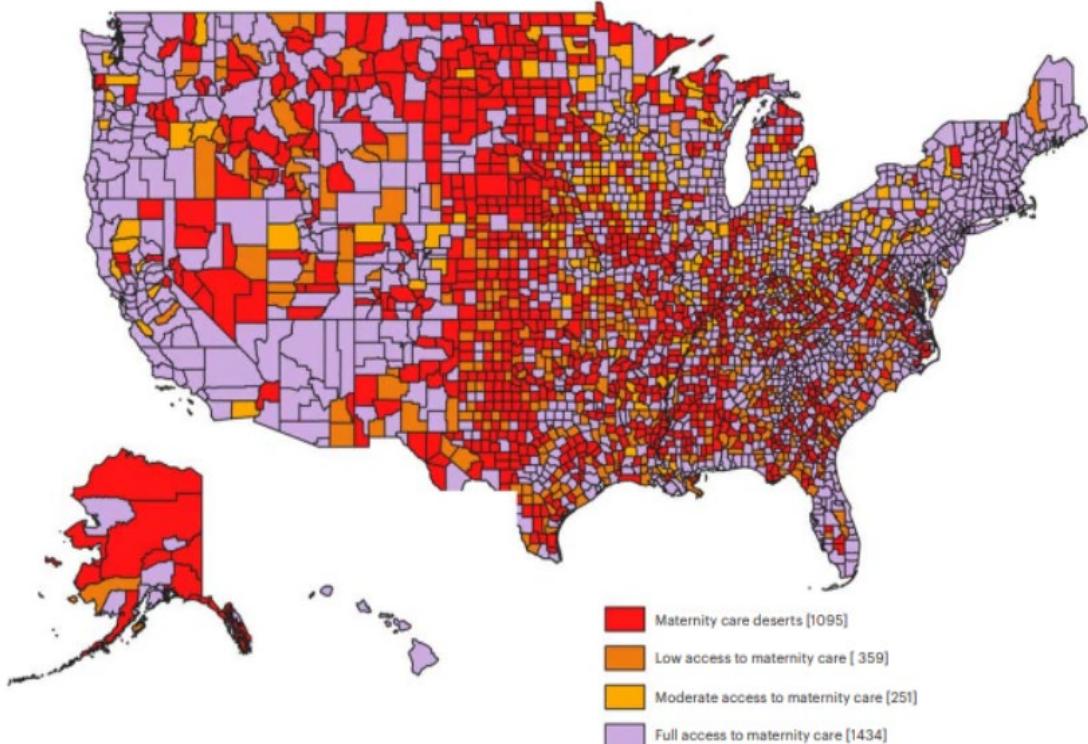
**Black and American Indian mothers have death rates two to three times higher than White women.**



\*Pregnancy-related mortality ratio is the number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births. A pregnancy-related death is the death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

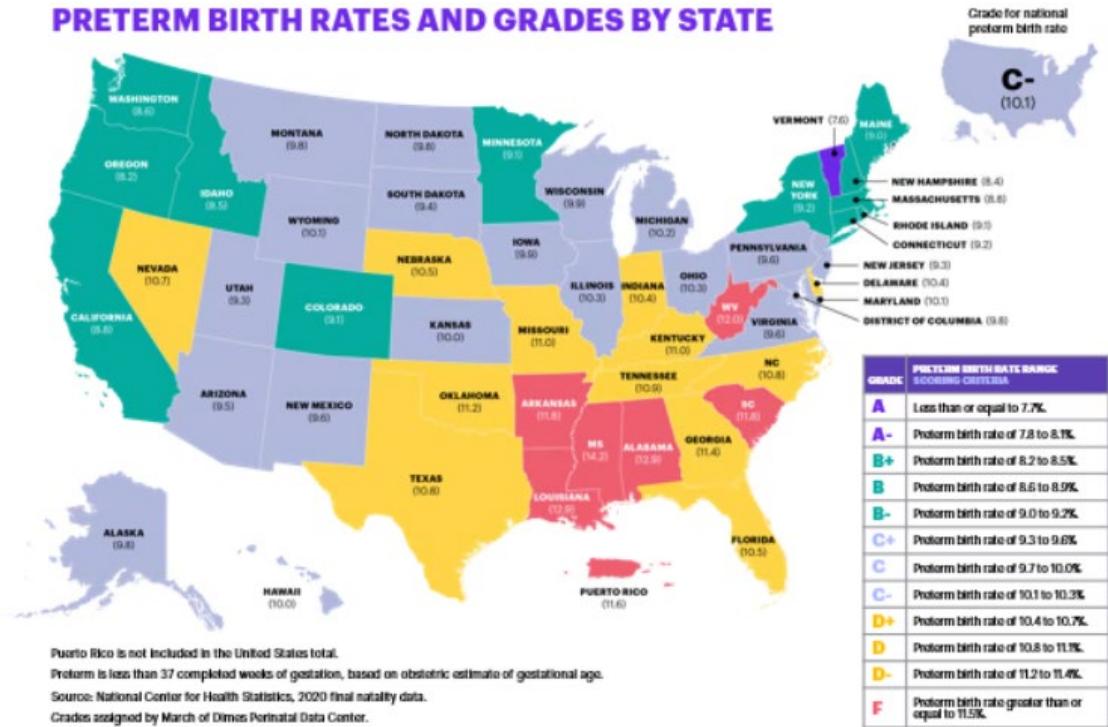
Source: CDC, Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System 2014-2017. Prepared by March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center, December, 2020

# DISPARITIES IN MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH OUTCOMES: LOCATION MATTERS



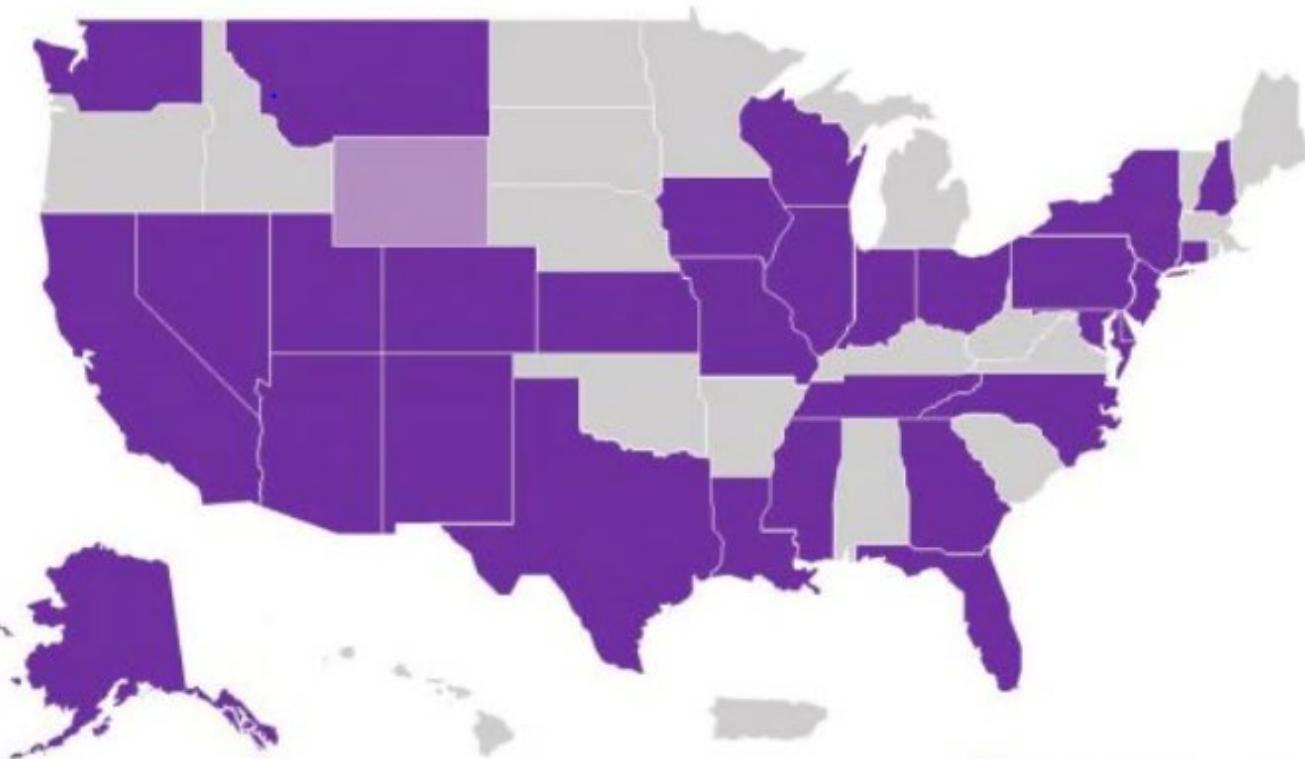
Source: U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Area Health Resources Files, 2019

## PRETERM BIRTH RATES AND GRADES BY STATE



# CHALLENGES WITH MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH DATA

States Funded Through ERASE MM



States Funded for Maternal Mortality Review  
Participating States

# MULTIPLE DEFINITIONS

## AN EXAMPLE: MATERNAL MORTALITY AND PREGNANCY RELATED MORTALITY

Measure	Most Current Year	Timing of Review	Calculation
Maternal Mortality Rate	2019	Up to 42 Days After Death	Recorded (or estimated) maternal deaths divided by total recorded (or estimated) live births in the same period and multiplying by 100,000 births.
Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio	2017	Up to 1 Year After Death	Total pregnancy-related mortality rate divided by total maternal mortality rate by the general fertility rate for the same period and are expressed per 100,000 births.

# BETTER DATA COLLECTION ON VARIABLES SURROUNDING PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY

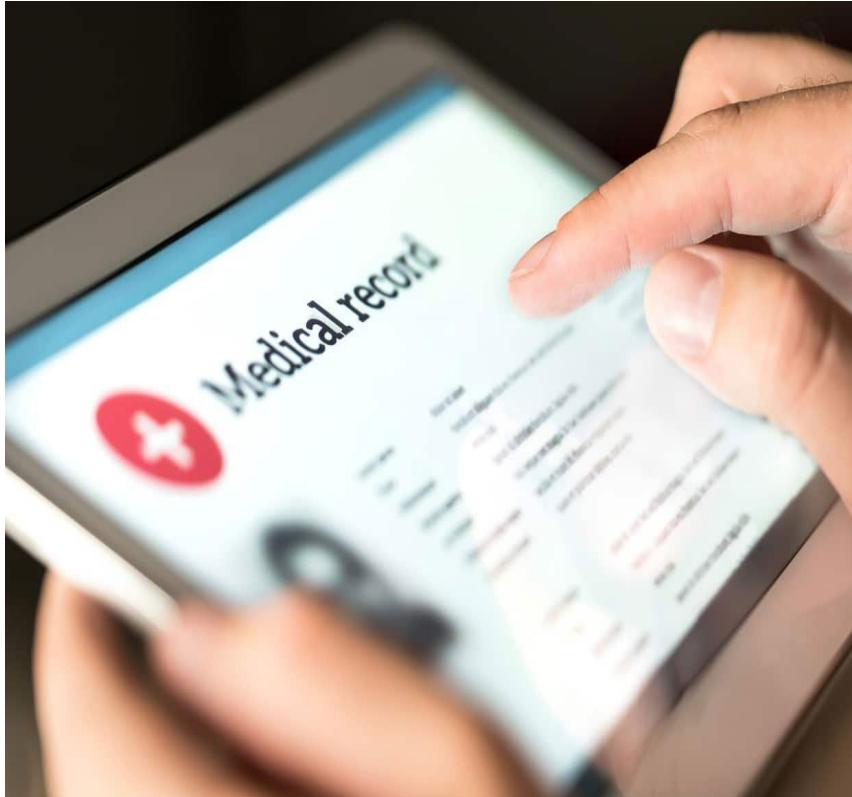


Figure 1  
Social Determinants of Health

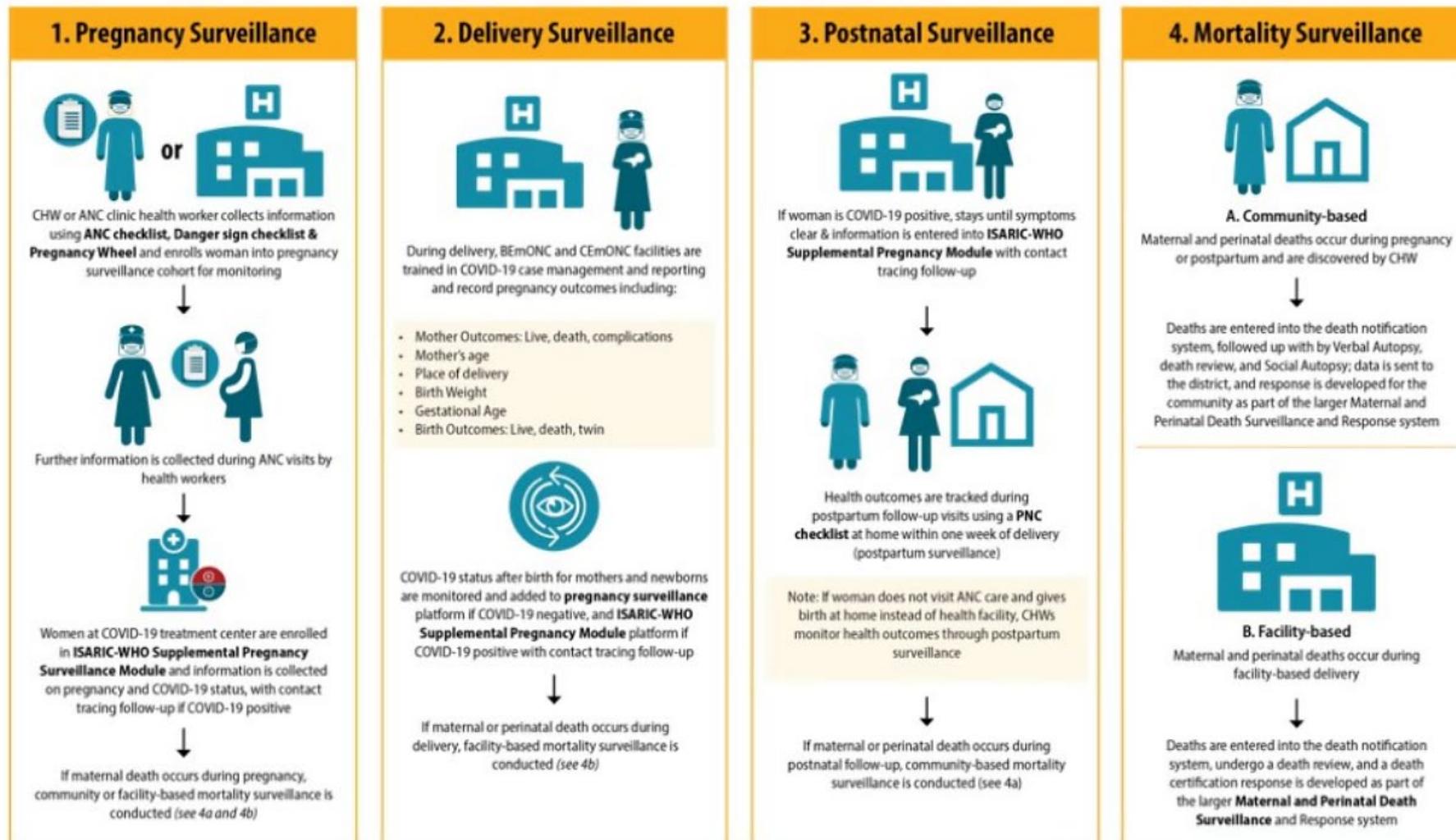
Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education		Stress	Quality of care
Support	Walkability				
	Zip code / geography				

**Health Outcomes**  
Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations

# IMPORTANCE OF QUALITATIVE DATA SURROUNDING PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY



# MOVING FORWARD IN MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH: INVEST IN DATA AND ACTION



# MITRE/MOD DATA SUMMIT KEY FINDINGS

## *Improve Data Collection Practices*

- 1 [Balance Consistency and Flexibility:](#) Define a minimum required core set of measures for state collection with standard guidelines for collection and analysis to help eliminate confusion and inconsistencies.
- 2 [Include Race and Ethnicity Data:](#) Incentivize collecting and segmenting race and ethnicity data consistently using a national standardized set of measures to minimize reporting burden and facilitate system-wide collaboration through payment requirements.
- 3 [Look Beyond Clinical Data:](#) Create a multifaceted approach that contextually and holistically considers factors beyond clinical elements.
- 4 [Include Pregnant People in Research Trials; Follow Recommendations for Common Data Elements for COVID-19 Studies, Including Pregnant Participants](#) when developing data elements and measures for future infectious disease studies.

