

BIOETHICS IN FILM: FROM SCREEN TO SEMINAR

Aftershock

APRIL 12, 2023

11:30 AM ET



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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL
HUMANITIES AND ETHICS
DIVISION OF ETHICS





Dr. Shalon Irving
(1981-2017)

ProPublica Electionland ProPublica Illinois Local Reporting Network Data Store

PROPUBLICA TOPICS SERIES NEWS APPS GET INVOLVED IMPACT ABOUT SIGN UP

f t e



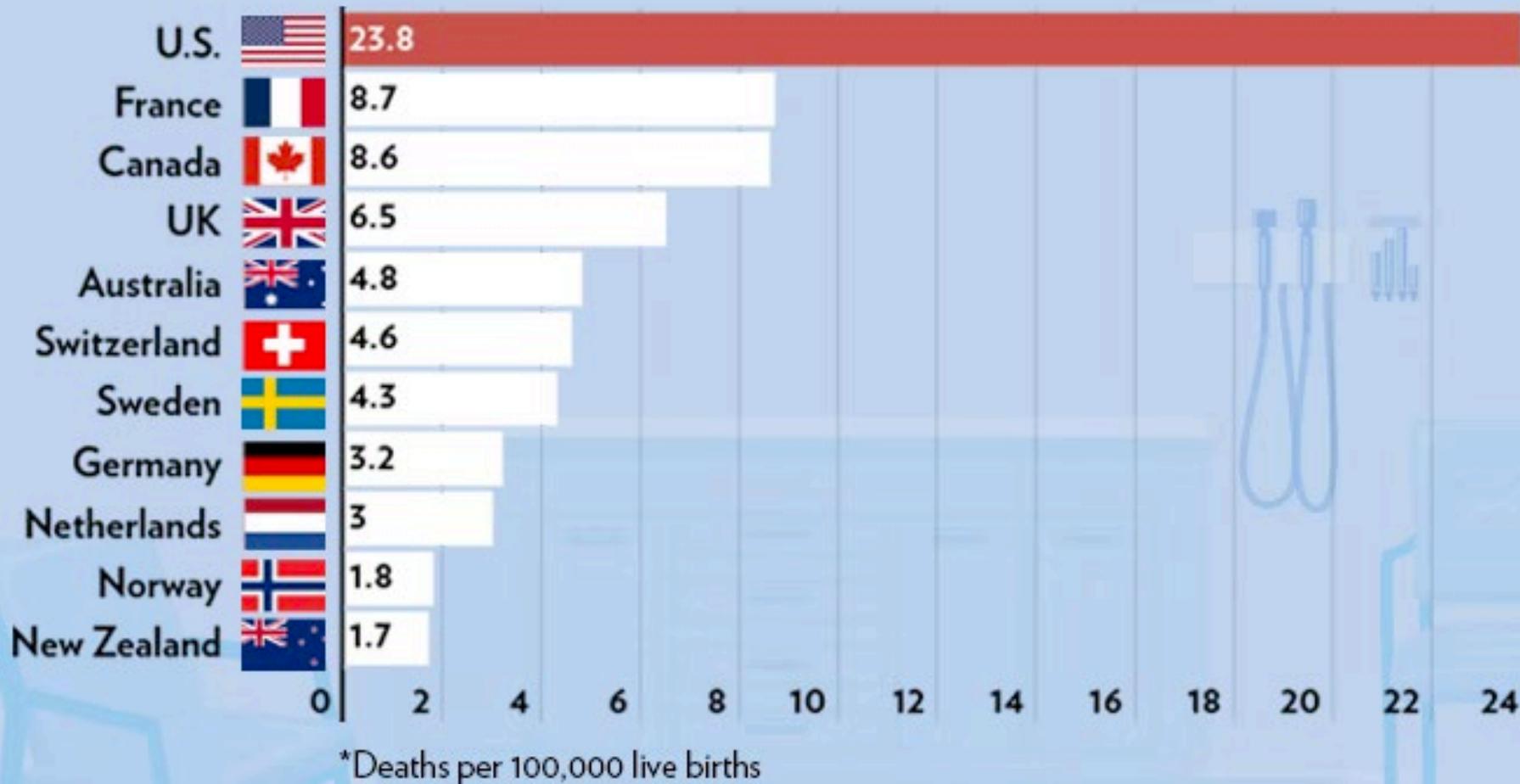
Soleil Irving "just lights up a room when she smiles," Wanda Irving, her grandmother, says. (Sheila Pree Bright for ProPublica)

LOST MOTHERS

Nothing Protects Black Women From Dying in Pregnancy and Childbirth

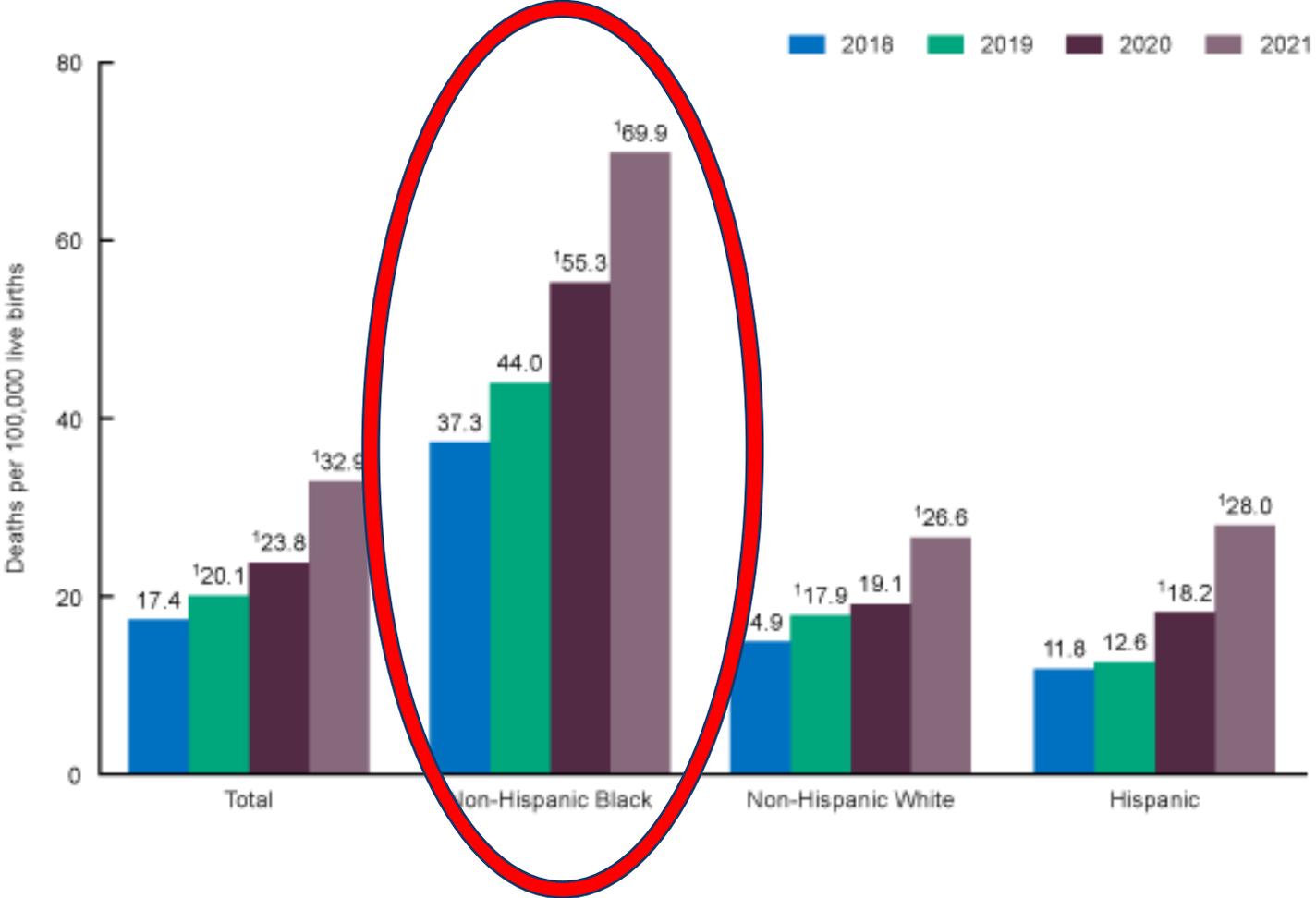
Not education. Not income. Not even being an expert on racial disparities in health care.

