

Maternal Mortality: Statewide Efforts to Reduce Adverse Outcomes of Pregnancy and Childbirth

**Judith T. Burgis, MD
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Judith.burgis@prismahealth.org

Disclosures

Chair of the SC Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC)

SC ACOG Section Chair

Thanks to Dave Goodman, CDC and to Amy Crockett, SC BOI Clinical Lead



Key Definitions

A pregnancy-associated death is the death of a woman (during pregnancy or within one year of pregnancy) that is **temporally related to pregnancy.**

A pregnancy-related death is a subset of pregnancy-associated deaths that is **related to or are aggravated by pregnancy.**



Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths. (2018) Report from nine maternal mortality review committees.

The Maternal Mortality Rate¹ is reported as
of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births

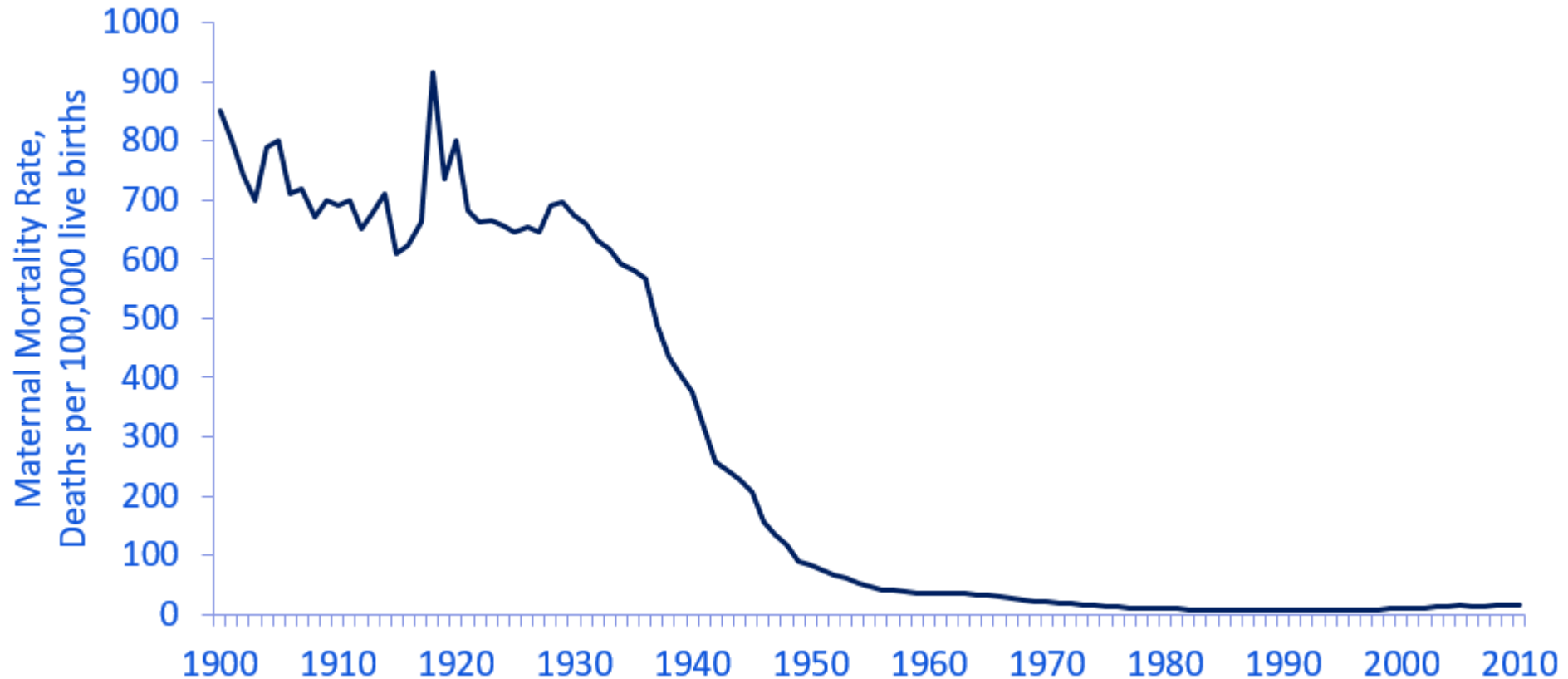
The Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio² is reported as
of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births