# MITRE/MOD DATA SUMMIT KEY FINDINGS

## *Enable Data Sharing and Remove Barriers to Access*

- 5 [Prioritize Interoperability](#): Standardize data and data exchange to improve the ability to abstract data and follow a pregnant person's care journey and empower the individual to take charge of their own health care choices with access to their data.
- 6 [Connect VA and Community Veteran Data](#): Improve training and communication on the Veterans Health Information Exchange (VHIE) to promote sharing of pregnant and postpartum Veterans' electronic health information between VA and non-VA providers.
- 7 [Expand Medicaid Coverage](#): Expand Medicaid postpartum coverage in each state to one year to eliminate the data collection disruption currently experienced when coverage ends at 60 days.
- 8 [Improve Comprehension of Maternal Event Timelines](#): Link birth certificates to hospital discharge data to calculate the timing of maternal events and help improve investigations of poor outcomes.
- 9 [Create Rapid Cycle Review for Quality Improvement Efforts](#): Ensure states and localities have the tools, training, and support needed to effectively conduct process evaluation on federal maternal health quality improvement efforts and adjust maternal health programs in progress.
- 10 [Flag Data to Prevent Morbidity from Turning into Mortality](#): Add a pregnancy flag in the electronic health record (EHR) and train on how to use it to improve the ability to identify emergency conditions related to pregnancy and help prevent or treat severe maternal morbidity while also improving EHR coding.
- 11 [Share Data Between Agencies and Across Jurisdictions](#): Identify additional data needed in each state to evaluate maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity and work to advance legislative changes or develop advance data use agreements (DUAs) to provide access to data.

# MITRE/MOD DATA SUMMIT KEY FINDINGS

## *Elevate and Support State and Locality-Based Data*

12	<u>Include Diverse Perspectives and Provide Clear Guidance for MMRCs:</u> Create interdisciplinary state MMRC teams to expand beyond clinical expertise to ensure well-rounded data analysis and interpretation.
13	<u>Expand MMRC Support to Effectively Use MMRIA:</u> Expand support for states' use of Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA), create opportunities for collaboration among states to share best practices, and enhance opportunities to assign a CDC epidemiologist to each MMRC.
14	<u>Improve Collaboration Between PQCs and MMRCs:</u> Ensure Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs) have access to MMRC data to prioritize intervention efforts; create MMRC and PQC liaisons to share updates between the two teams.

**HEALTHY  
MOMS.  
STRONG  
BABIES.**



Twitter:  
**@zsakeba**  
**@marchofdimes**

Website:  
**Marchofdimes.org**

Email:  
**zhenderson@marchofdimes.org**

Facebook:  
**Facebook.com/marchofdimes**

**THANK YOU!**



# Black Birth Film



Initial release: 2021

Director: Haimy Assefa

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_oI03NGJooA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oI03NGJooA)

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# **Virtual Fireside Chat: Patient Perspectives**

**Alannah Hurley, Mariam Aydoun, and Tennille S. Leak-Johnson, PhD, MS**

**Moderated by Joia A. Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG**  
Founder and President  
National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC)

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# Meet the Panelists

**Alannah Hurley**

Executive Director, United Tribes of Bristol Bay

**Mariam Aydoun**

Community Activist, Washington, D.C.

**Tennille S. Leak-Johnson, PhD, MS**

Assistant Professor of Physiology, Morehouse School of Medicine

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# Q&A and Moderated Discussion

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# Panel Discussions: Leading by Example

**Wanda Barfield, MD, MPH, Eugene Declercq, PhD, Kristen Zycherman, RN, Sarah Kennedy, MPH, and Roxana Richardson, Esq**

**Moderated by Veronica Gillispie-Bell, MD, MAS, FACOG**  
OB-GYN, Oschner Health & Medical Director, Louisiana Perinatal  
Quality Collaborative and Pregnancy Associated Mortality  
Review for the Louisiana Dept. of Health

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# Meet the Panelists

## **Wanda Barfield, MD, MPH, FAAP, RADM USPHS (ret.)**

Director of the Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC

## **Eugene Declercq, PhD**

Professor of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health & Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boston University School of Medicine

## **Kristen Zycherman, RN, BSN**

Maternal and Infant Health Initiative Lead and Maternal and Infant Health Subject Matter Expert, Division of Quality and Health Outcomes, CMS & CHIP

## **Sarah Kennedy, MPH**

Senior Manager of Epidemiology and Evaluation, Generate Health STL

## **S. Roxana Richardson, Esq.**

Medical-Legal Partnership Director, Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance's Perinatal Legal Assistance and Wellbeing Project at MedStar Washington

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# WORKING TOWARDS EQUITY IN DATA AND PRACTICE

AAMC MATERNAL HEALTH INCUBATOR

**WANDA D. BARFIELD**

**MD, MPH, FAAP, RADM USPHS (RET.)**

**DIRECTOR, CDC DIVISION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**

**Division of Reproductive Health**



# DISPARITIES IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Teen birth rates for Hispanic, Black, Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander teens were more than **two times** higher than the rate for white teens.

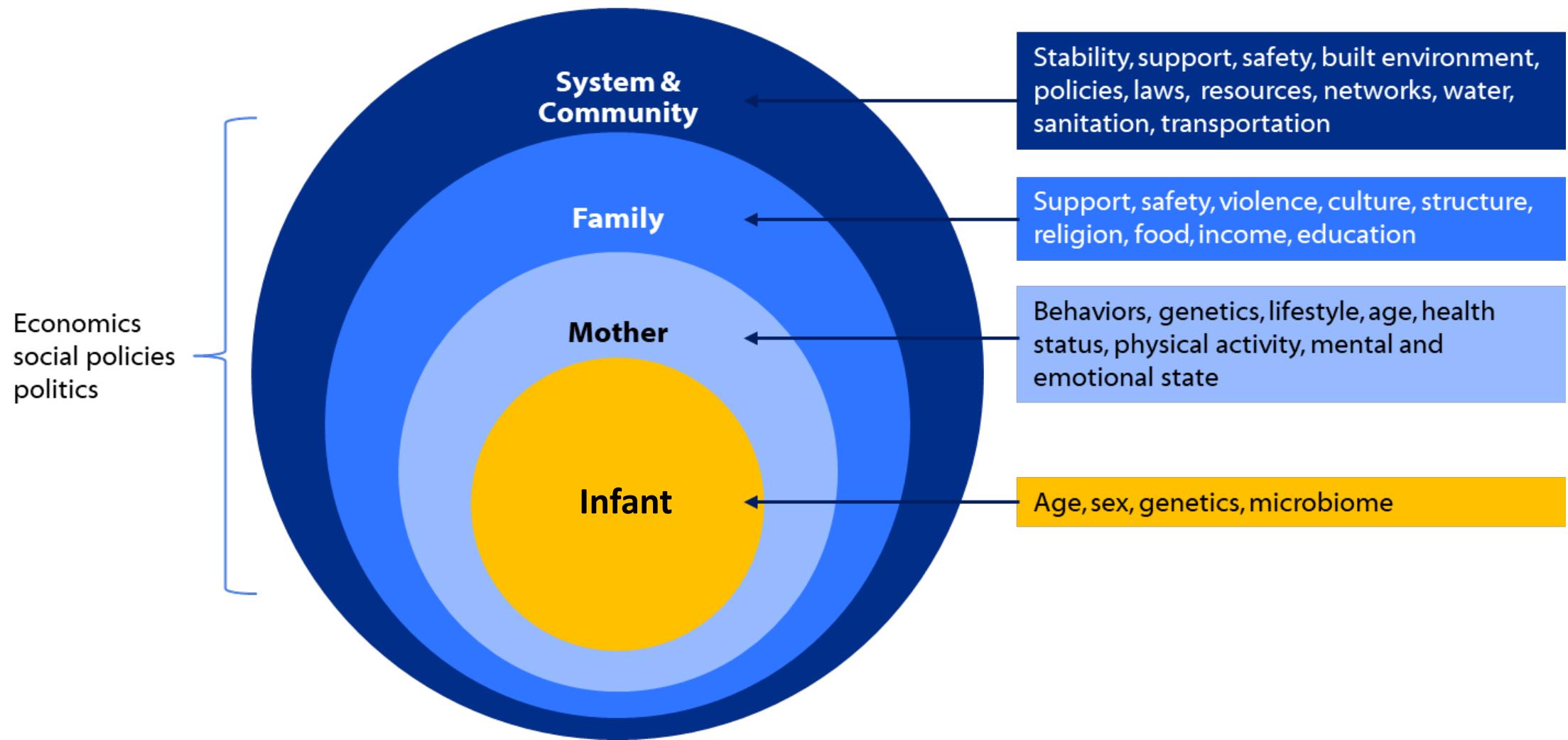


Inequities increase by age and are present at all education levels.

In 2018, the rate of preterm birth among Black women was about **50 percent higher** than among white women.

American Indian, Alaska Native, and Black women are **two to three times** more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white women.

# THE CIRCLE OF INFLUENCES



# EQUITY IN DATA COLLECTION

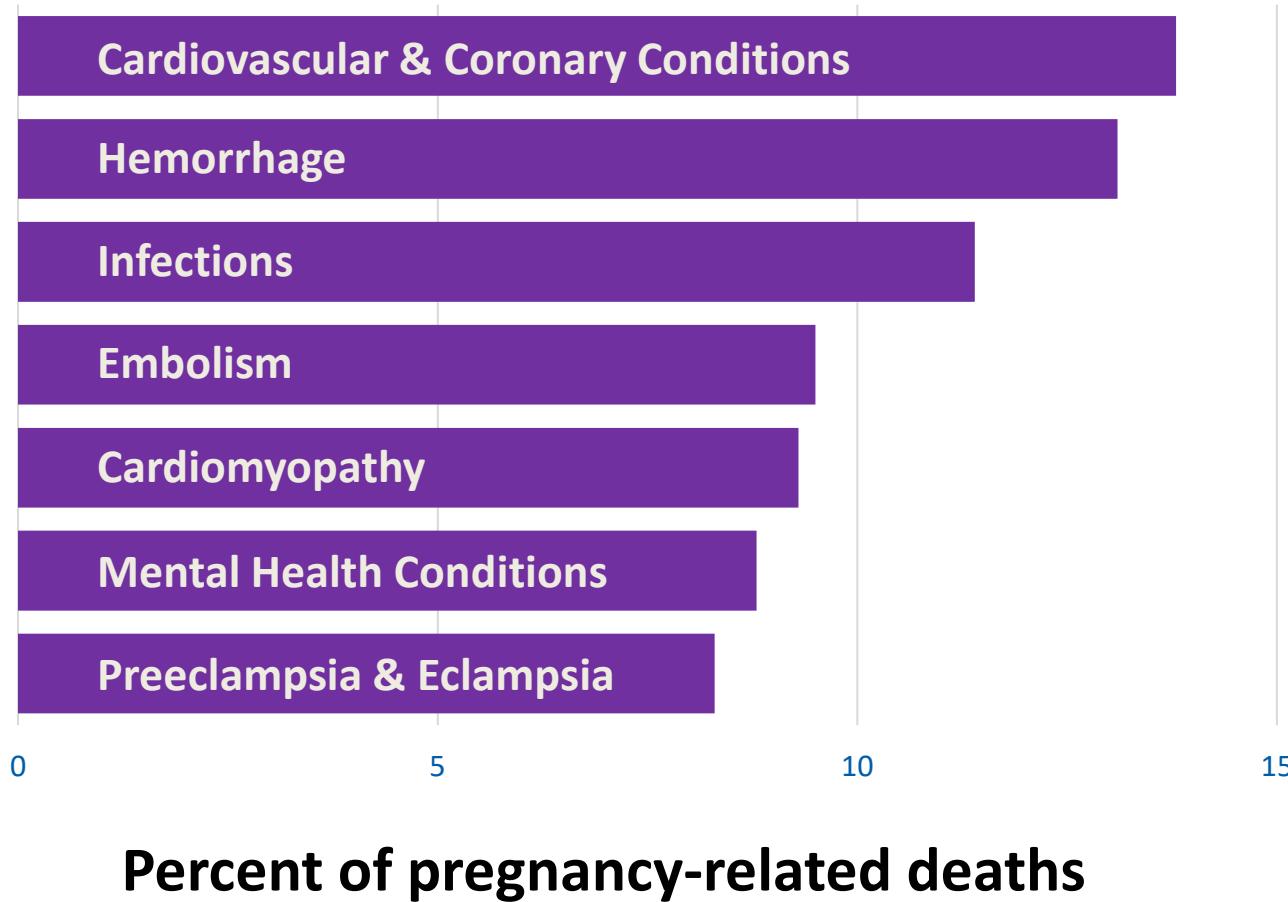
NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND HEALTH PROMOTION

# MMRCS – UNDERSTANDING THE FULL PICTURE



**Understand medical and non-medical contributors to deaths, prioritize interventions that effectively reduce pregnancy-related deaths**

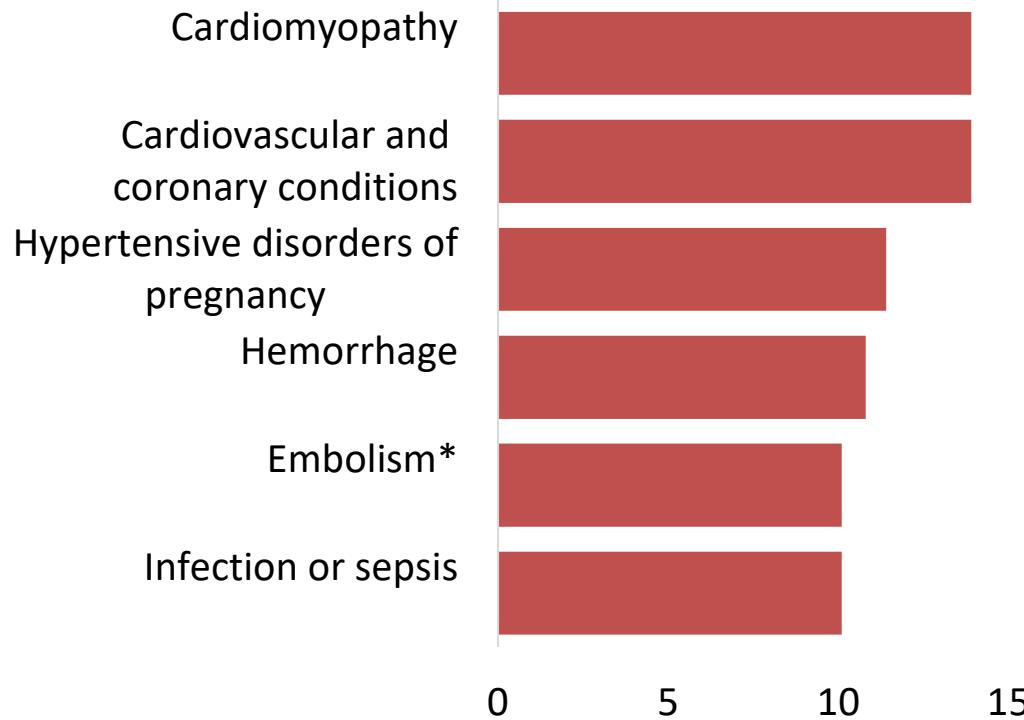
# LEADING CAUSES OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH



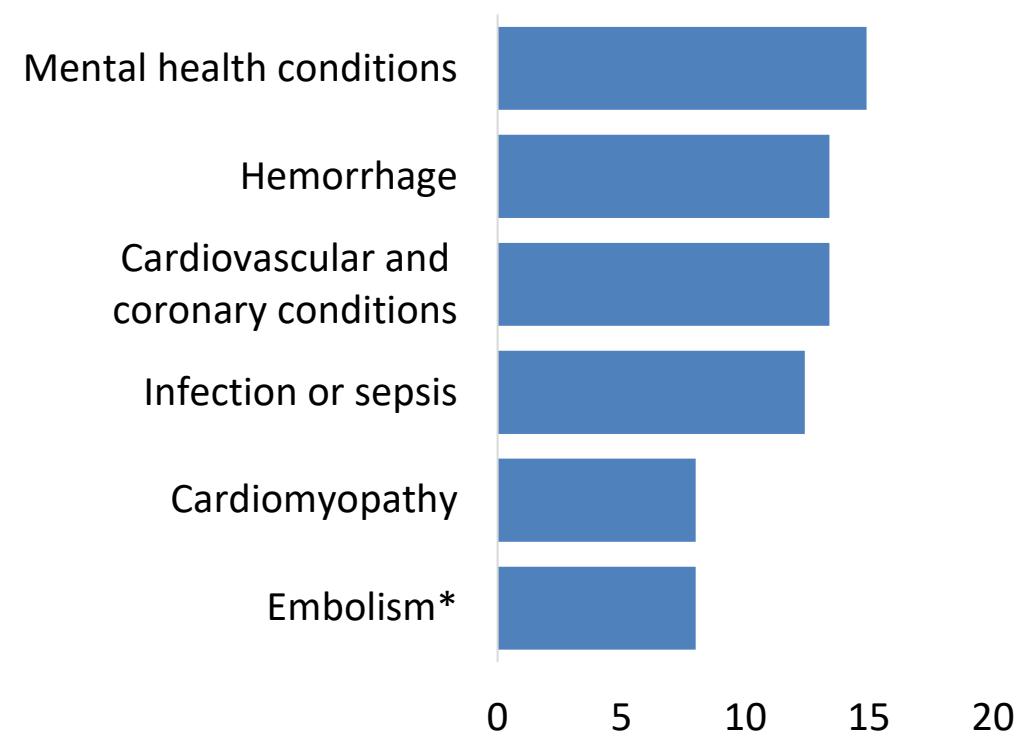
Source: Davis NL, Smoots AN, Goodman DA. Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Data from 14 U.S. Maternal Mortality Review Committees, 2008-2017. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2019

# LEADING CAUSES VARY BY RACE/ETHNICITY

## Non-Hispanic Black



## Non-Hispanic White



Percent of Non-Hispanic  
Black Deaths

Percent of Non-Hispanic  
White Deaths

# IDENTIFYING, DOCUMENTING AND ADDRESSING BIAS

## Discrimination

- Treating someone **more or less favorably** based on the group, class or category they belong to resulting from **biases, prejudices, and stereotyping**. It can manifest as **differences in care, clinical communication and shared decision making**

## Interpersonal Racism

- **Discriminatory interactions** between individuals resulting in differential assumptions about the abilities, motives and intentions of others and differential actions toward others based on their race. It can be **conscious** as well as **unconscious**, and it includes acts of **commission** and acts of **omission**. It manifests as **lack of respect, suspicion, devaluation, scapegoating and dehumanization**.