Maternal Mortality in the U.S. Far Outstrips That of Other Industrialized Nations



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2020/maternal-mortality-rates-2020.htm>

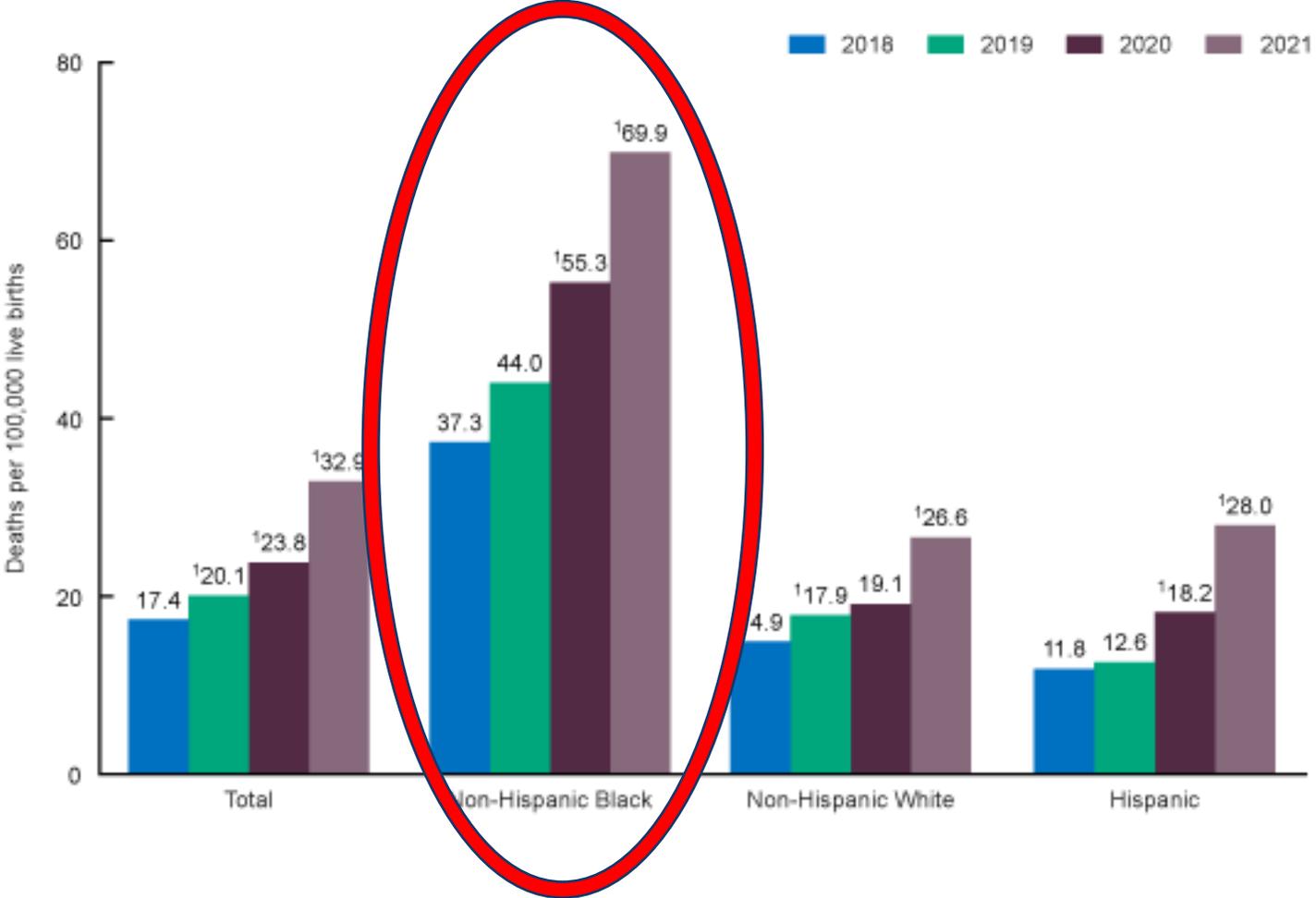
Maternal Mortality Rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2018-2021



¹Statistically significant increase from previous year ($p < 0.05$).

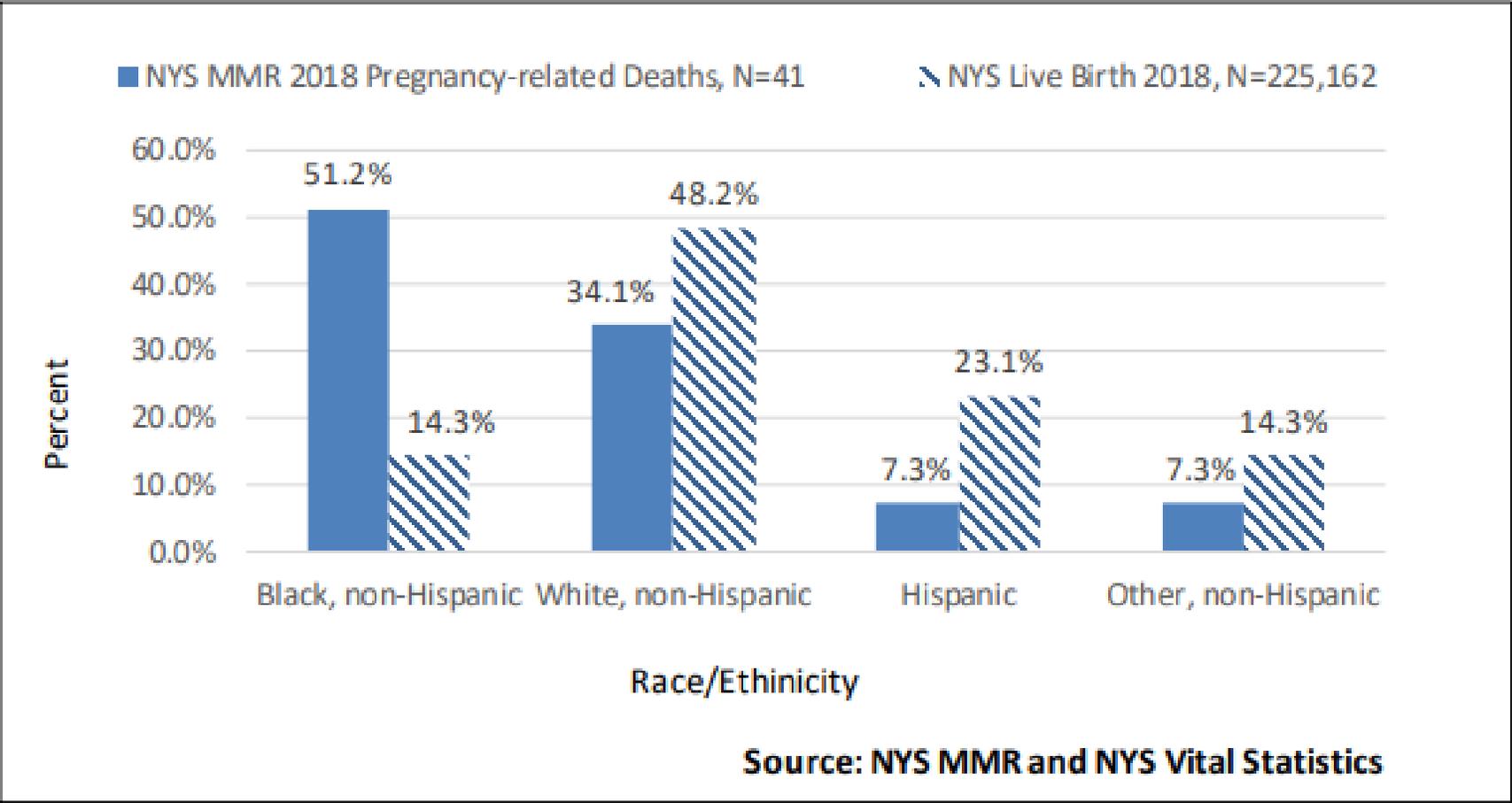
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality