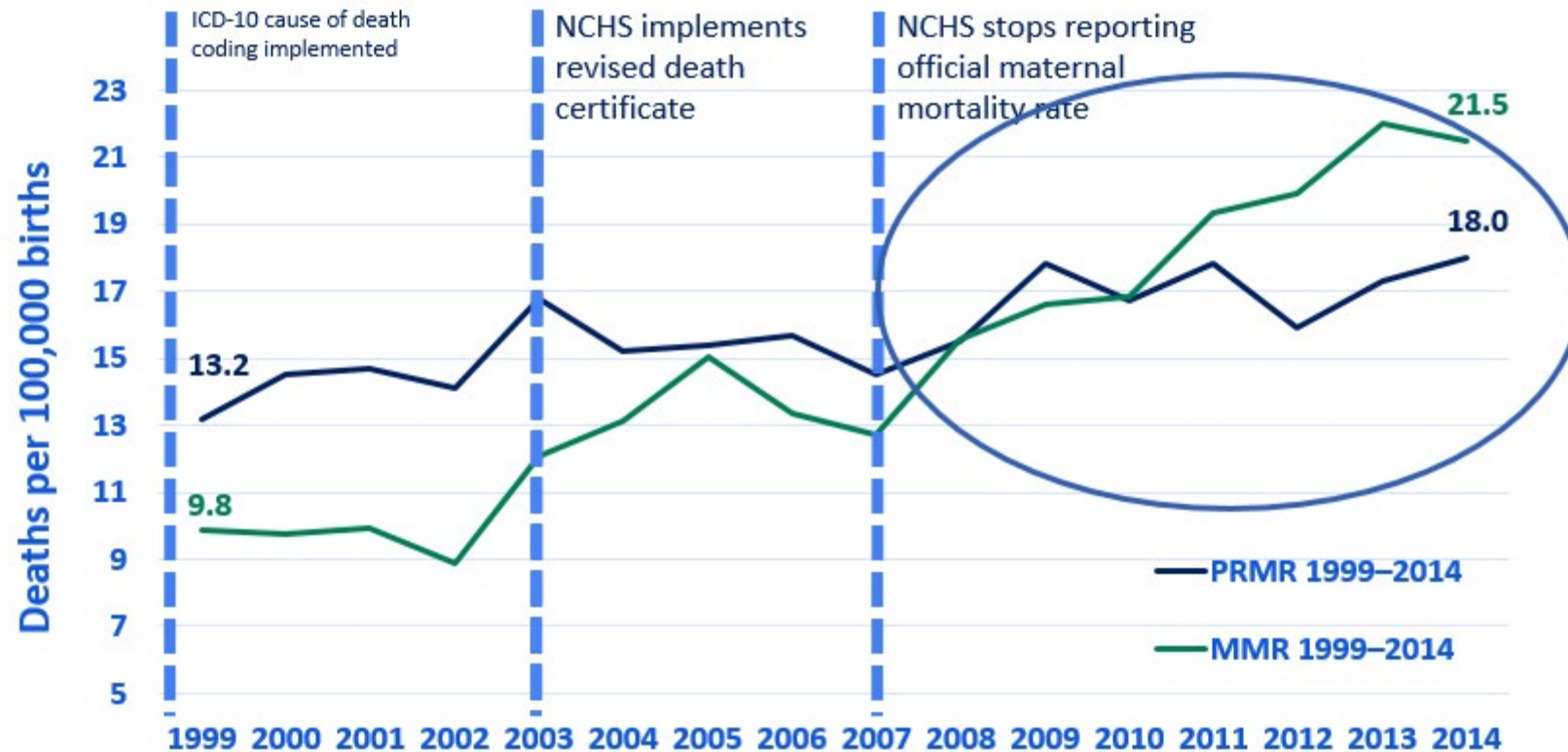
¹Deaths occurring during pregnancy or within 42 days of delivery. Maternal deaths are identified by ICD-10 codes as listed on the death certificate.