## Structural Racism

- The systems of power based on **historical injustices** and **contemporary social factors** that **systematically disadvantage people of color** and **advantage white people** through **inequities** in housing, education, employment, earnings, benefits, credit, media, healthcare, criminal justice, etc.



# STORYTELLING WITH DATA

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# HEAR THEIR STORIES

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND HEALTH PROMOTION



A close-up photograph of a pregnant woman with dark hair, wearing a white tank top. She is holding her pregnant belly with both hands. The background is solid black.

Help prevent  
pregnancy-related  
deaths.

**HEAR**  
**HEAR HER** CONCERNS

**HEAR™**

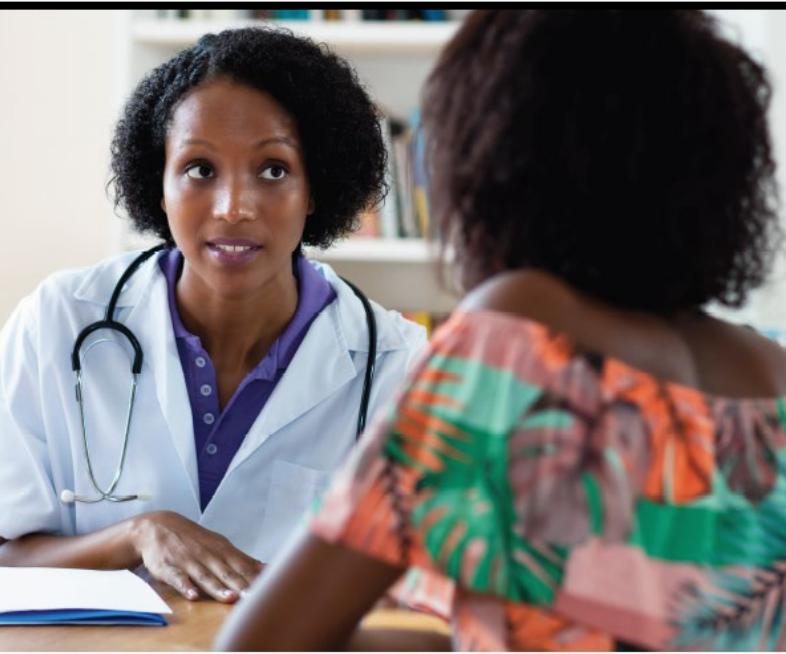
**Mom's health  
matters too.**



**Listen to her  
concerns. It could  
help save her life.**

[www.cdc.gov/HearHer](http://www.cdc.gov/HearHer)

**Learn More**



**Listening can be your most  
important tool.**

Over 700 women in the U.S. die every year  
of pregnancy-related complications.

Deaths can occur up to a year after pregnancy.  
Most of these deaths are preventable.

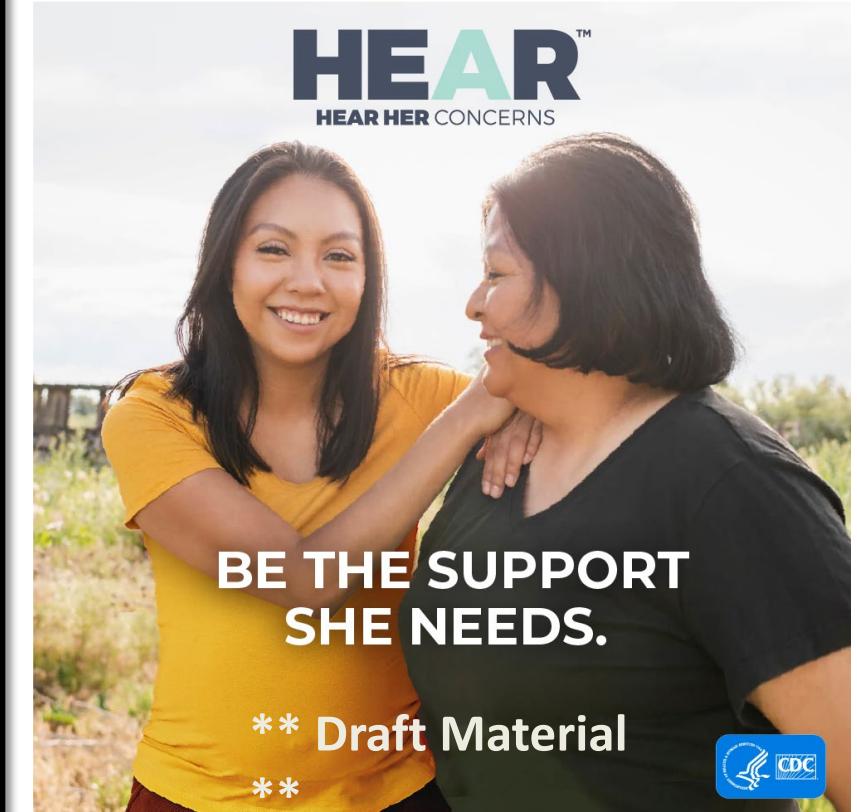
Many women feel that their concerns are not heard.  
**Be the one to listen. It could help save a life.**

**HEAR™**  
HEAR HER CONCERNS

Learn more at [cdc.gov/HearHer](http://cdc.gov/HearHer)



**HEAR™**  
HEAR HER CONCERNS



**BE THE SUPPORT  
SHE NEEDS.**

**\*\* Draft Material**

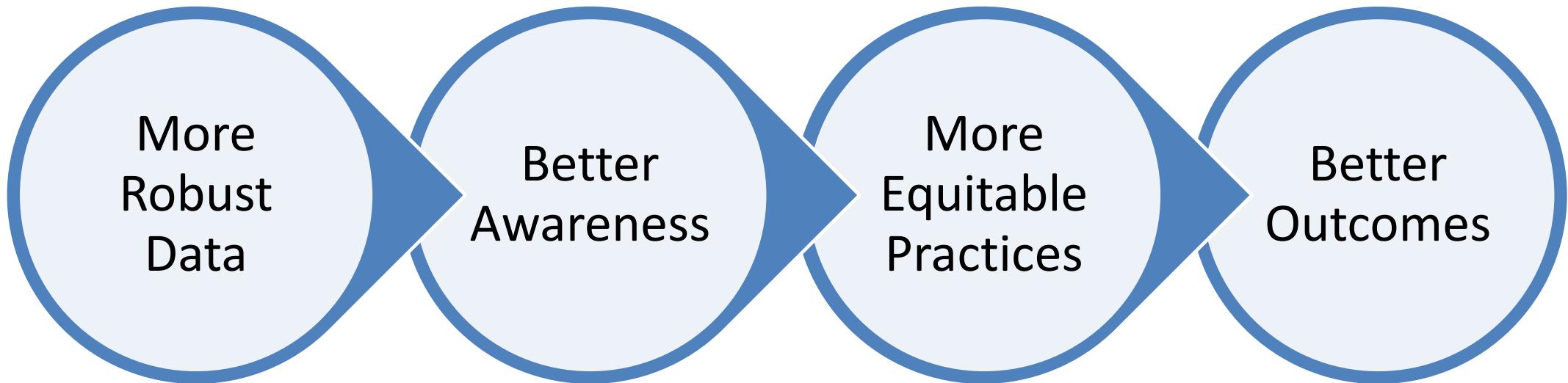
**\*\***



# MOVING FORWARD

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND HEALTH PROMOTION

There is more work ahead for optimal and equitable health



# Thank you!

**Wanda D. Barfield, MD, MPH, FAAP,  
RADM USPHS (ret.)**  
[wbarfield@cdc.gov](mailto:wbarfield@cdc.gov)  
**770-488-5200**

For more information, contact CDC  
**1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)**  
**TTY: 1-888-232-6348   [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)**

**The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**



# Using Innovative Datasets to Ask Different Questions

**Eugene Declercq, PhD**  
Boston University, School of Public Health

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The need to ask different, more challenging questions is closely tied to exploring new datasets with new methods.



***“One searches where there is light”***

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

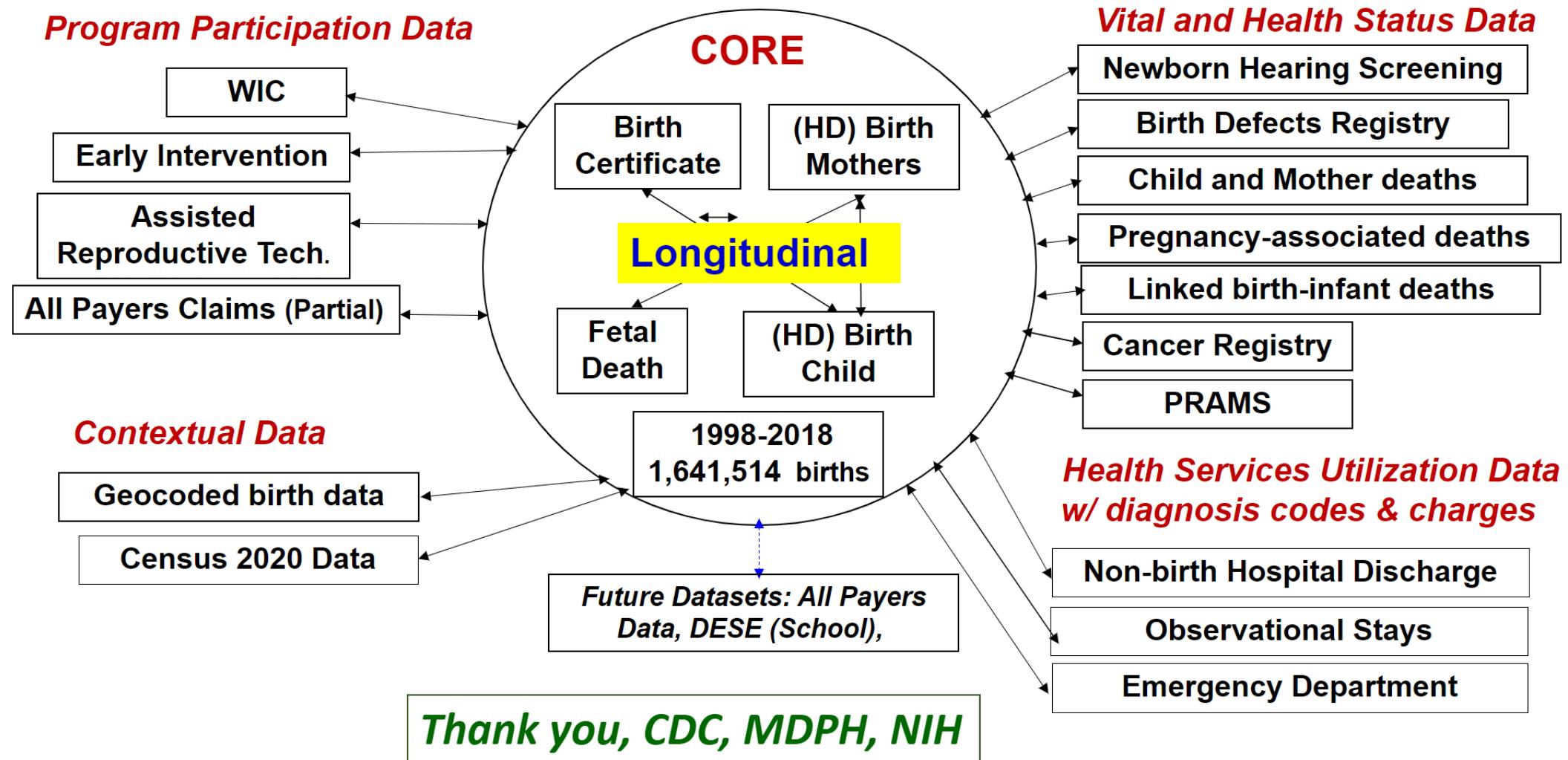
Source: Barry. *The Great Influenza*. 2004 p. 71

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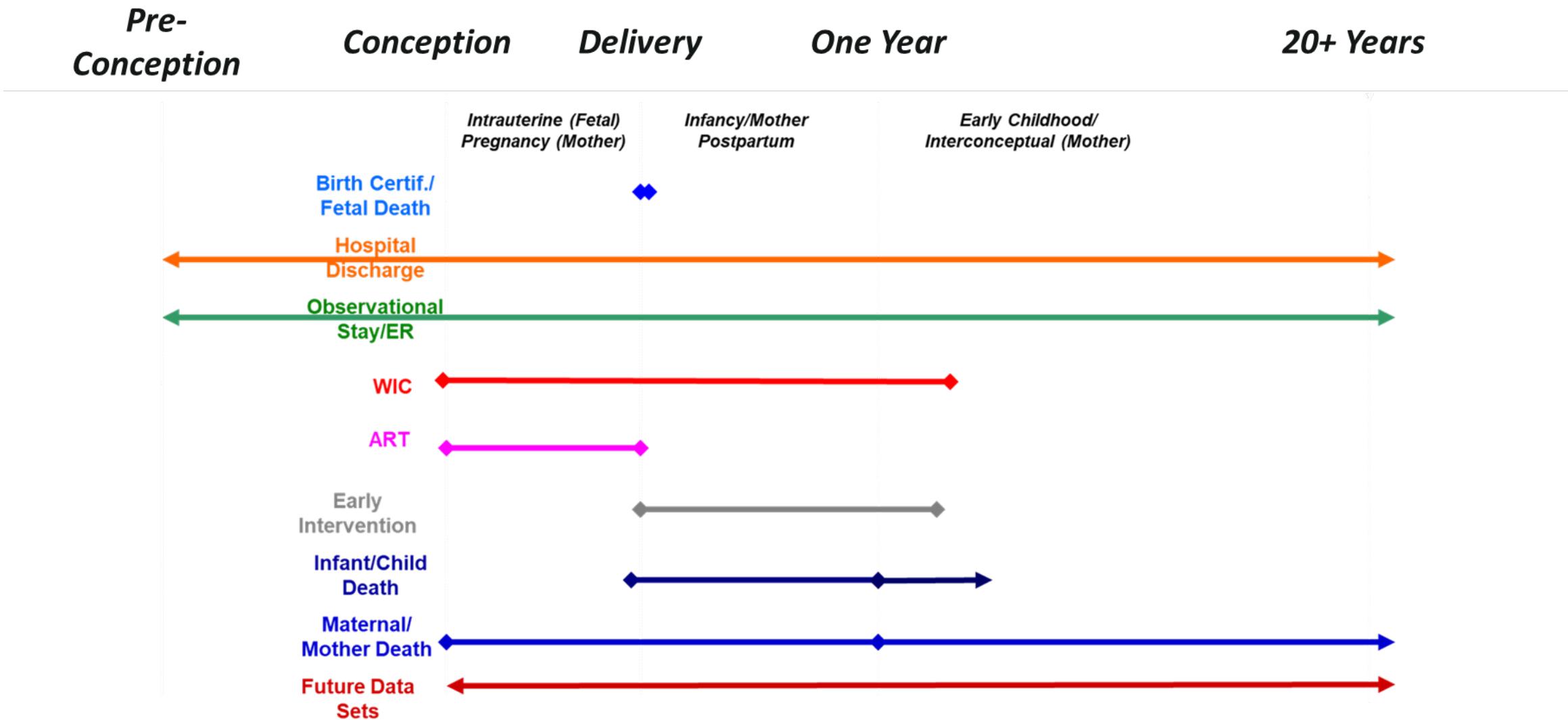
# The Importance of Asking Different Questions