Maternal Mortality Rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2018-2021

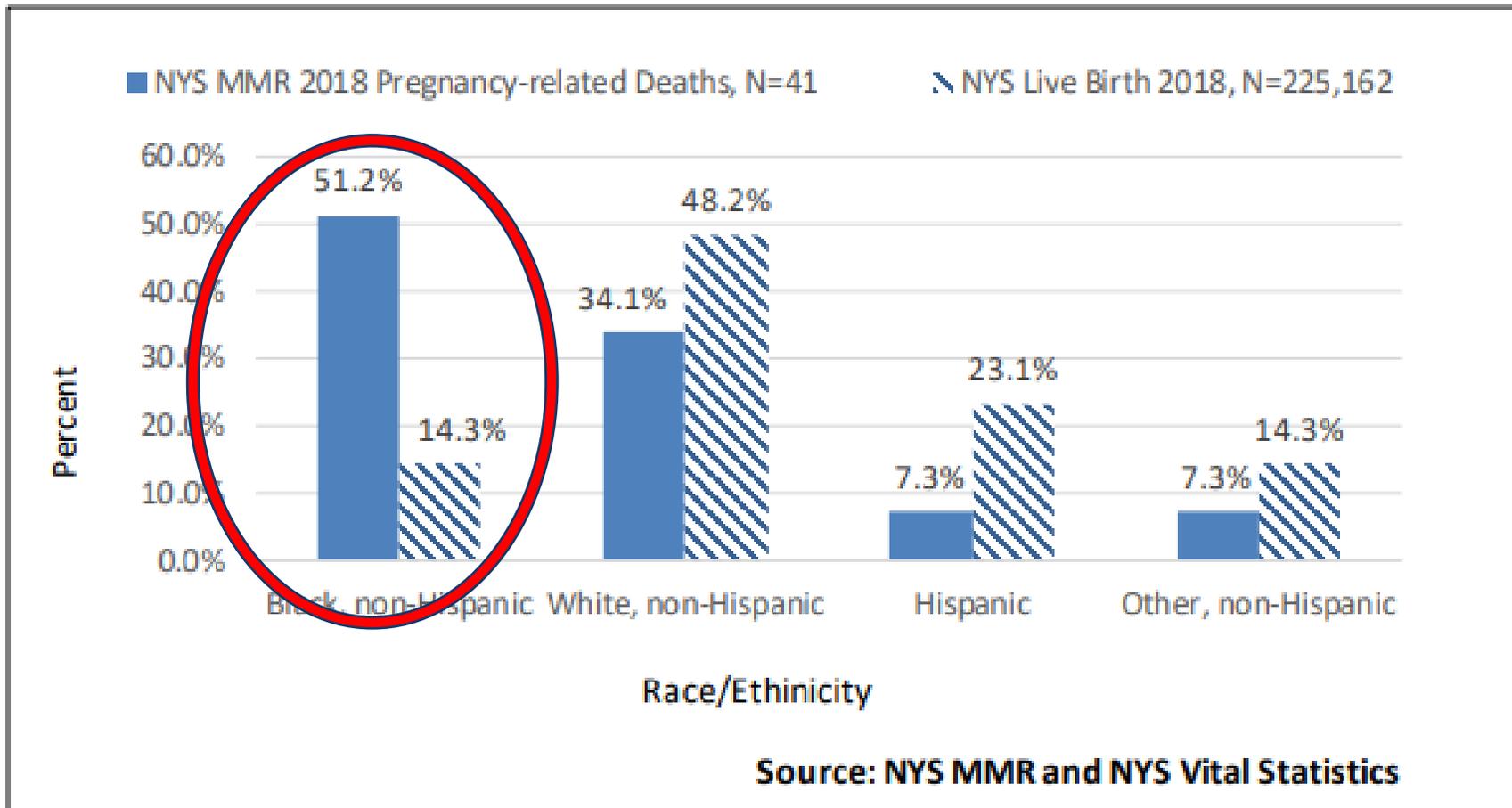


- Egypt – 17
- Ecuador – 66
- Libya - 72
- Brazil – 72
- Colombia - 75
- Algeria – 78
- Zambia - 135

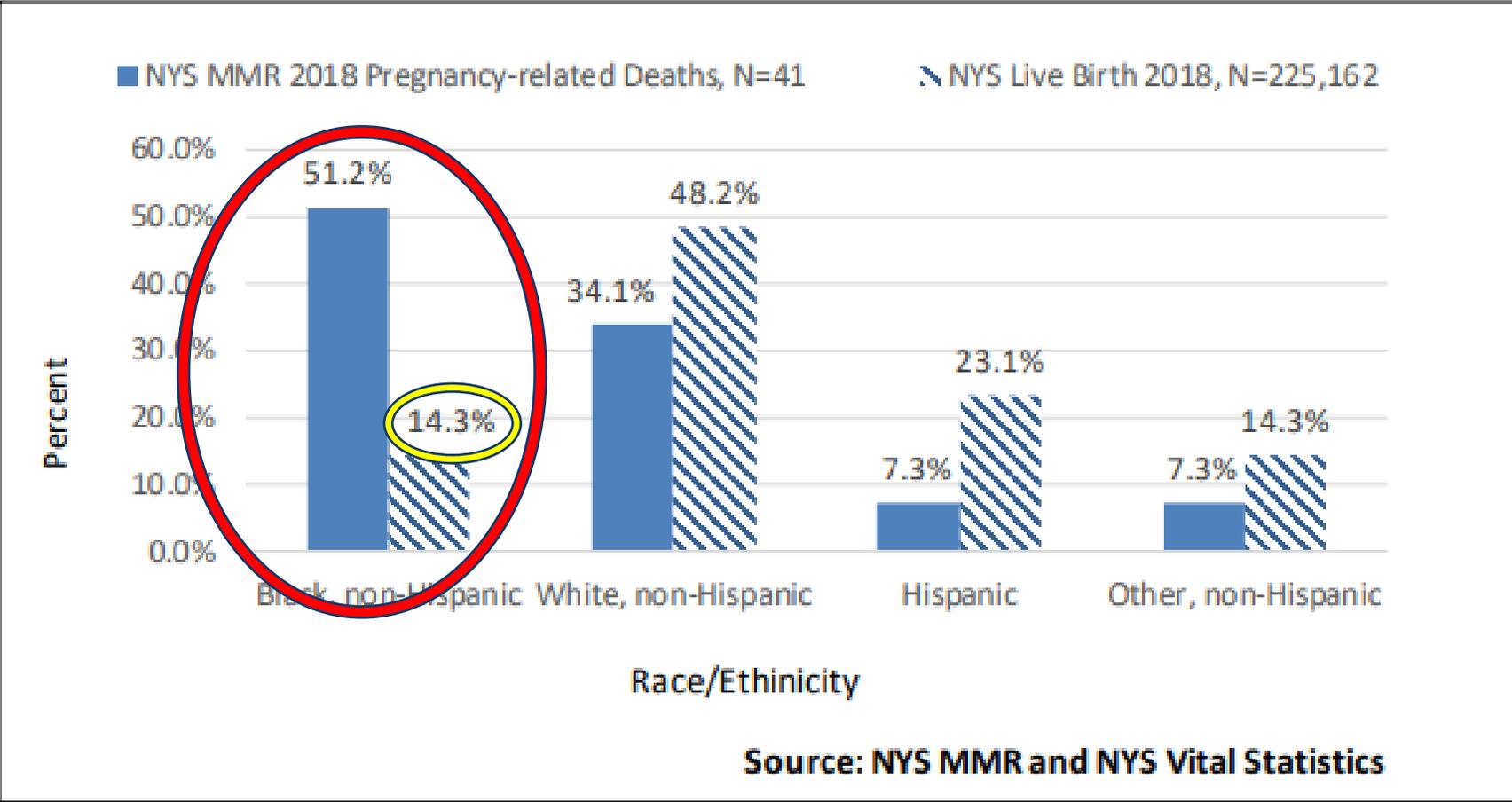
Proportion of pregnancy-related deaths and live births by Race/Ethnicity, NYS MMRC, 2018