² Deaths occurring during pregnancy or within one year of pregnancy. Pregnancy-related deaths are identified by the pregnancy checkbox and/or death certificate linked to fetal deaths or birth certificate.

Measuring Maternal Deaths



Measuring Maternal Deaths: NCHS & PMSS

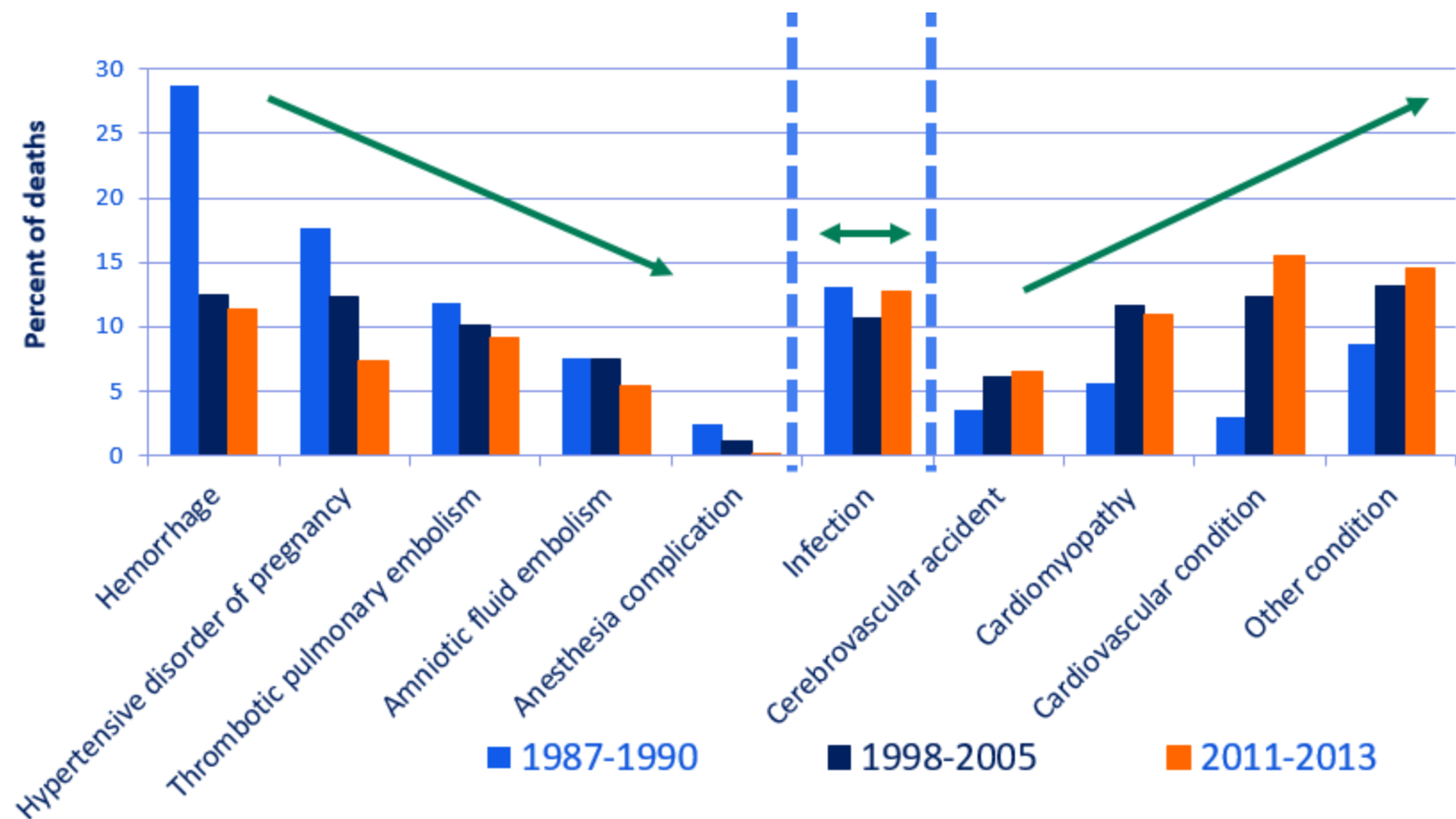


PRMR: Pregnancy-related mortality ratio