	FOR ALL CHILDBEARING WOMEN AND INFANTS			FOR ALL CHILDBEARING WOMEN AND INFANTS WITH COMPLICATIONS	
Practice Categories	Education, Information, Health promotion	Assessment, Screening, Care planning	Promoting normal processes, Preventing complications	First line management of complications	Medical obstetric neonatal services
Organization of Care	Available, accessible, acceptable, good quality services – adequate resources, competent workforce. Continuity, services integrated across community and facilities				
Values	Respect, communication, community knowledge Care tailored to woman's circumstances and needs				
Philosophy	Optimizing biological, psychological, social, and cultural processes, expectant management, using interventions only when indicated, strengthening woman's capabilities				
Care Providers	Practitioners who combine clinical knowledge and skills with interpersonal and cultural competence – division of roles and responsibilities based on need, competencies, resources				

# PELL Data Systems



# PELL Longitudinal Data



# PELL Core Data: 1998 - 2018

<b>Linked (21 years)</b>	
Total Live Births	1,633,370
Total Fetal Deaths	8,130
Total Mass. Res. Deliv. in Mass. Hospitals	1,553,646
Total Mass. Residents	948,643
Repeat Mothers	457,631
Repeat Mothers 1st birth in PELL	387,307

NOTE: Includes all births to MA residents (in and out of state) and in state births to non-MA residents

# Advantages of PELL as Linked Data

- Population-based with 21 years of data
- Individual-level data previously available only on an encounter basis (hospital discharge)
- Longitudinal linkage allows a life course analysis of children's health up to 20 years old
- Measurement refinement – diversity of datasets allows for the refinements of measures of maternal, infant & child health (e.g. BC on race; HD better for L&D procedures & severe morbidity)

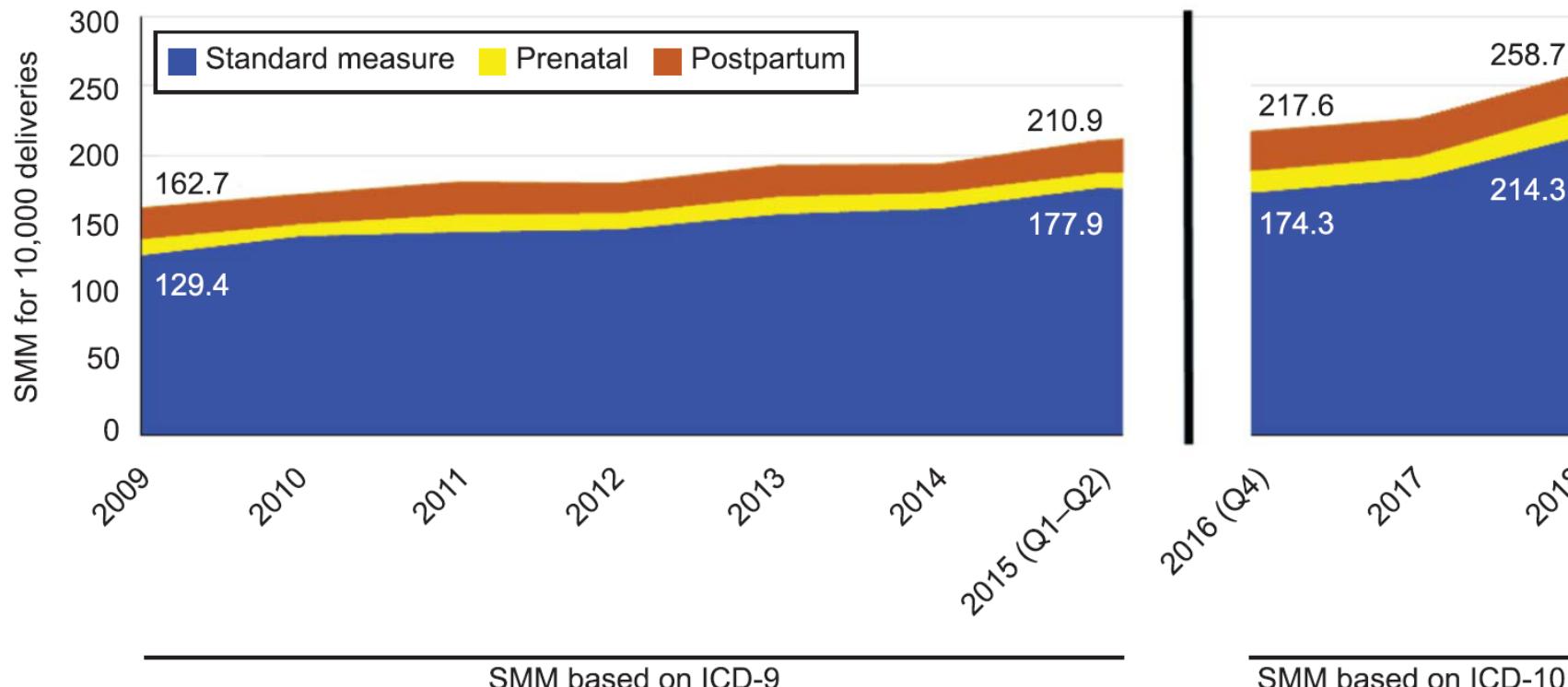
# Working with PELL Data

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# Using Longitudinally Linked Data to Measure Severe Maternal Morbidity

Eugene R. Declercq, PhD, Howard J. Cabral, PhD, MPH, Xiaohui Cui, PhD, Chia-Ling Liu, ScD, MPH, Ndidiama Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH, Elysia Larson, ScD, MPH, Audra Meadows, MD, MPH, and Hafsatou Diop, MD, MPH

*Obstet Gynecol* 2022;139:165–71



Identified 21.9% more cases of SMM in prenatal and ppm periods, led by cases of sepsis.

# Listening to Mothers (III & CA)

## Listening to Mothers in California:

A POPULATION-BASED SURVEY OF WOMEN'S CHILDBEARING EXPERIENCES



FULL SURVEY REPORT

Carol Sakala  
Eugene R. Declercq  
Jessica M. Turon  
Maureen P. Corry

SEPTEMBER 2018

## Listening to Mothers™ III Pregnancy and Birth



Report of the Third National U.S. Survey of Women's Childbearing Experiences



Eugene R. Declercq  
Carol Sakala  
Maureen P. Corry  
Sandra Applebaum  
Ariel Herrlich

## Listening to Mothers™ III New Mothers Speak Out



Report of National Surveys of Women's Childbearing Experiences  
Conducted October – December 2012 and January – April 2013



Eugene R. Declercq  
Carol Sakala  
Maureen P. Corry  
Sandra Applebaum  
Ariel Herrlich

June 2013

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# Listening to Mothers

- 30-minute postpartum surveys at national or state (CA) level of a representative sample (~1,500-2,500) of birthing people
- Developed to fill in an existing gap in PRAMS survey by looking in-depth at birthing experience from the birthing person perspective
- Explores prenatal mental health; experience and perceptions of treatments in L&D; postpartum transition to parenthood and return to work; social supports; attitudes toward birth
- Data is made available to researchers

# The Rise of the Big Baby



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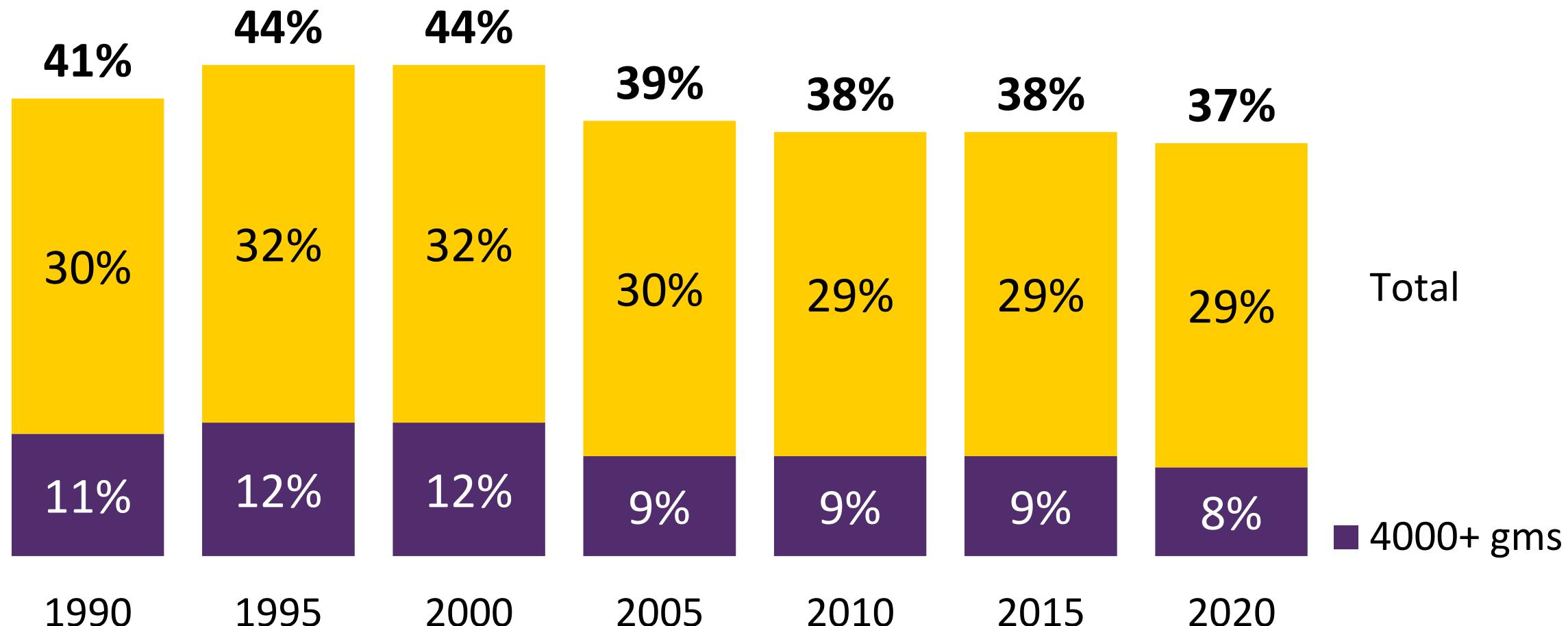
# Reasons Why Mothers Experienced Medical Induction

Base: care provider tried to induce labor n=991	
Baby was full term/close to due date	44%
Mother wanted to get pregnancy over with	19%
Care provider was concerned that mother was “overdue”	18%
Maternal health problem that required quick delivery	18%
<b>MATERNITY CARE PROVIDER WORRIED THE BABY WAS TOO BIG</b>	16%
Water had broken and there was a concern about infection	12%
Mother wanted to control timing of birth for work or other personal reasons	11%
Care provider was concerned that amniotic fluid around the baby was low	11%
Care provider was concerned that baby was not doing well	10%
Mother wanted to give birth with a specific provider	10%
Some other reason	10%

Source: Listening to Mothers 3

# Are U.S. Babies Getting Bigger?...NO!

*% Singleton, Full Term Babies by Birthweight, U. S., 1990-2020*



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics.  
VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm>. (Accessed 12/23/15)

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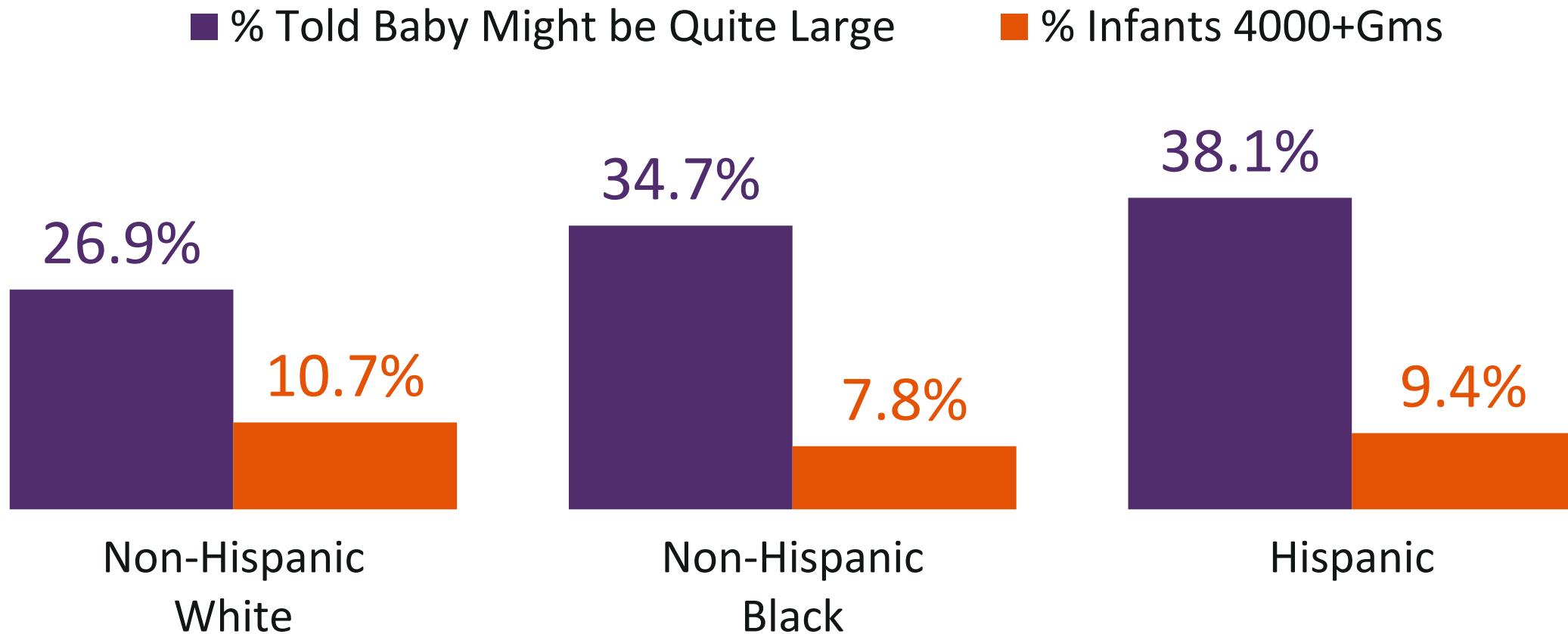
# What's with these Big Babies?

*Near the end of your pregnancy, did your maternity care provider tell you that your baby might be getting quite large?*

<b>31.2% YES</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Actual Weight</b>	7 lbs 5 ounces	7 lbs 14 ounces	7 lbs 1 ounce
<b>Baby Actually Macrosomic (8lb 13ounces)</b>	9.9%	<b>19.7%</b>	5.5%

Source: Cheng et al. Healthcare Utilization of Mothers with Suspected Large Babies. *MCH Journal*. 2015. 19:2578–2586

# Disparities in Who Gets Told their Baby Might be “Quite Large”



Source: Listening to Mothers 3

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# What's the Impact of Being Told You Might Have a Big Baby? Labor and Delivery Outcomes

Suspected Large Baby		Significance (*** p < 0.001)	
	Yes	No	
Tried Self Induction of Labor	43.0%	24.7%	***
Medical Induction of Labor	70.1%	51.1%	***
Cesarean Delivery	21.1%	18.1%	
Epidural Analgesia	72.7%	61.7%	***
Requested Cesarean Section	32.5%	6.8%	***

Source: Cheng et al. MCH Journal. 2015. 19:2578–2586

*BirthByTheNumbers.org*

PARENTING

## When a Big Baby Isn't So Big

By Roni Caryn Rabin    January 11, 2016 3:36 pm

**Were You Told You Were Having a Big Baby? Tell Us About It.**

**Were You Told You Were Having a Big Baby? Tell Us About It.**

Required fields are marked with an asterisk.

PARENTING

# Let Me Tell You About My Big Baby

By Roni Caryn Rabin    January 21, 2016 7:00 am

What happens when a doctor predicts the wrong birth weight?

My article last week about birth weight predictions and the impact they have on childbirth generated a lively online discussion, drawing responses from over 1,100 mothers with a wide variety of birth experiences.