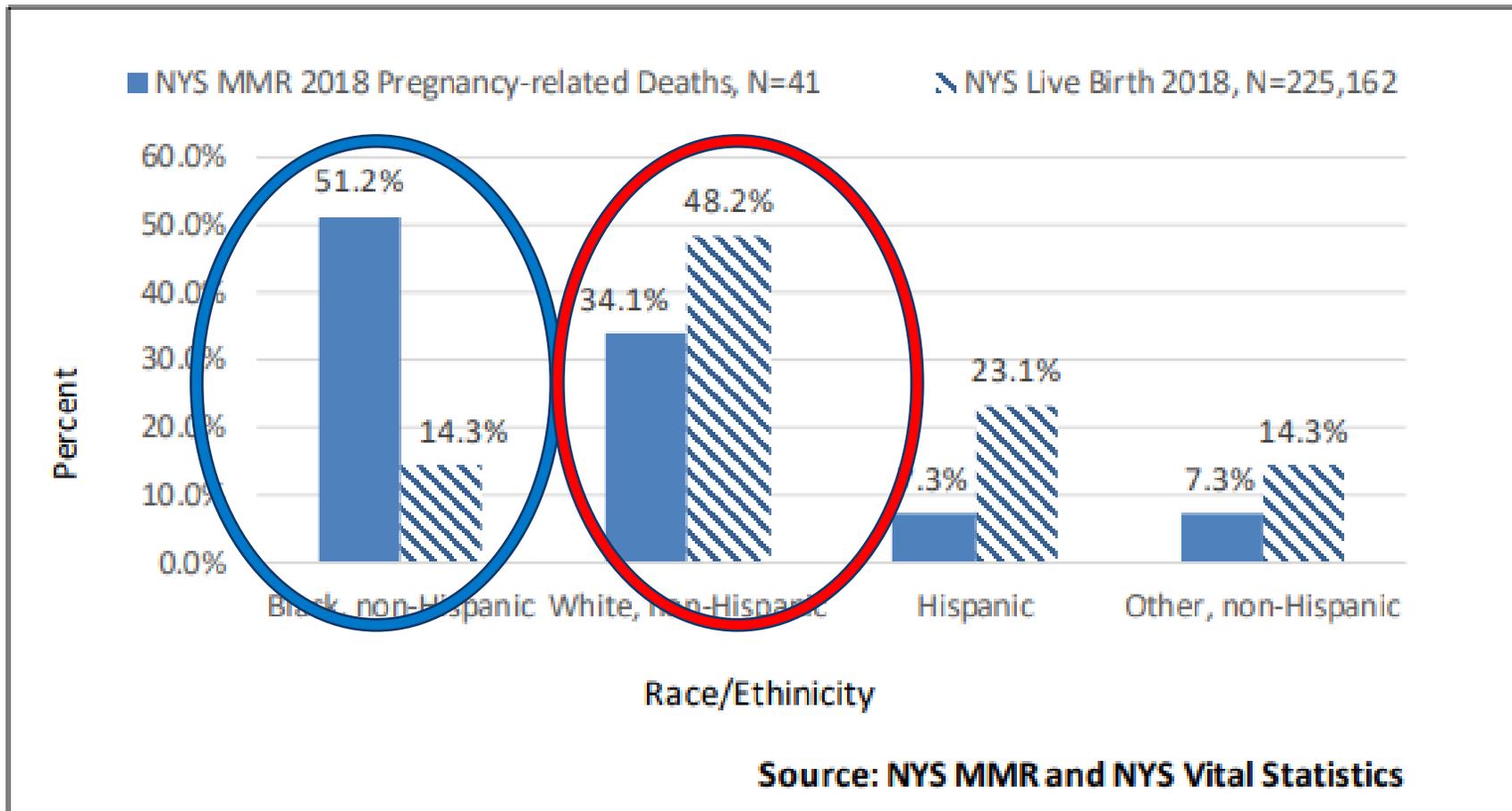
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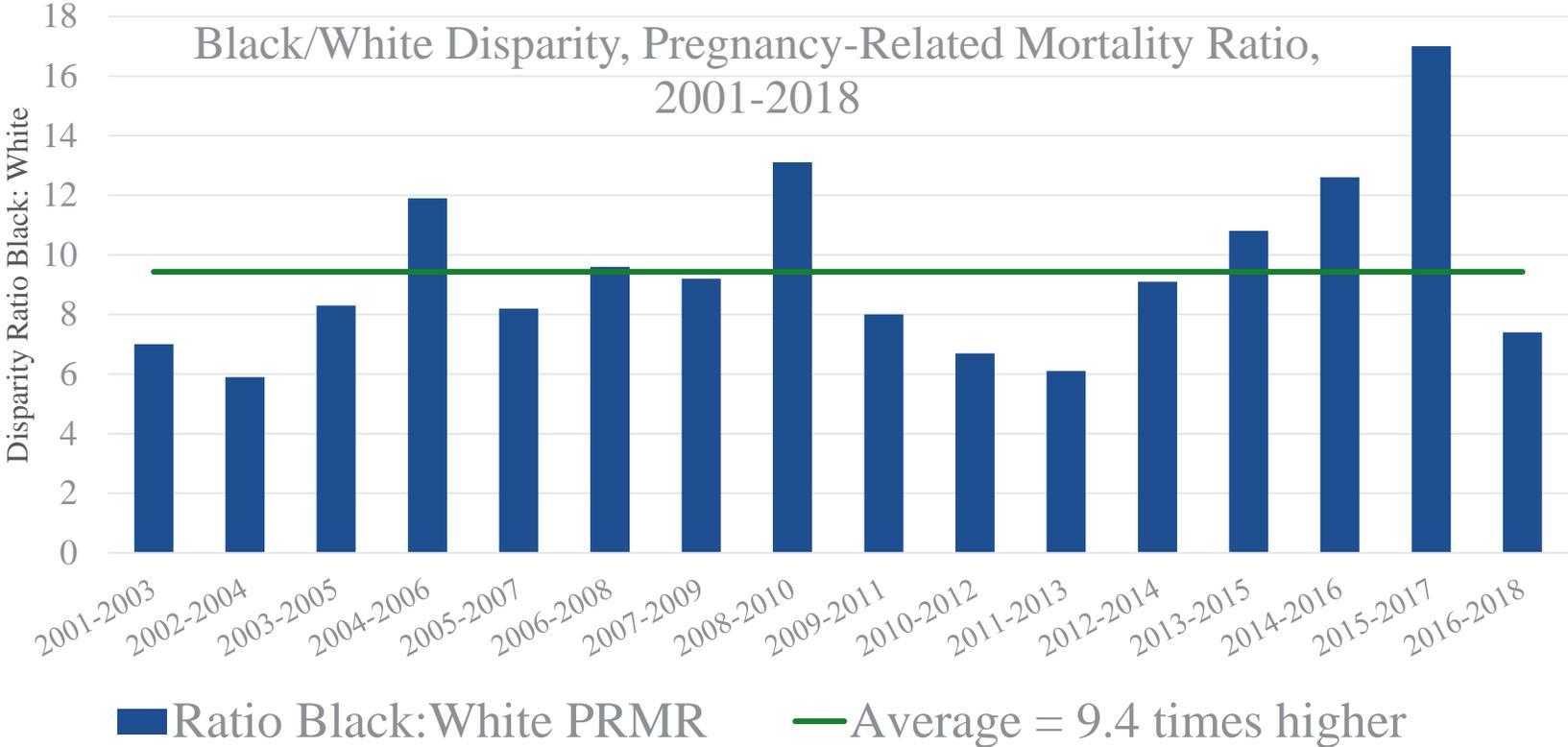
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