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# [www.birthbythenumbers.org](http://www.birthbythenumbers.org)



**Isabelle**



**Sam**



**Lee**



**Maya**



**Ruby**



**Corey**



**Lucy**



**Staige**



**Jordy**



**Christina**



**Kylia**



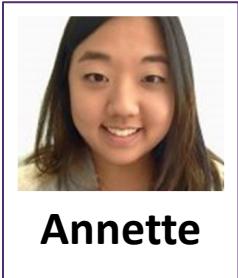
**Sarah**



**Katie**



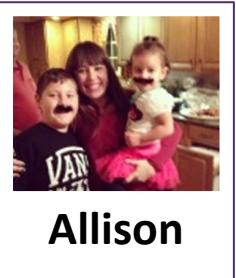
**Sheridan**



**Annette**



**Ebere**



**Allison**



**Jessica**



**Veronica**



**Kali**



**Brittany**

Email: [birthbynumbers@gmail.com](mailto:birthbynumbers@gmail.com)

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# Maternal and Infant Health Quality Improvement Initiative

**Kristen Zycherman, RN, BSN**  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and CHIP Services



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# Overview



- Medicaid and Maternal and Infant Health
- Background on Quality Measurement and the Maternal and Infant Health Initiative
- Improving Postpartum Care
- Improving Maternal Health through Reducing Low-Risk Cesarean Sections
- Tobacco Cessation for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Technical Assistance
- Other Maternal and Infant Health Activities

# Medicaid and Maternal Infant Health



- Nearly 2 out of every 3 adult women enrolled in Medicaid are in their reproductive years (ages 19-44)
- Medicaid currently finances about 42% of all births in the United States
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) can play a major role in improving the quality of maternity care, birth outcomes and in measuring how care is delivered to pregnant and postpartum people
- CMS is in a unique position to improve perinatal outcomes and reduce disparities through quality measurement and quality improvement

# Quality Measurement



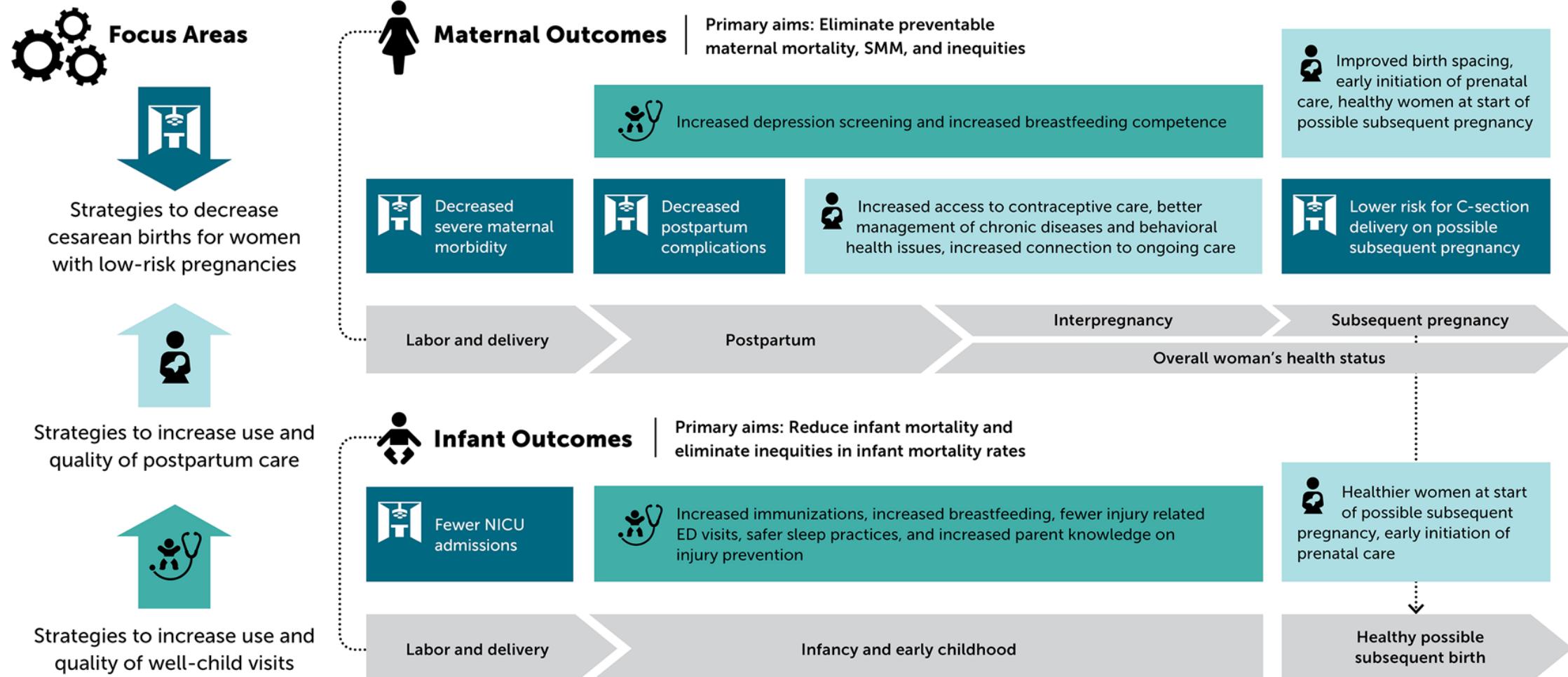
- The data and measurement efforts of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) help CMS and states to better understand the quality of health care received by Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries
- CMS identified Core Set measures for voluntary reporting by state Medicaid and CHIP agencies to support maternal and perinatal health-focused efforts
- The 2022 Maternity Core Set, which consists of six measures from the Child Core Set and three measures from the Adult Core Set, is a resource for CMS and states to measure progress toward improving maternal and perinatal health in Medicaid and CHIP
- More information about state reporting of these maternal and perinatal measures and the 2022 Maternity Core Set is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/improvement-initiatives/maternal-infant-health/data-and-measurement/index.html>
- Reporting on the Child Core Set measures and Behavioral Health measures in the Adult Core Set will become mandatory in 2024

# Maternal and Infant Health Initiative

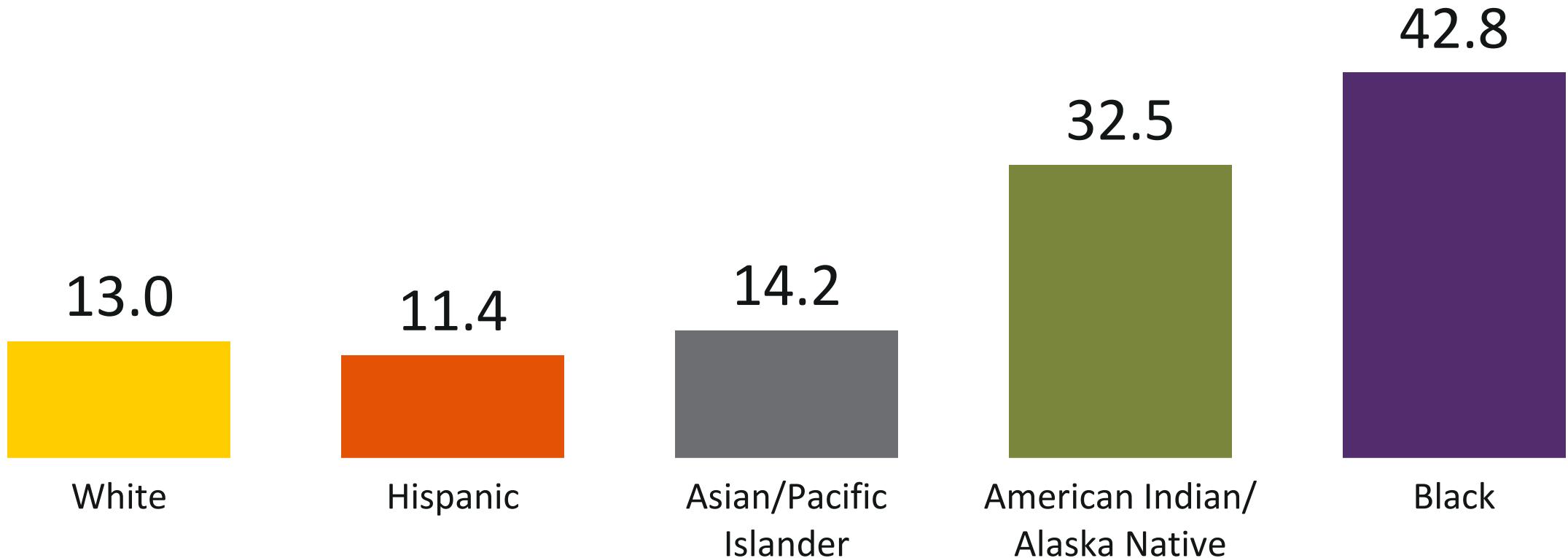


- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the Maternal and Infant Health Initiative (MIHI) in July 2014 to improve access to and quality of care for pregnant and postpartum persons and their infants
- Initially, the MIHI focused on improving the rate and quality of postpartum visits and increasing the use of effective methods of contraception based on recommendations from a CMS Expert Panel on Improving Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- In 2019-2020, CMS convened an MIH expert workgroup to provide updated recommendations about where Medicaid and CHIP have a significant opportunity to influence change in maternal and infant health
- In December 2020, CMS launched the next phase of the MIHI to support state Medicaid and CHIP agencies in their efforts to improve maternal and infant health through a series of learning collaboratives.

# Focus Areas to Improve Maternal and Infant Health Quality

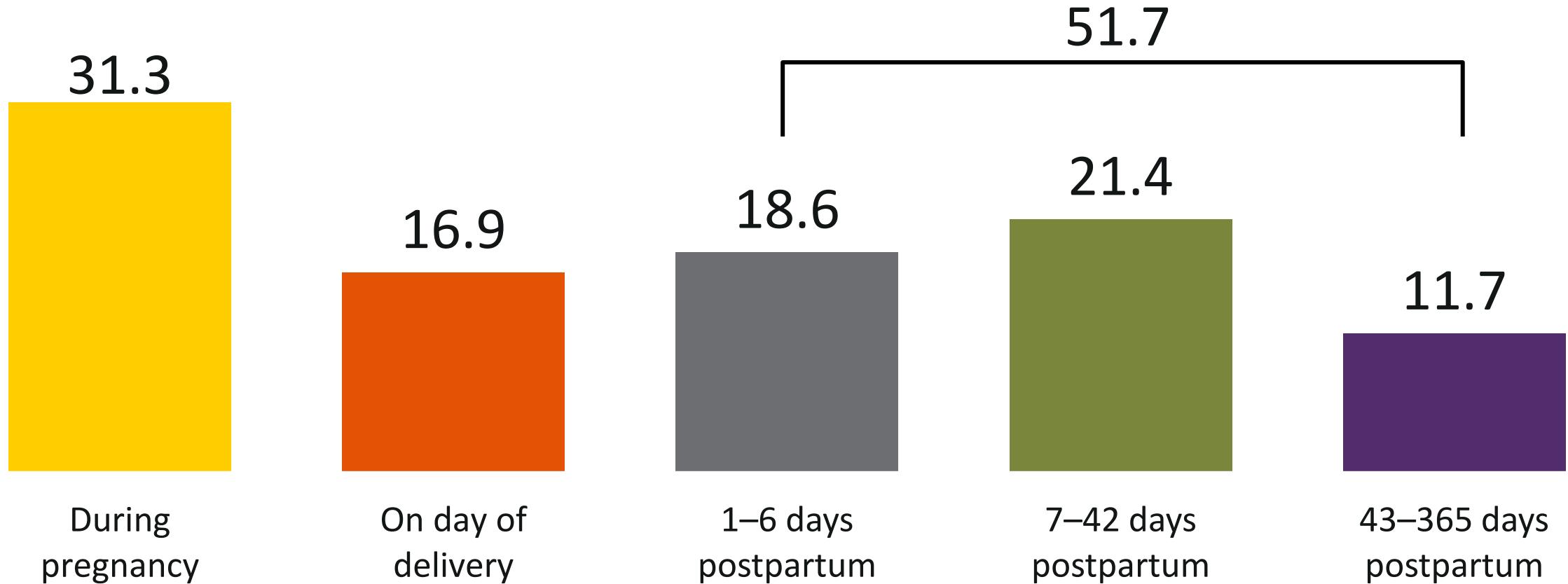


# Pregnancy Related Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity, U.S 2011- 2015



Source: Petersen, E. E., N.L. Davis, D. Goodman, et al. "Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011–2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013–2017." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 68, no. 18, 2019, pp. 423–429.

# Timing of Pregnancy Related Deaths, 2011-2015



Source: Petersen, E. E., N.L. Davis, D. Goodman, et al. "Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011–2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013–2017." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 68, no. 18, 2019, pp. 423–429.

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# Evolving Concept of Postpartum Care



## **Expansion of the postpartum care period beyond a single six-week postpartum check**

All birthing people have contact with their health care providers within the first three weeks postpartum.

Initial visit followed by individualized ongoing care including a comprehensive postpartum visit no later than 12 weeks after birth.

Timely follow-up care with providers for women with pregnancy complications or chronic medical conditions.

## **Expansion of the scope of care includes recovery from childbirth and assessment of**

(1) physical, social, and psychological well-being; (2) infant care and feeding; (3) reproductive health; (4) sleep and fatigue; (5) chronic disease management; and (6) health maintenance

**Discrimination, systemic inequities, and social determinants of health contribute to poor postpartum outcomes for Black birthing persons and other people of color.**

Sources:

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. ACOG Opinion Number 736. "Optimizing Postpartum Care." *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, vol. 131, no. 5, 2018, pp. e140–e150.

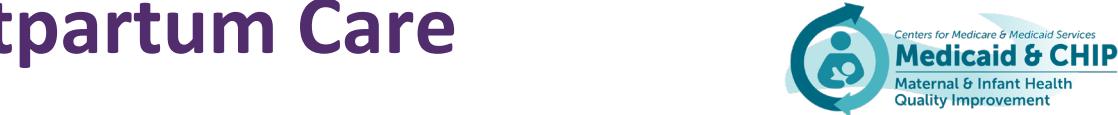
Muse S. "Setting the Standard for Holistic Care of and for Black Women." Black Mamas Matter Alliance. Black Paper. April 2018.

# Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Postpartum Care (Adult Core Set)

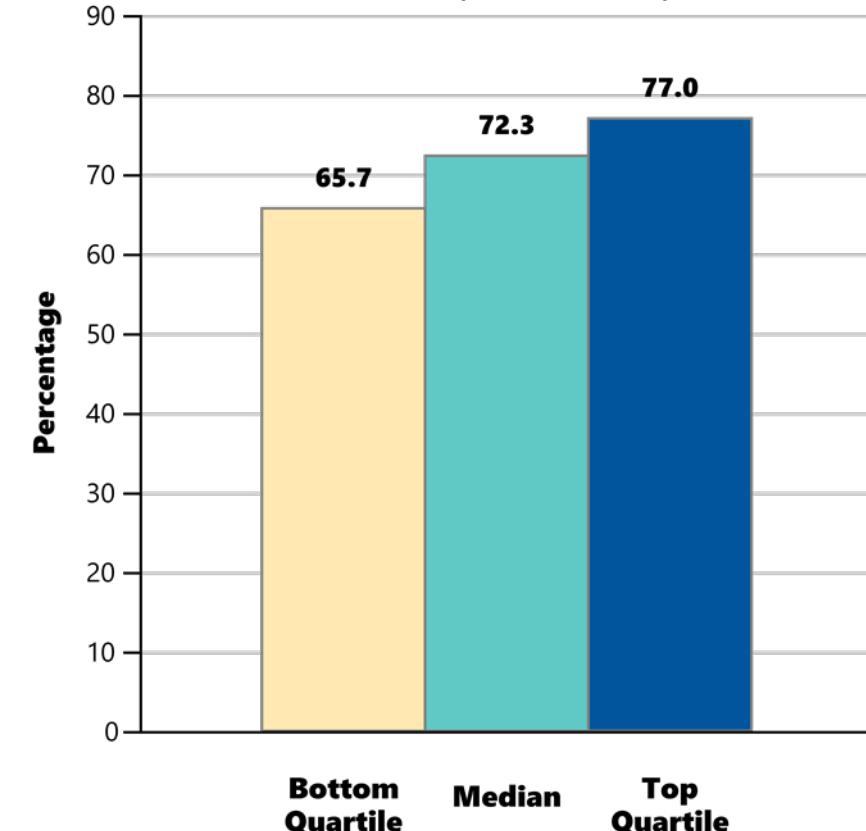
## A Median of 72 percent

The postpartum care measure assesses how often women delivering a live birth received timely postpartum care (between 7 and 84 days after delivery).

Postpartum visits provide an opportunity to assess women's physical recovery from pregnancy and childbirth, and to address chronic health conditions (such as diabetes and hypertension), mental health status (including postpartum depression), and family planning (including contraception and interconception counseling).



Percentage of Women Delivering a Live Birth who had a Postpartum Care Visit on or Between 7 and 84 Days after Delivery (PPC-AD), FFY 2020 (n = 39 states)



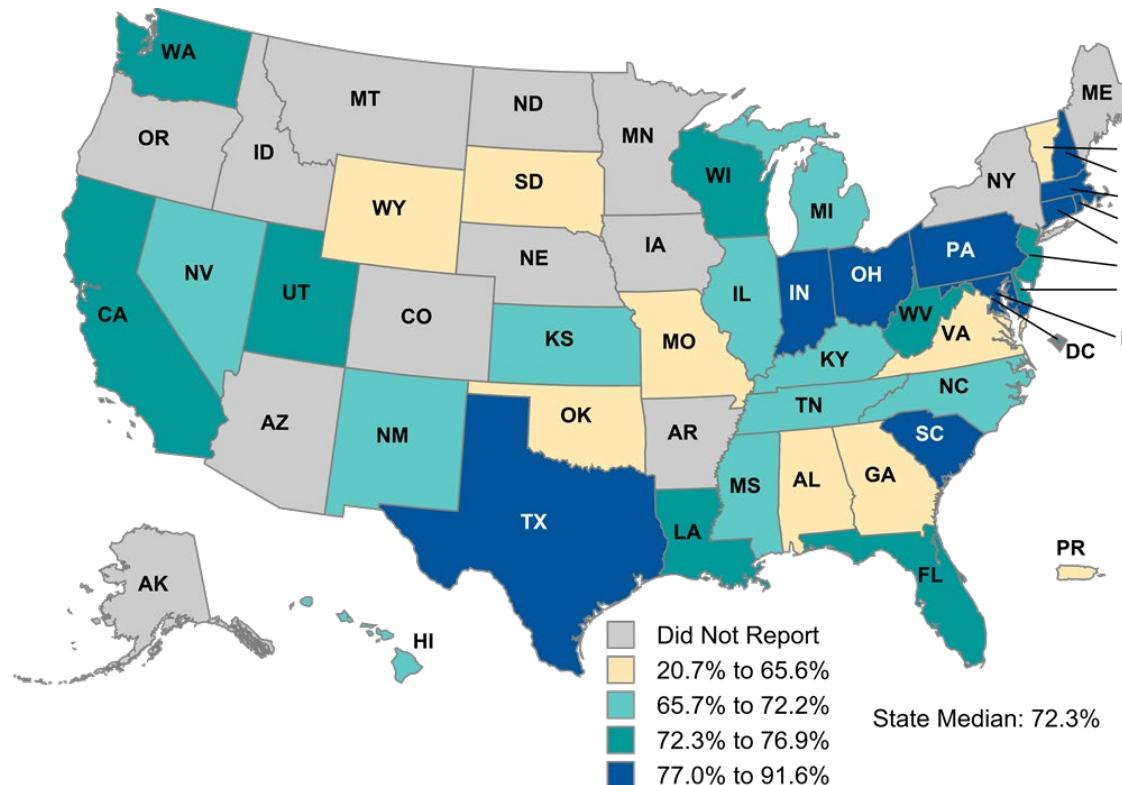
Source: Mathematica analysis of MACPro reports for the FFY 2020 reporting cycle as of June 18, 2021.

Notes: This measure shows the percentage of deliveries of live births on or between October 8 of the year prior to the measurement year and October 7 of the measurement year that had a postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery. Specifications for this measure changed substantially for FFY 2020 and rates are not comparable with rates for previous years. This chart excludes Minnesota and Oregon, which reported the measure but did not use Core Set specifications.

# Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Postpartum Care (Adult Core Set) (continued)



Geographic Variation in the Percentage of Women Delivering a Live Birth who had a Postpartum Care Visit on or Between 7 and 84 Days after Delivery (PPC-AD), FFY 2020 (n = 39 states)



Source: Mathematica analysis of MACPro reports for the FFY 2020 reporting cycle as of June 18, 2021.

Note: This chart excludes Minnesota and Oregon, which reported the measure but did not use Core Set specifications.

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# Addressing Specific Postpartum Needs



- Medicaid enrollees are more likely to smoke during pregnancy and have chronic diseases compared with uninsured and privately insured individuals
- By ensuring individuals have access to the contraceptive method of their choice, and the support necessary to use their chosen method effectively, states can support not only the health of beneficiaries and their children, but also reduce the number of unintended pregnancies
- People of color and low-income individuals have the highest rates of postpartum depression
- Individuals with public insurance have lower breastfeeding rates than those with private insurance
- Oral health during and after pregnancy affects the health of both the postpartum individual and the infant

# Postpartum Care Learning Collaborative



## Webinar series

- Webinar 1: Maintaining Coverage and Access to Care During the Postpartum Period
- Webinar 2: Improving the Content of Care During the Postpartum Period
- Webinar 3: Models of Women-Centered Care

Recordings of webinars are available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/improvement-initiatives/maternal-infant-health/quality-improvement/postpartum-care/index.html>.

## Postpartum Care Affinity Group

Action-oriented affinity group that is supporting nine state Medicaid and CHIP programs and their partners in the design and implementation of data-driven quality improvement (QI) projects to improve postpartum care.

Participating states (9): KS, TX, OK, WY, MO, KY, SC, MT, GA

# Reducing Low-Risk Cesarean Delivery



One factor associated with rising maternal morbidity is the increased use of cesarean sections.

For births paid for by Medicaid in 2018, the overall cesarean rate was 31.7% and the cesarean rate among low-risk pregnancies was 24.9%.\*

Low-risk pregnancies are defined as nulliparous (first-time pregnancies), term (37 or more weeks gestation), singleton (one fetus), vertex (head facing down in the birth canal) or “NTSV births.” Includes those that are first-time, term (ending in a birth at 37 weeks or greater gestation), a single baby, and with the baby in the vertex or head down position (NTSV).

Cesarean section for women with low-risk pregnancies is an overused procedure that has not led to better outcomes for infants or women. Maternal complications include infections, blood clots, and the need for an emergency hysterectomy.

Following the first cesarean, there is about a 10 percent likelihood of a subsequent vaginal delivery\*\* and women with a history of previous cesarean births have a higher risk of maternal morbidity.\*\*\*

\* National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). 2018 Natality Public Use File.

\*\*Osterman, M.J.K., and J.A. Martin. “Trends in Low-risk Cesarean Delivery in the United States,1990–2013.” National Vital Statistics Reports, vol. 63, no. 6, 2014.

\*\*\*Curtin, S.C., K.D. Gregory, L.M. Korst, and S.F.G. Uddin. “Maternal Morbidity for Vaginal and Cesarean Deliveries, According to Previous Cesarean History: New Data from the Birth Certificate, 2013.” National Vital Statistics Reports, vol. 64, no. 4, 2015.

# Low-Risk (NTSV) Cesarean Delivery Data



- PC-02: Cesarean Birth measure has never been publicly reported by CMS due to the low number of states reporting the measure.
- The Low-Risk Cesarean Delivery (LRCD-CH) measure replaced the PC-02: Cesarean Birth measure in the 2021 Child Core Set.
- To reduce state burden and report a cesarean birth measure consistently across all states, CMS will calculate the LRCD-CH measure on behalf of states using National Vital Statistics System Natality data that are submitted by states and obtained through CDC Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) starting in FFY 2021.

# Low-Risk Cesarean Delivery Learning Collaborative



In March, CMCS launched a learning collaborative focused on reducing cesarean section births among low-risk pregnancies to ensure birthing people and their babies have healthy birth outcomes and avoid the increased risks postpartum and in subsequent pregnancies.

The first webinar took place March 31, 2022, and dates for the subsequent webinars will be announced soon.

Expression of Interest forms for participation in the affinity group will be due June 31, 2022.

The Low-Risk Cesarean Delivery learning collaborative will include:

- A series of webinars on effective strategies to lower the rates of low-risk cesarean deliveries closer to the recommended rate in Healthy People 2030
- An action-oriented affinity group to support states in developing and implementing QI projects to reduce the rate of low-risk cesarean deliveries

# Tobacco Cessation for Pregnant and Postpartum Women



Smoking during pregnancy can harm the health of both the mother and the infant. Women covered under Medicaid are three times more likely to smoke during the last trimester of pregnancy than privately-insured women.

CMCS has launched new tobacco cessation technical assistance resources on Medicaid.gov including:

- On-demand series of short, recorded programs featuring subject matter experts and descriptions of successful state strategies to help Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries be smoke-free during pregnancy and after delivery: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/quality-improvement-initiatives/tobacco-cessation/technical-assistance/index.html>
- Resources to support tobacco cessation, including driver diagrams, change activities and project management tools (coming soon!)
- Option for quality improvement coaching by request

# CMS Maternal and Infant Health Activities



## Postpartum coverage extension guidance

- Sections 9812 and 9822 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2) give states a new option to provide 12 months of extended postpartum coverage to pregnant individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP beginning April 1, 2022. The State Health Official (SHO) letter is to provide guidance to states on implementation of this new state option, including considerations for ensuring access to equitable, quality care. CMS has also approved demonstrations to extend postpartum coverage through 1115 waiver authority: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho21007.pdf>

## The Maternity Core Set

- CMS identified a core set measures for voluntary reporting by state Medicaid and CHIP agencies, to support our maternal and perinatal health-focused efforts.
- The 2022 Maternity Core Set, which consists of 6 measures from CMS's Child Core Sets and 4 measures from the Adult Core Set, will be used by CMS to measure and evaluate progress toward improvement of maternal and perinatal health in Medicaid and CHIP, and is available on Medicaid.gov at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/improvement-initiatives/maternal-infant-health/data-and-measurement/index.html>

# CMS Maternal and Infant Health Activities



## Equity Assessment

- CMS conducted an assessment of the equity of the quality of care in the postpartum period among Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) postpartum women and birthing persons

## Challenge.gov Prize Competition

- Based on the findings of the CMS Equity Assessment on Equity in Postpartum Care, CMS partnered with the Office of Women's Health to produce the HHS Postpartum Equity in Care Challenge
- This Challenge prize competition aims to identify innovative strategies to improve postpartum care for Black and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) postpartum individuals and it has a particular emphasis on follow-up care for conditions associated with maternal morbidity and mortality in the postpartum period. Challenge entries will serve as examples of effective programs and practices to reduce disparities and improve outcomes for postpartum Black or African American and AI/AN women
- These examples will inform CMS technical assistance to state Medicaid and CHIP agencies as they work to improve equity in postpartum care and outcomes
- <https://www.challenge.gov/?challenge=hhs-postpartum-equity-in-care-challenge>

# CMS Maternal and Infant Health Activities



## Maternal Health Agency Priority Goal

- Improve maternal health and reduce disparities nationwide and globally by assuring the equitable provision of evidence-based high-quality care and addressing social determinants of health, including racism, discrimination, and other biases, across the life course

## Maternal Health Action Plan

- <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/public-health/hhs-initiative-improve-maternal-health#maternal-health>
- Targets:
  - Reduce the maternal mortality rate by 50 percent in 5 years
  - Reduce the low-risk cesarean delivery rate by 25 percent in 5 years
  - Achieve blood pressure control in 80 percent of women of reproductive age with hypertension in 5 years

# CMS Maternal and Infant Health Activities



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  - Reduce the low-risk cesarean delivery rate by 25 percent in 5 years
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# Resources



MIHI webpage: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/improvement-initiatives/maternal-infant-health-care-quality/index.html>

Maternal and Infant Health Beneficiary Profile:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/mih-beneficiary-profile.pdf>

Maternal and Infant Health Expert Workgroup Report of Recommendations:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/mih-expert-workgroup-recommendations.pdf>

Maternity Core Set information: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/improvement-initiatives/maternal-infant-health/data-and-measurement/index.html>

# Generate Health St. Louis

**Sarah Kennedy, MPH**

Senior Manager of Epidemiology & Evaluation, Generate Health STL

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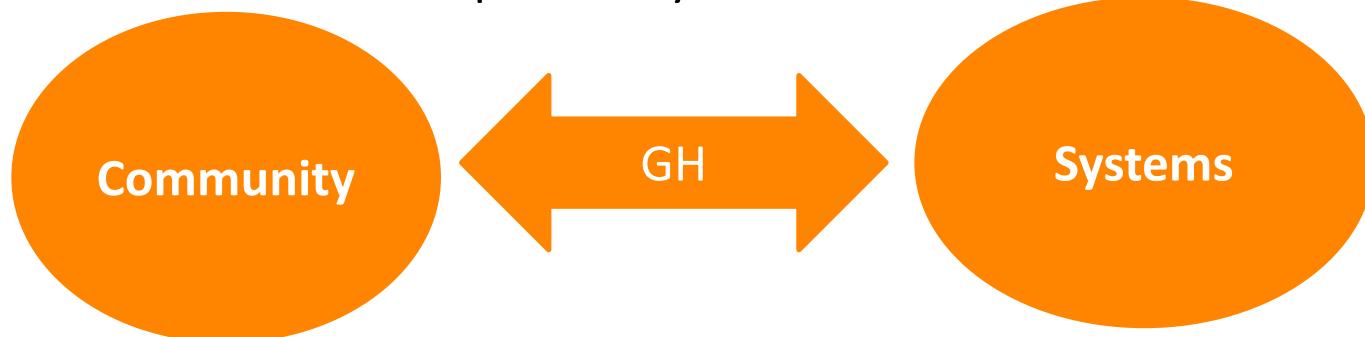
# Generate Health St. Louis

## OUR MISSION

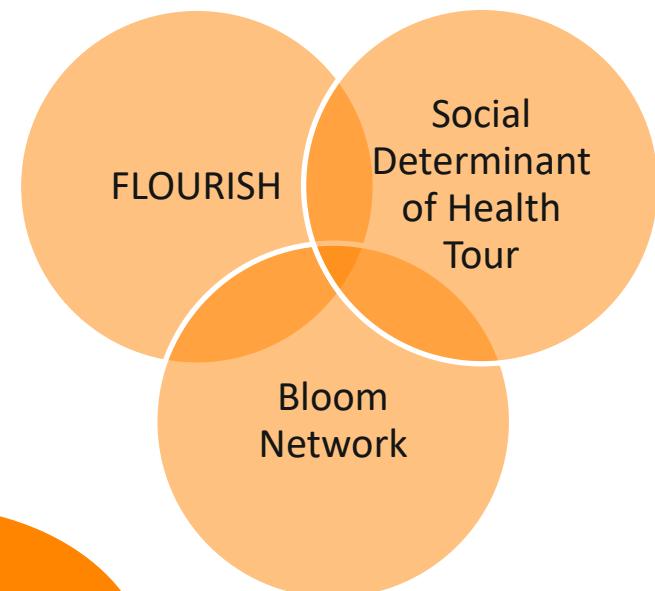
Generate Health mobilizes and inspires the St. Louis region to advance racial equity in pregnancy outcomes, family well-being, and community health.

## INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION

- Illuminate the root causes of racial disparities
- Advocate for the redirection of resources to eliminate racial disparities
- Catalyze action within the ecosystem
- Advance regional accountability for equitable systems



## GENERATE HEALTH INITIATIVES



# Collective Impact Data & Evaluation

## 5 Conditions of Collective Impact



### Typical Focus of Program Evaluation

Assessing the impact of a specific intervention

Evaluating effects and impact according to a predetermined set of outcomes

Using logic models that imply cause and effect, and linear relationships

Providing findings at the end of the evaluation

### Evaluating CI as a Complex Intervention

Assessing multiple parts of the system, including its components and connections

Evaluating intended and unintended outcomes as they emerge over time

Evaluating non-linear and non-directional relationships between the intervention and its outcomes

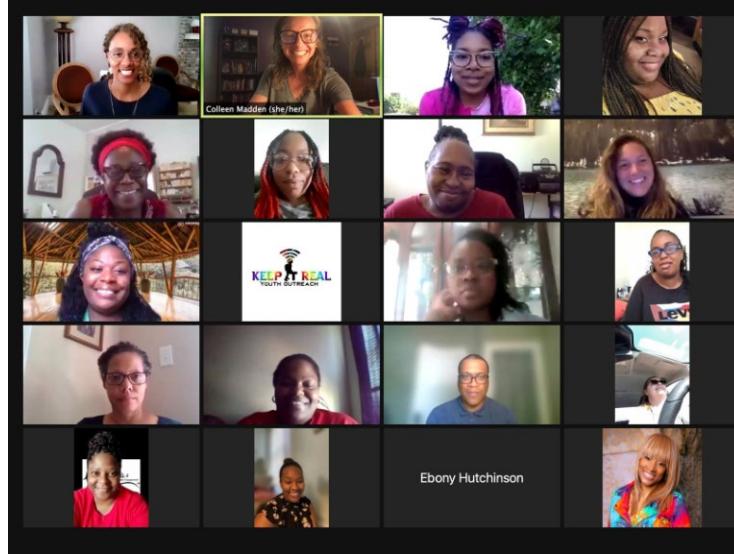
Embedding feedback and learning through the evaluation

**Emphasis on Qualitative Data Collection**

# FLOURISH Infant Mortality Initiative



**North Star: Eliminate racial disparities in infant mortality by 2033**



## FLOURISH Priorities

Safe Sleep

Coordinated Quality Care

Social Determinants of Health

Racial Equity Capacity Building



Alisa Bennett Hart

Sam Blue

Mia Daugherty

Marion Davis



Alecia Deal

Jessica Douglass

Donna Givenz

LaTosha Halk



Rosetta Jackson

Meloney Jones-White

LaTonya Neely

Jay Omukogu



Rose Fennell

Sharron Prather

Tiffany Robinson

Fern Scott



Shavanna Spratt

ShaRhonda Thompson

Mia Turner

Shanette Upchurch

**Community  
Leaders Cabinet**

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# FLOURISH Priority-Social Determinants of Health

## Transportation

- Community Leader Stories shaped an understanding about the reality of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT)
- Engagement Sessions with systems leaders and community members helped reimagine a better system
- Data Work Group reviewed Managed Care data to understand how NEMT affects Health Outcomes of their consumers
- Complaint Survey collected information about times when the NEMT system failed a patient
- Maps and inventory of bus stop structures, bus routes, neighborhood walkability in FLOURISH's high impact zip codes

## Housing

- Story Elevation & Advocacy when community members brought attention to parents not practicing safe sleep because of mice infestation of a housing complex
- Photovoice Project for pregnant and parenting women to highlight their living conditions within a housing complex



The  
**BUILD  
HEALTH**  
Challenge



FLOURISH ST. LOUIS: IMPROVING  
TRANSPORTATION ACCESS TO HELP  
MOTHERS AND BABIES THRIVE  
BUILD HEALTH CHALLENGE FINAL REPORT

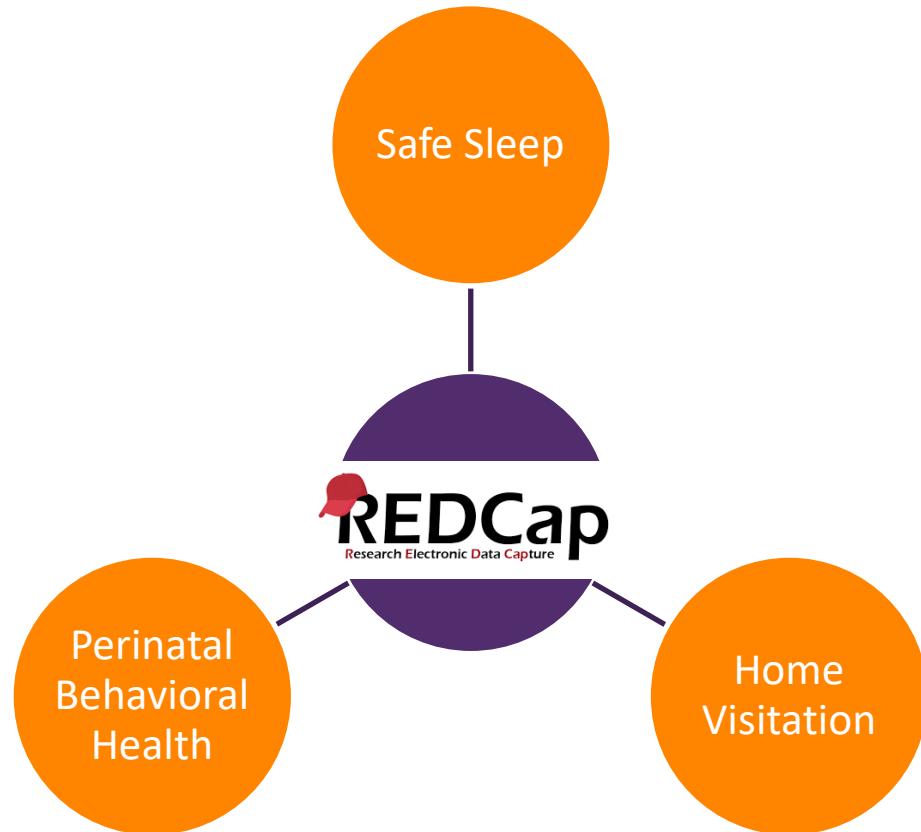


SEGREGATION IN ST. LOUIS: DISMANTLING THE DIVIDE



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# FLOURISH Priority- Coordinated Quality Care & Safe Sleep



## Community Information Exchange



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# FLOURISH Priority- Racial Equity Capacity Building



## Community Led Investments



- Capacity building around various topics offered, including evaluation
- Project outcomes data collected & transformed into summary dashboard

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# FLOURISH Data Visualization Project

## Community Data Sessions



## Infographic Series



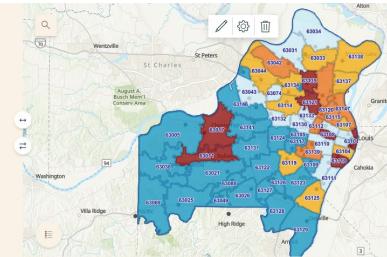
## Mini Dashboards

Housing	Home Ownership
<p>Black pregnant and parenting families in St. Louis experience stress due to housing cost, housing availability and lack of resources in neighborhoods. Stressors such as high rent costs, evictions, over-crowding and lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities can cause health problems. Pregnant people and their families need quality, affordable housing and landlords that will accommodate their needs so they can spend time caring for their baby rather than worrying about housing.</p> <p><a href="#">+ View Image</a></p> <p></p> <p><b>Housing Challenges Infographic</b></p>	<a href="#">+</a>
<p>Severe Housing Costs Burden</p>	<a href="#">+</a>
<p>Severe Housing Problems</p>	<a href="#">+</a>
<p>Evictions</p>	<a href="#">+</a>

## Story Map

### The Problem: Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is the number of babies that die before their first birthday. In a system designed for White women that does not give the same consideration to Black women's health. Black babies in St. Louis have an infant mortality rate 2.6 times higher White babies. Scroll down to see maps for the leading causes of infant death: preterm birth, low birthweight, and inadequate



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# Resources for Data Collaboration



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# Contact Information



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[www.flourishstlouis.org](http://www.flourishstlouis.org)

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# Using Legal Services to Address and Improve Maternal Health Outcomes

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

**S. Roxana Richardson, Esq.**

Medical-Legal Partnership Director and Managing Attorney  
Perinatal Legal Assistance and Well-being Project  
Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance

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# Table of Contents

- I. The Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) Model & Health-Harming Legal Needs
- II. The Research Base-What We Know About the Impact of MLP
- III. The Potential for MLP Intervention during the Perinatal Period
- VI. The Perinatal Legal Assistance & Well-being Project: A Maternal Health MLP

# The Medical-Legal Partnership Model

In a Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP), the health care team works with lawyers to address a subset of social determinants of health, called “health-harming legal needs,” that require legal advocacy to overcome.



# Health-Harming Legal Needs

“A social problem that adversely affects a person's health or access to healthcare, and that is better remedied through joint legal care and healthcare than through healthcare services alone.” - National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership



Original work product of Carly Loughran and the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance. Any reproductions or adaptations of this work product should acknowledge the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance

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# Common Health-Harming Legal Needs of Perinatal Patients

## Work

Job Accommodations

Discrimination

Parental Leave

Family Medical Leave Act

Short-term/Long-term Disability Leave

## Home

Housing Conditions

Housing Accessibility

Eviction

## Family

Custody

Paternity

Child Support

Domestic Violence

Public Benefits/Income Supports

# MLP Research Base – What We Know

Patient Impact	Provider Impact	Health System Impact
<p><b>Healthcare:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Decrease in missed appointments <sup>2,3,18</sup></li><li>● Decrease in treatment interruptions <sup>2,3,18</sup></li><li>● Decrease in ED visits <sup>3,4,8,11</sup></li><li>● Decrease in hospital visits <sup>3,4,8,11,12</sup></li><li>● Improved utilization of primary and preventive care <sup>4</sup></li><li>● Improved treatment adherence <sup>2,4</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Mental and physical health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Alleviation of emotional distress <sup>2</sup></li><li>● Improved mental health <sup>3,7</sup></li><li>● Decreased stress <sup>4,8,10,12</sup></li><li>● Improved physical health <sup>3,8,11,12,13,14</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Overall well-being:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Improved quality of life <sup>2,18</sup></li><li>● Improved patient personal financial situation <sup>5,6</sup></li><li>● Improved well-being <sup>4,9,12,13,15</sup></li></ul>	<p><b>Well-being:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Increased provider satisfaction <sup>16,17</sup></li><li>● Mitigation of provider burnout <sup>16,17</sup></li></ul>	<p><b>Financial:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Financial return on investment (ROI) <sup>14</sup></li><li>● Health care recovery dollars <sup>14,25</sup></li><li>● Increased reimbursement from private and public insurers <sup>14,16,18,19</sup></li><li>● Reduced Charity Care payouts <sup>16</sup></li></ul>

# MLP intervention during prenatal period has the potential to improve health outcomes.

## HEALTH-HARMING LEGAL NEEDS LINKED TO NEGATIVE PERINATAL OUTCOMES



Housing insecurity during pregnancy associated with increased risk of low birthweight and/or preterm birth and extended hospitalization.



Food insecurity/material hardship is associated with perinatal depression and anxiety.



Low birth weight and preterm births are increased among women exposed to domestic violence.

# The Perinatal Legal Assistance & Well-being Project: A Maternal Health MLP

- A partnership between Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance and MedStar Washington Hospital Center's (WHC) Women's and Infants' Services (WIS)
- Provides legal services to pregnant and postpartum WIS patients to address barriers to health and wellbeing
- Trains healthcare teams to identify and refer patients with legal needs to the legal team
- Provides opportunities for Georgetown students to engage in the MLP model
- Evaluates its impact on patients, providers, and the health system to contribute to the MLP evidence base



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# WIS Patient Population at High Risk for Negative Perinatal Health Outcomes

84% of WIS patients are Black

Majority of WIS patients (87%) are unmarried (single, divorced, or widowed)

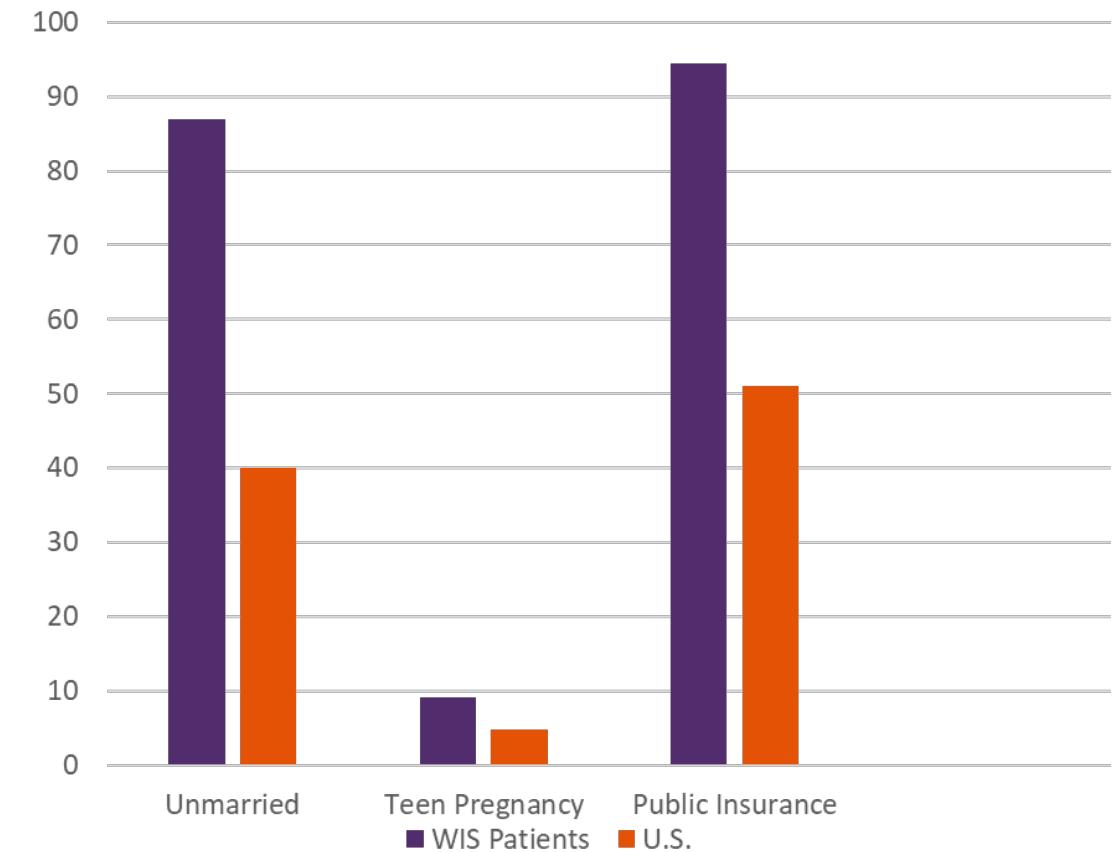
- In the U.S., 40% of births are to unmarried women

More than half of WIS patients live in neighborhoods that are underserved by health and social services (DC Wards 5, 7, and 8)

Teen pregnancy rate at WIS nearly double that of national rate (9% v. 4.8%)

95% of WIS patients are on public insurance

- 51% of births in the U.S. are on public insurance



# Perinatal LAW Project Successes

- Secured a paid extended leave of absence and short-term disability claim for a pregnant patient during a suicidal mental health crisis and connected her to behavioral health services
- By appealing and providing additional evidence that the patient was in fact eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, we reversed an administrative decision that denied a first-time mother facing food insecurity SNAP benefits
- Secured an emergency housing voucher and transfer for a single mother of 6 who was being stalked and harassed at her current home by the family and friends of her ex-partner/abuser

“I had given up and was really thinking that this was it for me. But I put my pride to the side and asked for help and the [team at WIS] put me in contact with you and now I am ready to keep fighting!”

# Evaluating the Impact of the Perinatal LAW Project

1. Evaluation Question: Was receiving legal services associated with improved patient outcomes?

Metrics:

- Patients perceive they were treated with compassion
- Decrease in stress
- Improved appointment attendance
- Improved knowledge of legal rights
- Improved ability to self-advocate
- Improved personal financial situation

2. Evaluation Question: Was interaction with the P-LAW Project associated with improved provider outcomes?

Metrics:

- Increased confidence in legal issue spotting
- Increased competence in legal issue spotting

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# Questions?



**Roxy Richardson, Esq.**



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<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/health-justice-alliance/our-work/perinatal-law-project/>



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# What Are Birthing People in the U.S. Saying?