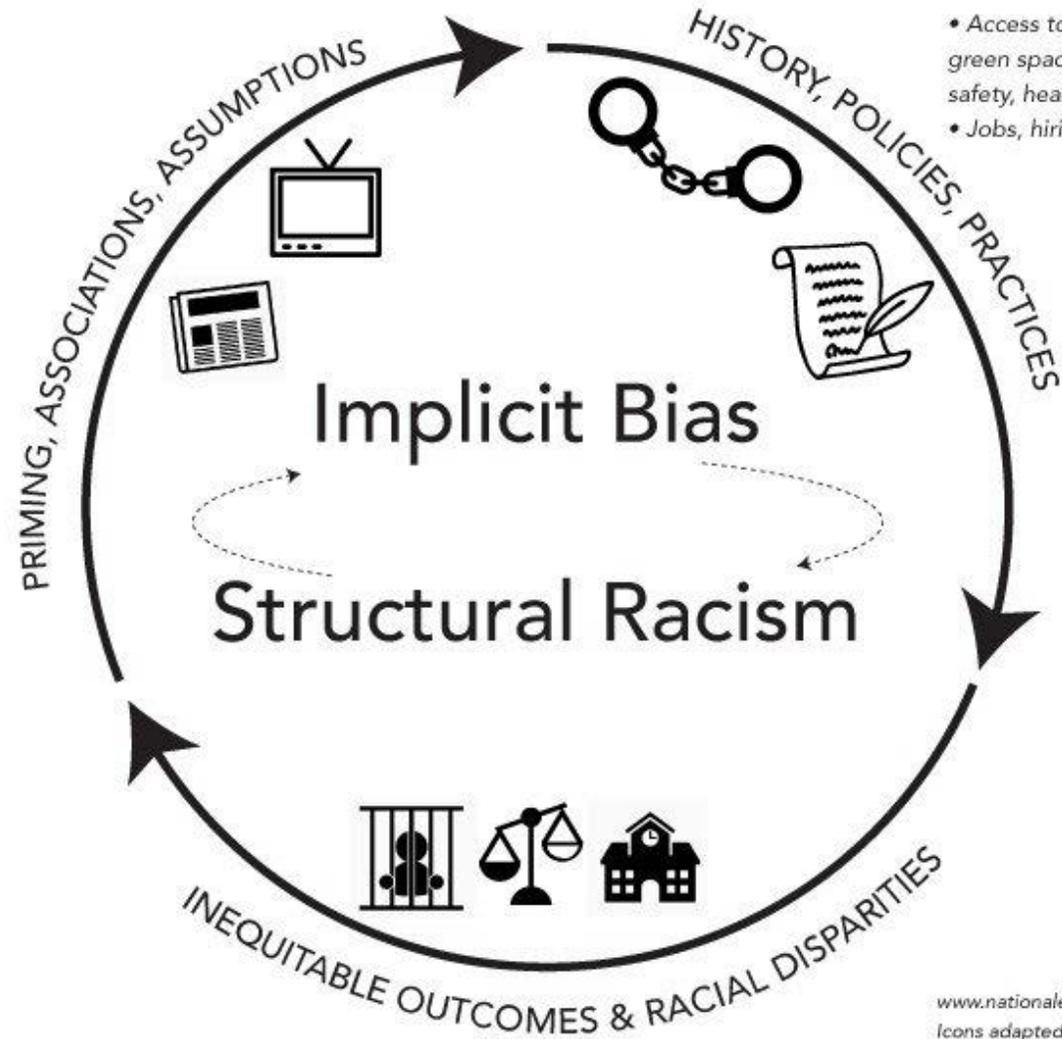
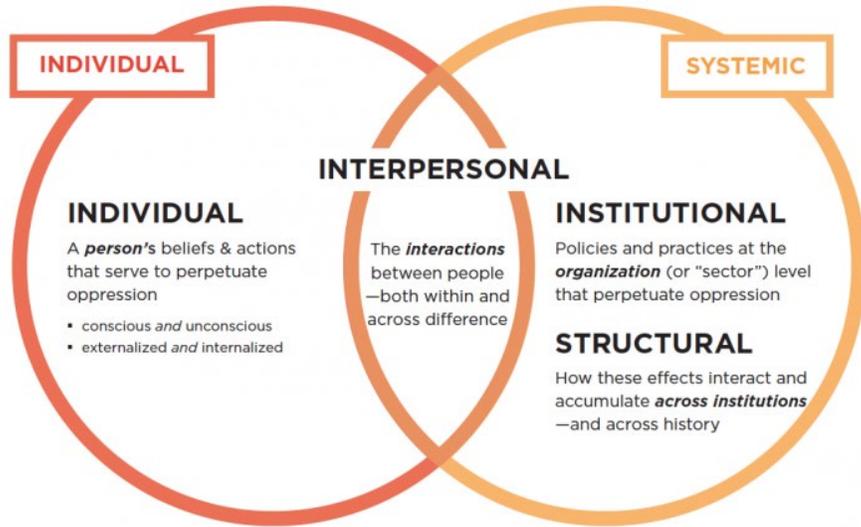
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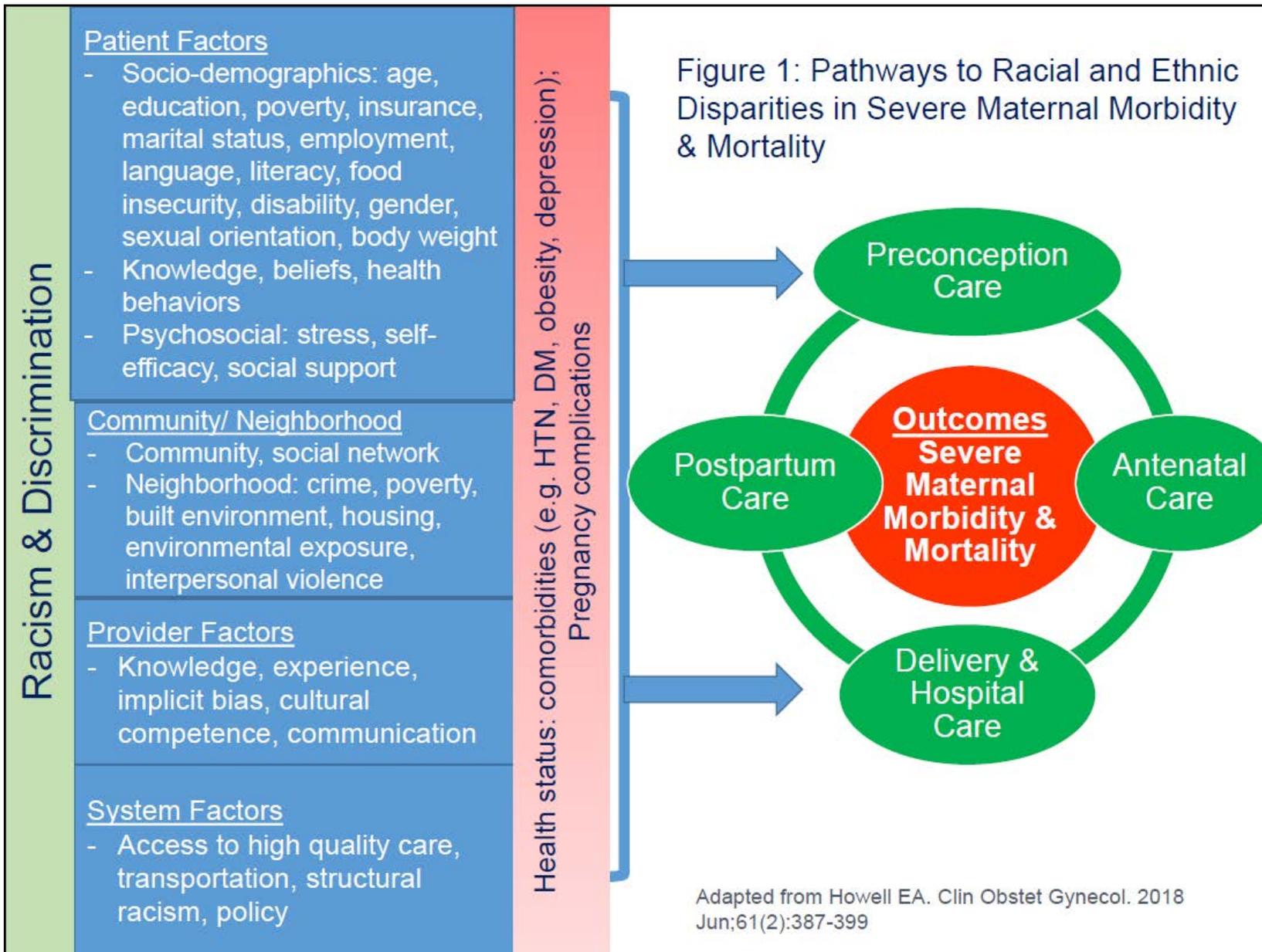


Average Black/White Disparity Has Been 9.4 times Higher For Black v. White Mothers



Its Racism, NOT Race





Black Maternal Health in the 21st Century

April 12, 2023



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Senior Research Scientist, New York Academy of Medicine

Founder and Co-Chair the Women's Health Research & Wellbeing Workgroup, NYAM

Co-Chair Governor's Task Force on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes (2018-2019)

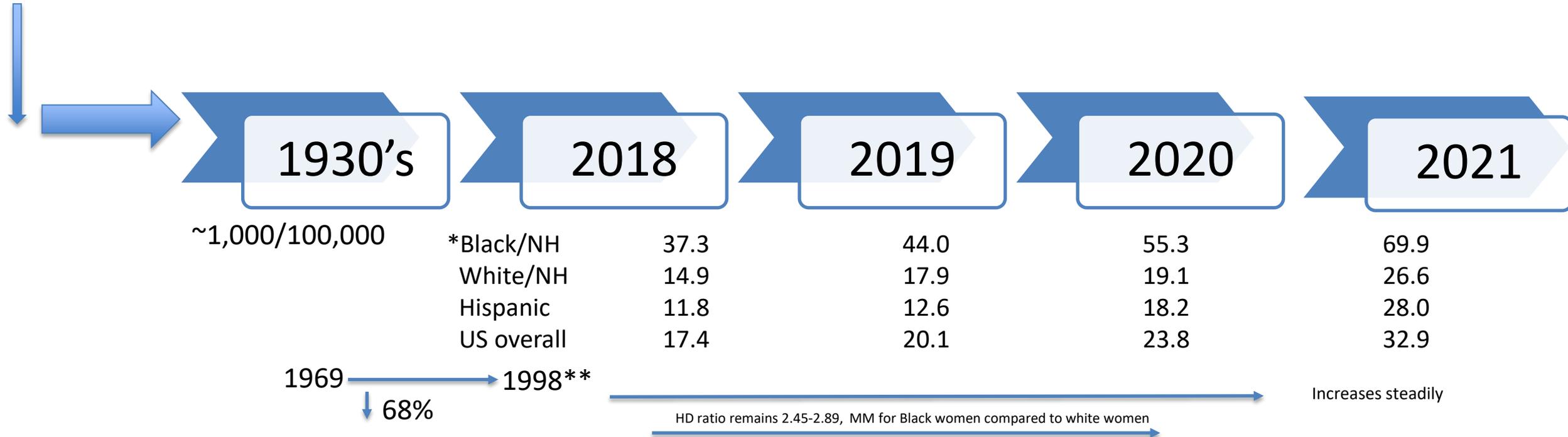
President & Professor Emerita, SUNY Upstate Medical University