Highlights from AAMC Center for Health  
Justice's Polling of Birthing People

**Logan Burdette**

Health Policy Intern, AAMC Center for Health Justice

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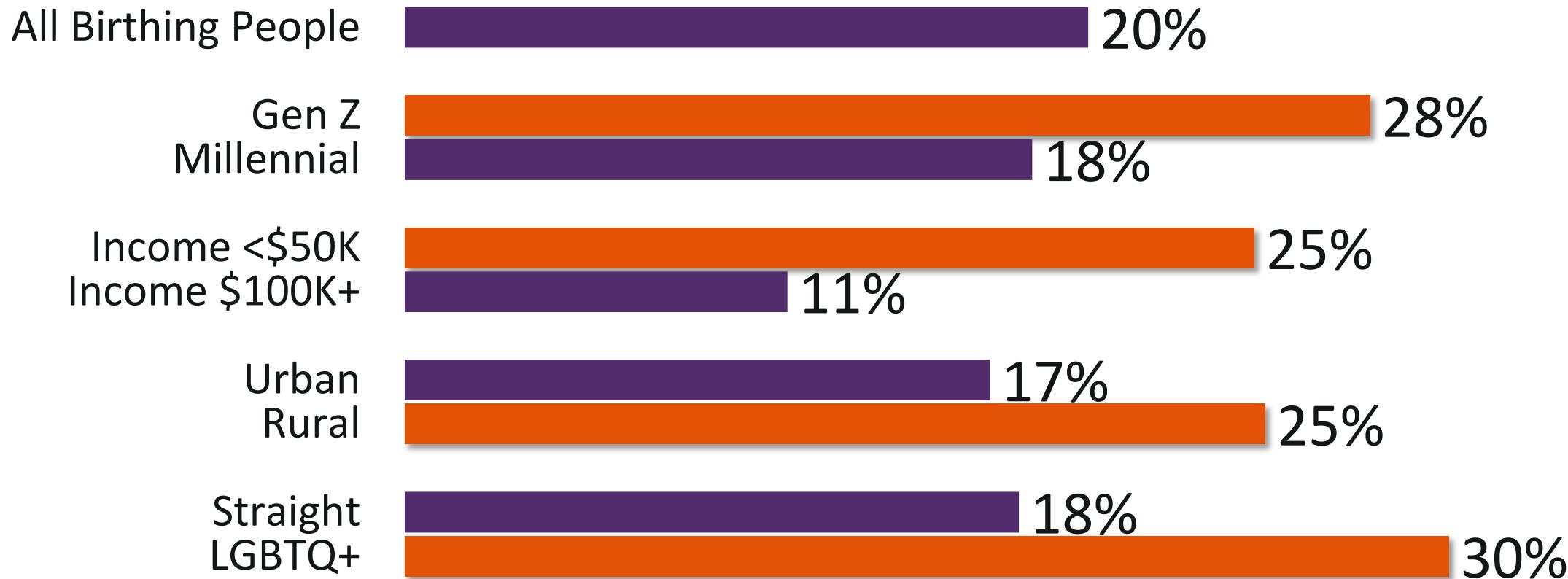
# Polling

Sample: 1,206 birthing people

Conducted from March 29-April 3, 2022

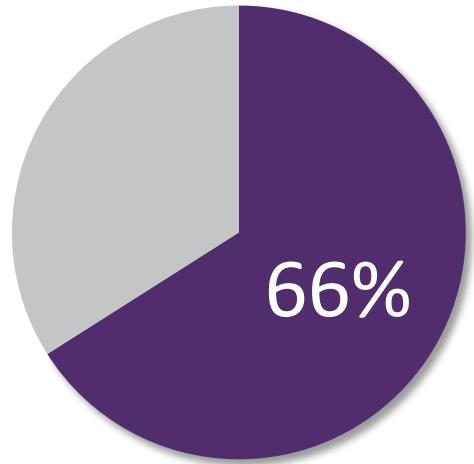
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# Birthing people who reported their most recent birthing experience as 'less than good'

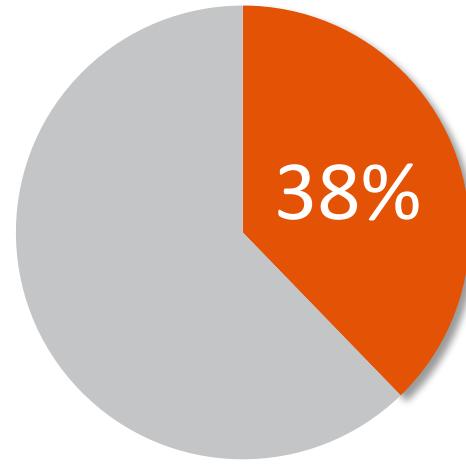


*All demographic groups are significantly different from their comparison groups at the p<0.05 level.*

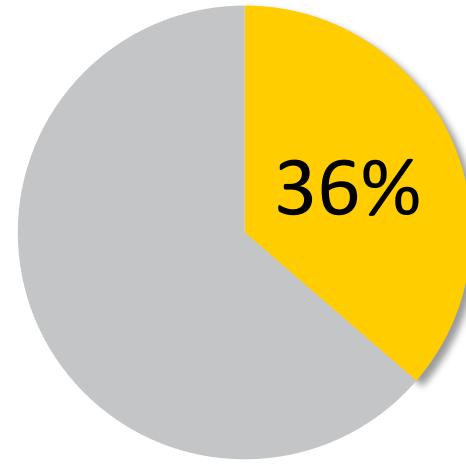
# Birthing people who reported postpartum complications



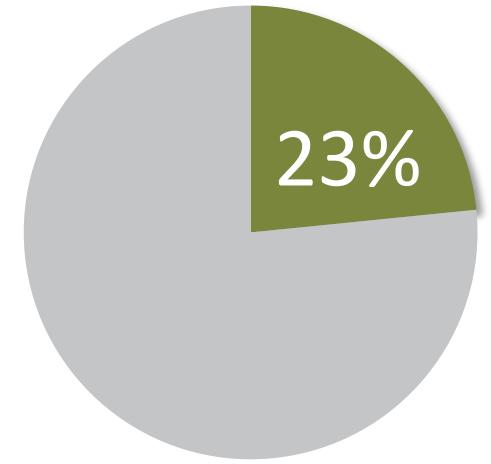
Any Postpartum Complications



Mental Health Complications

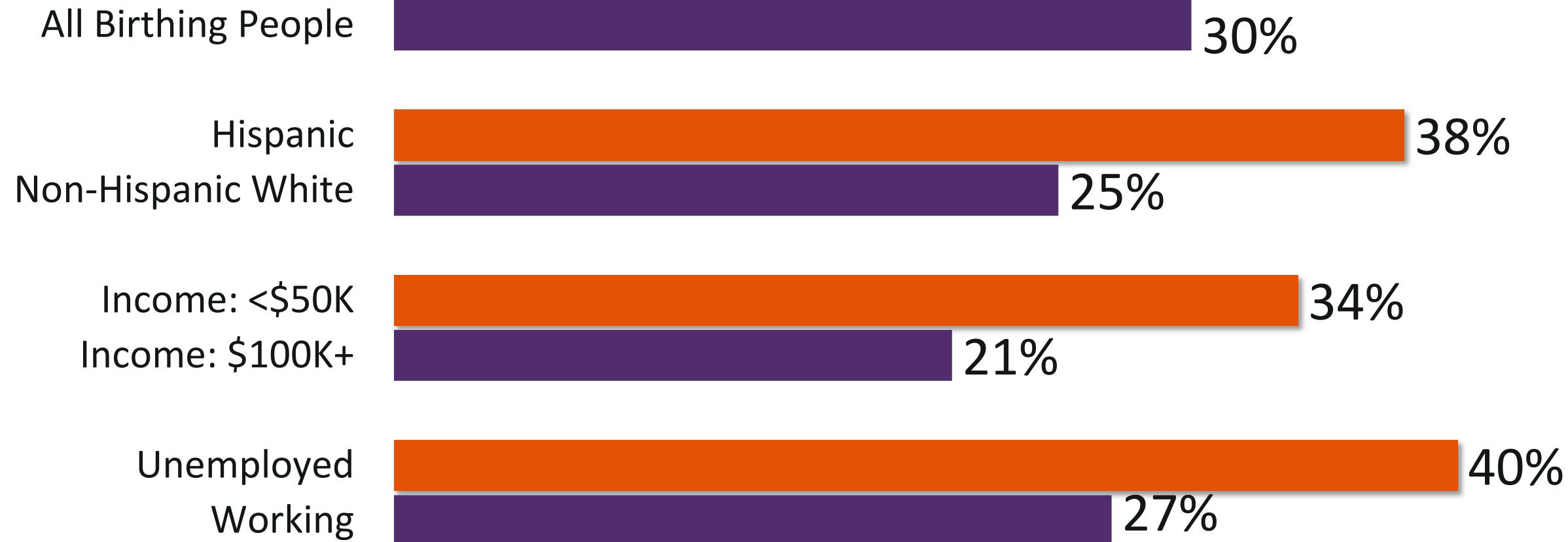


Lactation/  
Breastfeeding Complications



Physical Complications

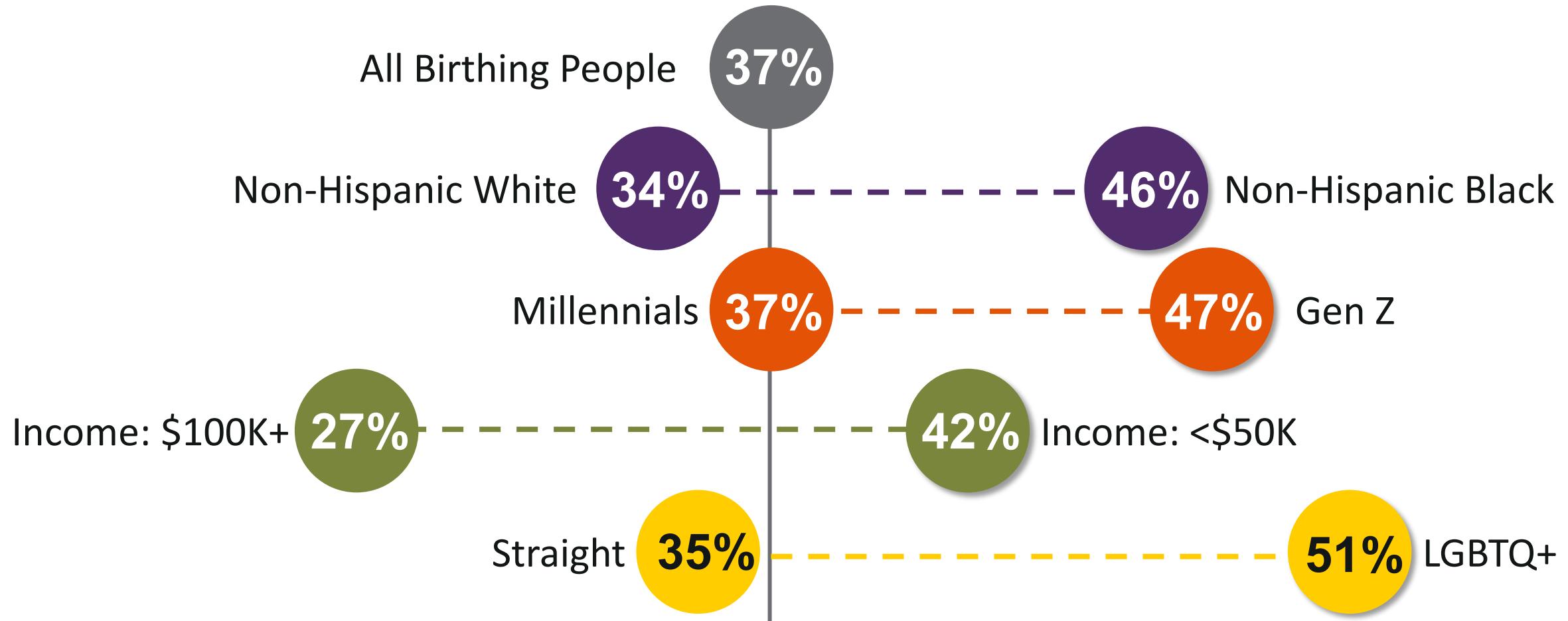
# Birthing people who did NOT receive mental health screenings



*All demographic groups are significantly different from their comparison groups at the  $p<0.05$  level.*

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# Birthing people who felt the quality of their care was impacted by experienced bias and discrimination



*All demographic groups are significantly different from their comparison groups at the  $p<0.05$  level.*

*Did you experience any challenges during pregnancy/labor, or after giving birth, that were caused or made difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, please describe.*

“The pandemic started when my baby was very small, and this made me feel frustrated because of the fear of the virus. Since I don't have help of any kind, not knowing many things about my postpartum and how to take care of my baby, it was difficult.”

“I had to give birth with a mask on and also no visitors - including my four-year-old who was dying to meet her baby sister - were allowed to visit. That broke my heart.”

# What was the impact of COVID-19?

## Common Themes:

- Not being able to have visitors
- Fear for child's health
- Lack of social support
- Limited availability for doctor appointments
- Difficulties with work and finances

# What was the impact of COVID-19?

## COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake

- 62% ineligible while pregnant
- Of those eligible, 60% did not receive a vaccine
- Of those eligible, who received the vaccine while pregnant?
  - Hispanic, college educated, and higher income birthing people were most likely to be vaccinated while pregnant

# *What specific complications did you face after most recently giving birth?*

“Severe depression due to lack of emotional support.”

“Due to stress, I was not able to get a good milk supply to continue breastfeeding.”

“I had post-partum depression, a lot of anxiety, and I did not want to return to work and have to be away from my kids for 40 hours a week.”

“They hit my spinal fluid so I wasn't able to work. I was physically laying in the bed almost all the time.”

*\*Among those that report experiencing some type of complication following their most recent birth.*

# From Pregnancy to Policy: Experiences of Birthing People in the United States

<https://www.aamchealthjustice.org/our-work/maternal-health-equity/polling>

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# Gallery Walk - Graphics

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# Welcome to Day 2 of the Maternal Health Incubator!

Association of  
American Medical Colleges

# The AAMC Center for Health Justice Welcomes You to Day 2 of the Maternal Health Incubator

**Daria Grayer, MA, JD**

Senior Lead Specialist, Science Policy and Regulations  
Scientific Affairs, AAMC  
Policy Team, Center for Health Justice

**DAY 2: MATERNAL HEALTH INCUBATOR • MAY 25, 2022**

# Day 2 Agenda: Action for Policy

<b>11:15 AM</b>	Roundtable Discussion: Implications for Policy
<b>12:30 PM</b>	Break
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Action Planning: Building a Multisector Agenda for Maternal Health Equity
<b>1:45 PM</b>	Break
<b>2:00 PM</b>	What's Next? Brainstorming Future Activities
<b>2:50 PM</b>	Closing Remarks

*\*All times are EST*

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# State and Federal Policy: Key Issues to Note from Day 1

- Expansion of funding for maternal health research
- Need for increased collection and evaluation of data
- Increasing access to maternal health care (e.g., telehealth services)
- Increasing recruitment for a diverse health care workforce
- Expansion of postpartum insurance coverage (e.g., up to a year) and the enactment of federal paid family leave

# Paid Leave

- Findings from the Center's poll of birthing people:
  - 66% of birthing people worked for pay during their most recent pregnancy
  - 39% of working birthing people did NOT have access to paid leave
- Continued research and findings
  - 10 states + DC have enacted some form of paid family leave

# Highlights from AAMC Center for Health Justice's Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on Paid Leave

- Maternal HIA on paid family leave
  - Positive and negative impact on postpartum mental and physical health and associated inequities
- Findings from literature review
- Stay tuned for future updates
- Feel free to reach out with questions [dgrayer@aamc.org](mailto:dgrayer@aamc.org)

***Special thanks to the HIA team: Philip Alberti, Diane Cassidy, Olufunmilayo Makinde, Kendal Orgera & Policy team: Anurupa Dev, Heather Pierce, Phoebe Ramsey***

# Roundtable Discussion: Implications for Policy

**Remarks from U.S Representative Sharice Davids, JD**

**Kanika Harris, PhD, MPH, Anushay Hossain, and Terri D. Wright, PhD, MPH**

**Moderated by Ally Perleoni, MA**  
Manager of Government Relations, AAMC

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# U.S. Representative, Sharice Davids, JD



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# Meet the Panelists

**Kanika Harris, PhD, MPH**

Director of Maternal and Child Health, Black Women's Health Imperative

**Anushay Hossain**

Writer and Feminist Policy Analyst

**Terri D. Wright, PhD, MPH**

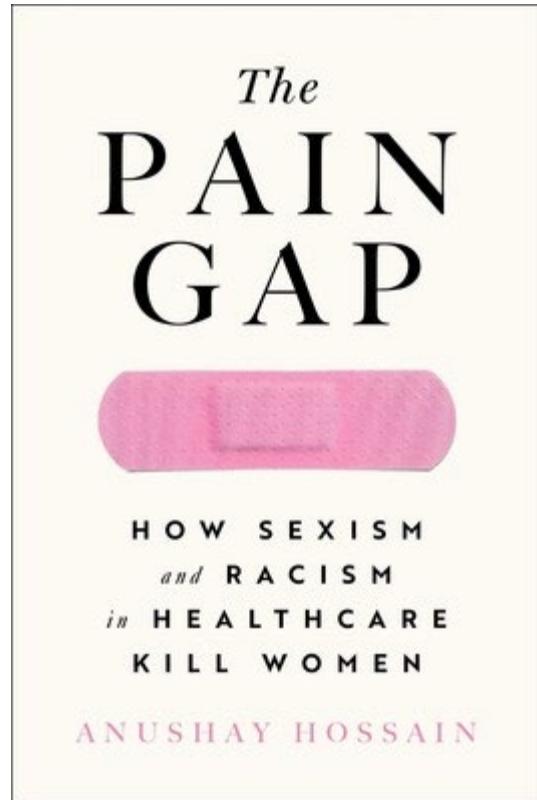
Health and Racial Equity Strategist, Public Health Scientist

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# Q&A and Moderated Discussion

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# Book Giveaway Winners



Rakiya Moore  
Naomi Booker  
Jasmine Bihm  
Ruby Crawford-Hemphill  
Rossana Roberts  
Denise Willers  
Michelle Debbink  
Carnesha Keys  
Karen Morris  
Abigail Asare  
Colleen Wilburn  
Alison Williams  
Moriah Bell

Tina Lopez  
Samantha Benigni  
Venus Uttchin  
Kimberly Sherman  
Monica Ray  
Melody Bockenfeld  
Anne McHugh  
Penelope Karambinakis  
Megan Horstman  
Carleigh Frazier  
Kim Drumgo  
Deyanna Boston

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# Acknowledgements



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# Thank you for joining us!

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