I have no financial conflicts to disclose

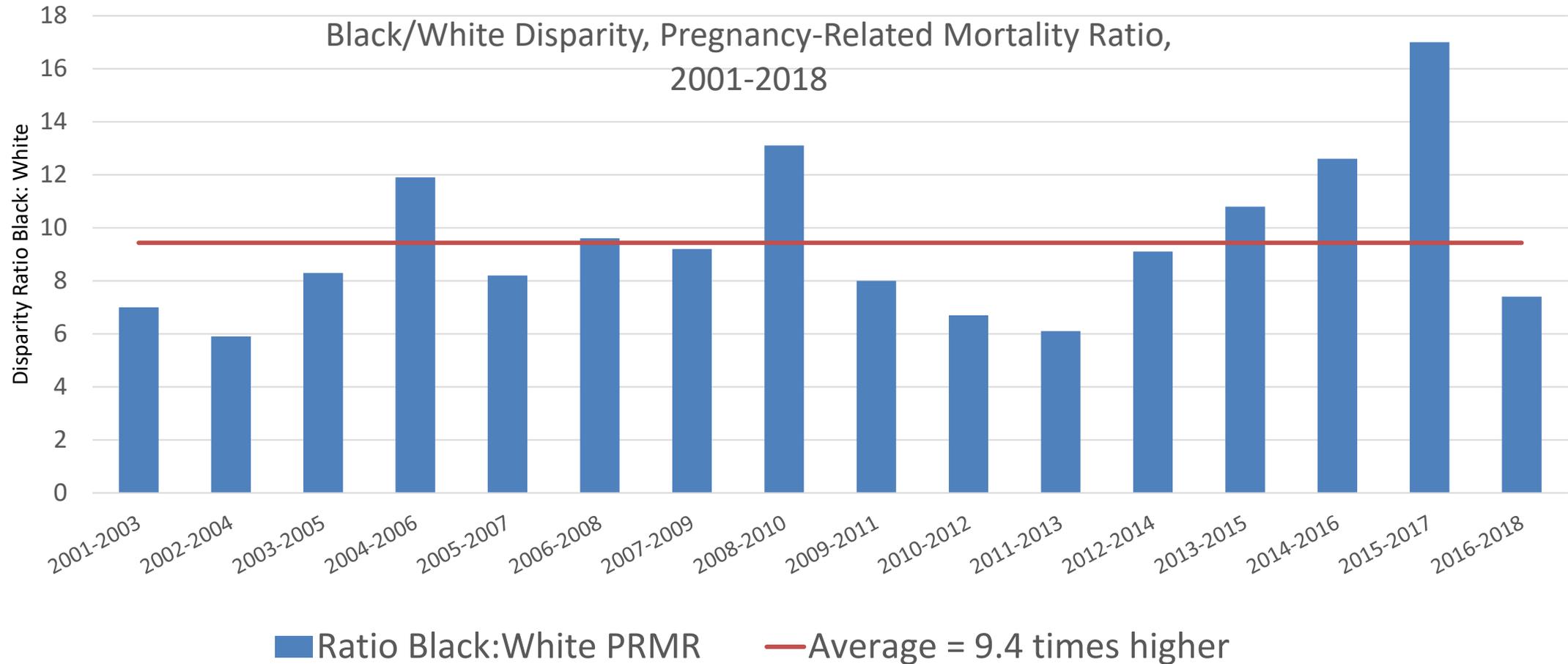
Timeline of US Maternal Mortality*

Deaths/100,000 live births

SLAVERY



Maternal Health Disparities



Maternal Mortality

50

About **50** people die during pregnancy, at birth or within one year from the end of pregnancy.

About **40%** (20) of these are complicated or aggravated by pregnancy.

Approximately **60%** (30) are preventable.



What must we do to address preventable pregnancy-related death?

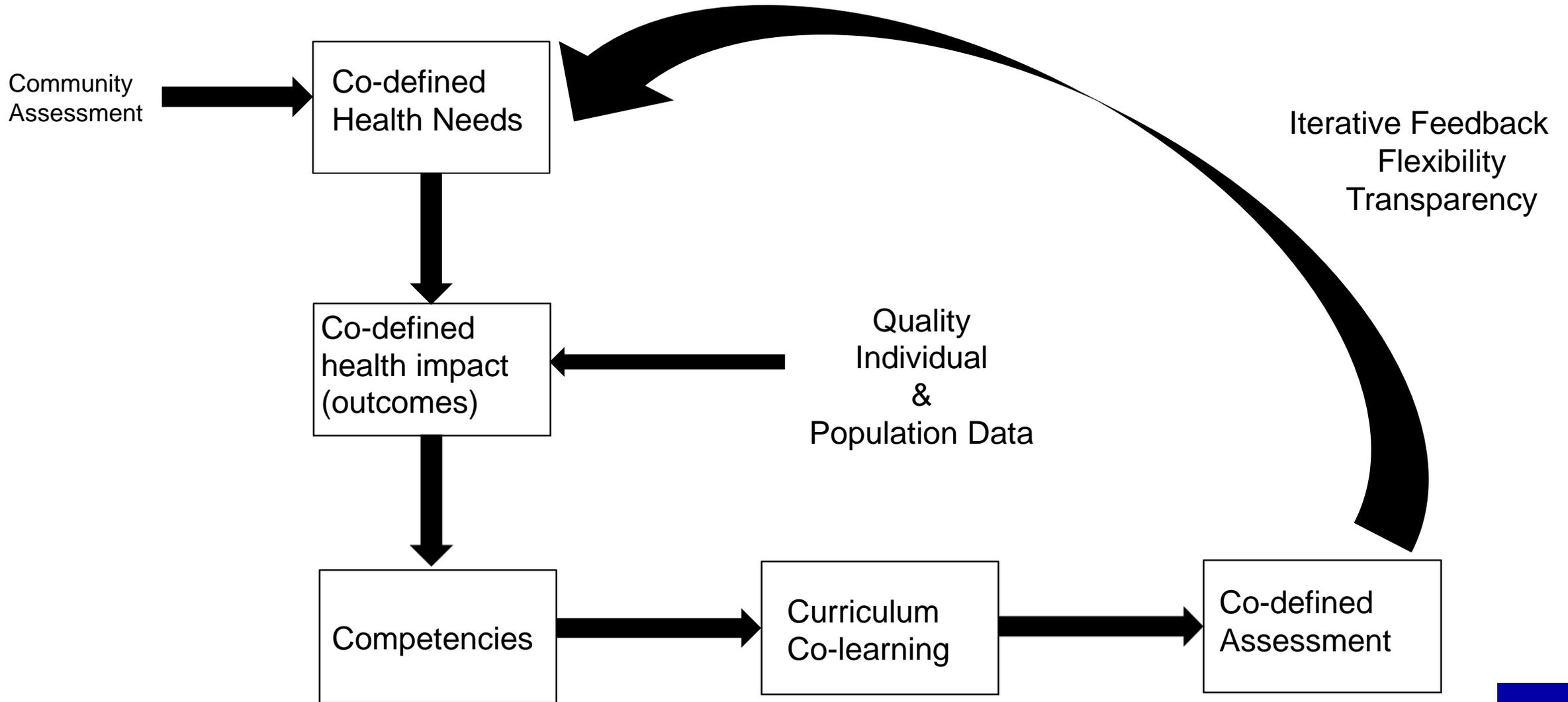
Awareness & Action

- Positional statement (Who am I?)
- Knowing history and epidemiology
- Establishing the frame for action (scientific vs justice/or both)
- Moving beyond talk

Fathers and Partners

- Brief review of PubMed literature with key words *maternal death and the role of fathers*
 - 62 results
 - 7 articles only dealt directly with the impact of maternal death on fathers
 - Titles: “Fathers Matter”
 - “Overlooked and underserved: Widowed fathers with dependent children:”
 - Understudied and under-researched
 - Families matter

Figure 17.3: Socially Accountable Education: An Equity Proposition*



Apply the Evidence

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) results (2013-2017): Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns Initiative

- Three models of care tested that each allow incorporation of midwives and community-based workers (doulas, CHW)

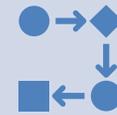
- Provision of prenatal care at group visits (centering)
- Use of birth centers instead of hospitals
- Maternity care homes

None of these models were shown to systematically result in worse outcomes or higher costs than a control group of similar pregnancies not participating in these models of care.

Two models were found to improve health outcomes and lowering costs.

Key Concepts in Sustainability and Scaling*

*Building trust



Horizontal – next unit in the change process



Depth – adding to existing innovations



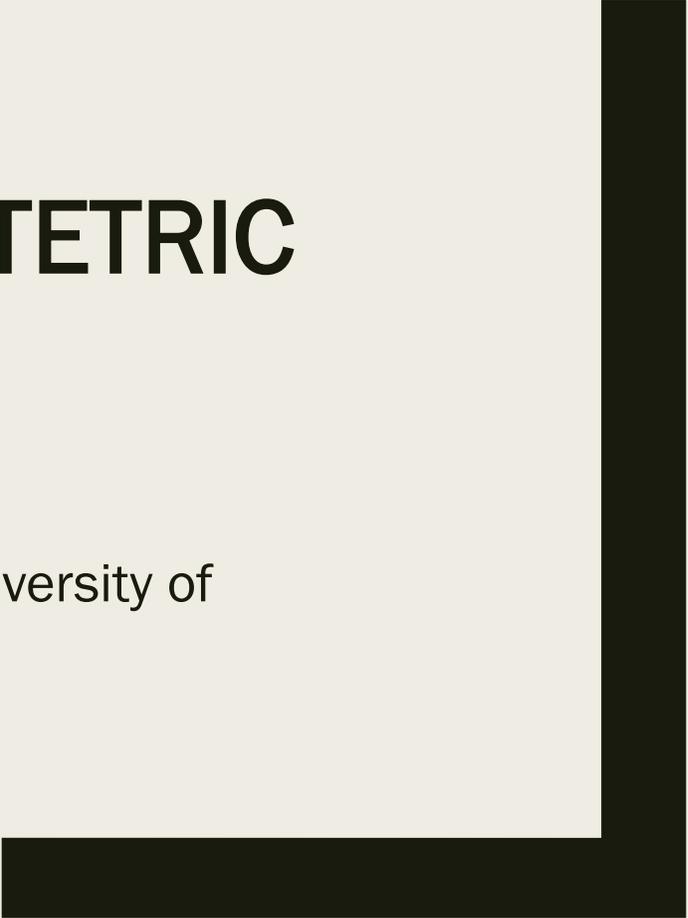
Vertical – adoption by different jurisdictions

Institutional/Societal accountability

- Innovate models of care
- Evaluate effectiveness in the improvement of outcomes
- Scale up
- Continue to evolve
- Full system shift

What must we do

- Decolonize care
- Use medical interventions appropriately (understand the medicalization of maternal care and its impact)
- Dismantle structural racism
- Address gendered perception of roles
- Establish health and health care as a human right
- Regain our humanity



“AFTERSHOCK” BLACK WOMEN AND OBSTETRIC RACISM

Dana-Ain Davis, MPH, PhD.
Queens College and Graduate Center, City University of
New York



Reproductive Injustice

RACISM, PREGNANCY, AND PREMATURE BIRTH

DÁNA-AIN DAVIS



WHAT IS OBSTETRIC RACISM?

What is *Obstetric racism*? Obstetric racism is comprised of beliefs and practices levelled against the reproducing Black body that sit at the intersections of obstetric violence and medical racism. It is the mechanism and practice of subordination to which Black women and people's reproduction are subjected *that track along the histories of anti-black racism* based on ideas of difference that have been worked out through the hierarchization of humanity as is contemporarily a remnant of the afterlife of racial science. ([Davis, 2018](#)).

“AFTERSHOCK”

“They kept asking if she was taking drugs” Shawnee Benton Gibson, Shamony’s mother

Who we are and what we look like” Omari, Shamony’s partner

”They don’t care” Mustafa Shabazz

“They said it was pregnancy-related issues” Bruce McIntyre, Amber Rose’s partner

“If you are Black you are less likely to get the support for a vaginal birth” Helena Grant, Midwife at NYU

”There was negligence and incompetence” Bruce McIntyre



OBSTETRIC RACISM

Dána-Ain Davis, MPH, Ph.D.

- 1 Diagnostic Lapses
- 2 Neglect, Dismissiveness, or Disrespect
- 3 Intentionally Causing Pain
- 4 Coercion
- 5 Ceremonies of Degradation
- 6 Medical Abuse
- 7 Wild Card

OBSTETRIC RACISM



DIAGNOSTIC LAPSE

Dána-Ain Davis, MPH, Ph.D.

When a clinicians' uninterrogated belief that Blackness is pathological leads them to de-emphasize or exaggerate or ignore a patient's symptoms resulting in an inappropriate or lapsed diagnosis.



NEGLECT, DISMISSIVENESS, OR DISRESPECT

Dána-Ain Davis, MPH, Ph.D.

When medical professionals ignore or dismiss a person's expressed need for reproductive help or care and/or treats them with disdain.

OBSTETRIC RACISM



INTENTIONALLY CAUSING PAIN

Dána-Ain Davis, MPH, Ph.D.

When medical professionals fail to appropriately manage pain, which may be rooted in racialized beliefs about pain immunity and as well as the absence of empathy for Black people's physical suffering, leading to lack of internal motivation to alleviate or reduce Black suffering.



COERCION

Dána-Ain Davis, MPH, Ph.D.

When medical professionals perform procedures without consent and/or intimidate patients to make decisions.

OBSTETRIC RACISM



CEREMONIES OF DEGRADATION

Dána-Ain Davis, MPH, Ph.D.

The ritualistic ways in which patients are humiliated or shamed and includes a sense of being sized up to determine the worthiness of the patient or their support person(s) who may be viewed as a threat. In response, medical staff may deploy security, police, social services or psychiatry to ensure compliance or to remove the “threatening” person.

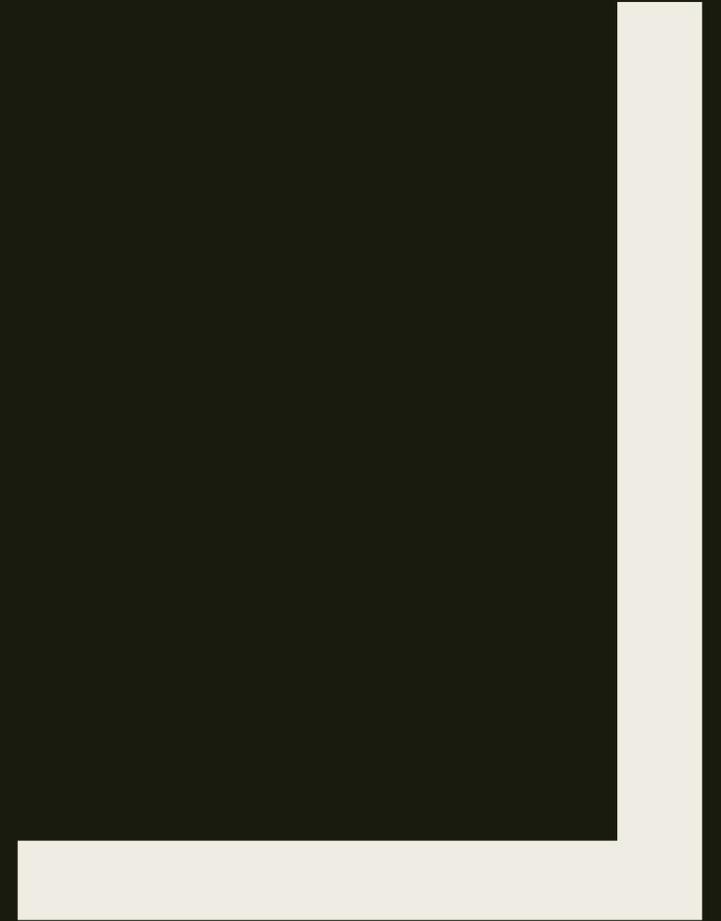


MEDICAL ABUSE

Dána-Ain Davis, MPH, Ph.D.

Can occur when medical professionals engage in experimentation and/or (repetitive) behavior that is motivated not by concern for the patient but serves to validate the clinician's self-worth and upholds their domination over the patient.

THANK YOU





BIOETHICS IN FILM: FROM SCREEN TO SEMINAR

FALL | WINTER | SPRING
2023 - 2024





ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

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HUMANITIES AND ETHICS
DIVISION OF ETHICS

MEDICALIZING AND CRIMINALIZING MENTAL HEALTH

VIRTUAL EVENT | MAY 2ND 2023, 12 -1:30PM ET



Kimberly Sue, MD, PhD

Division of General Internal
Medicine, Yale School of Medicine



Leah G. Pope, PhD

New York State Psychiatric
Institute and Columbia University



Fay Owens

Urban Justice Center
Mental Health Project



Sandra Soo-Jin Lee, PhD

Moderator, Division of
Ethics, Columbia University

Visual Storytelling in ELSI Research

April 14, 2023 at 12pm ET/9am PT



**Elizabeth Gross Cohn,
PhD, RN, FAAN**
City University of New York,
Columbia University



Gary Ashwal, MA
Booster Shot Media



Moderated by
Sara Ackerman, PhD, MPH
University of California -
San Francisco