MMR: Maternal mortality rate

<http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pmss.html>

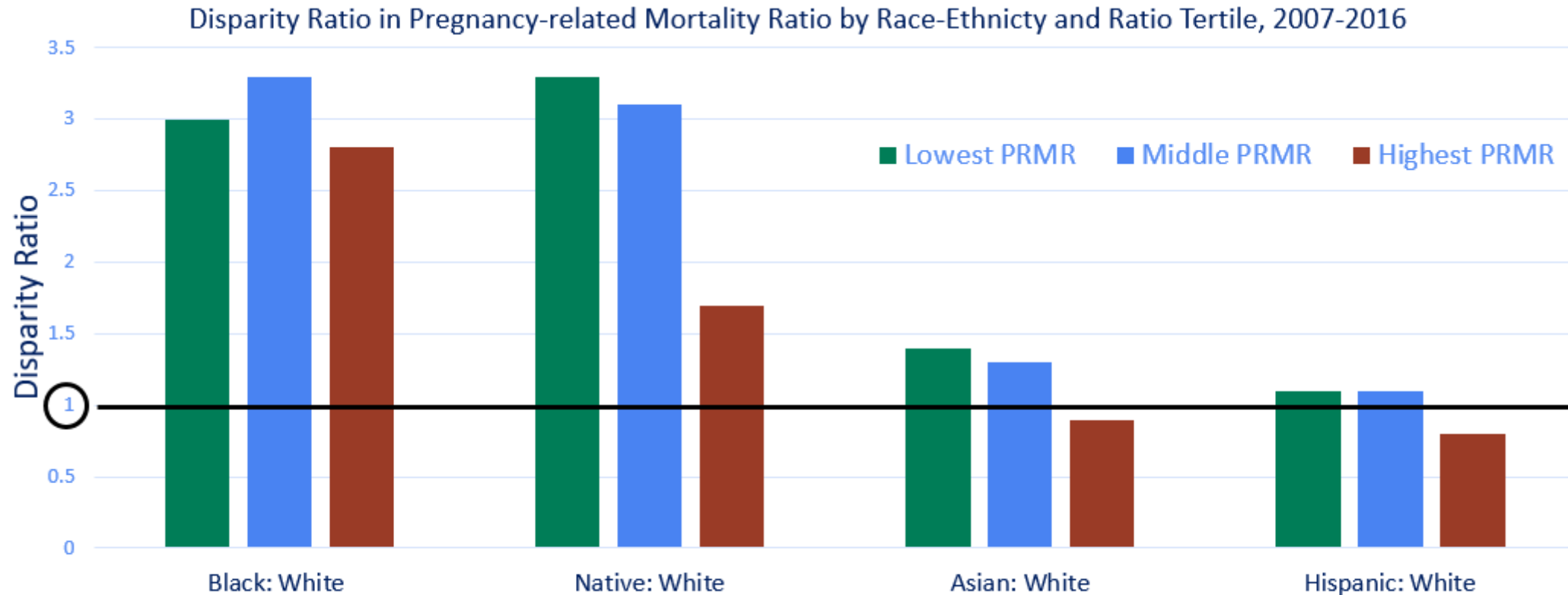
PMSS: Causes of Pregnancy-related Death



Creanga AA, et al. Obstet Gynecol 2015;125:5-12.

Disparity implies inequality often where a greater equality might be reasonably expected

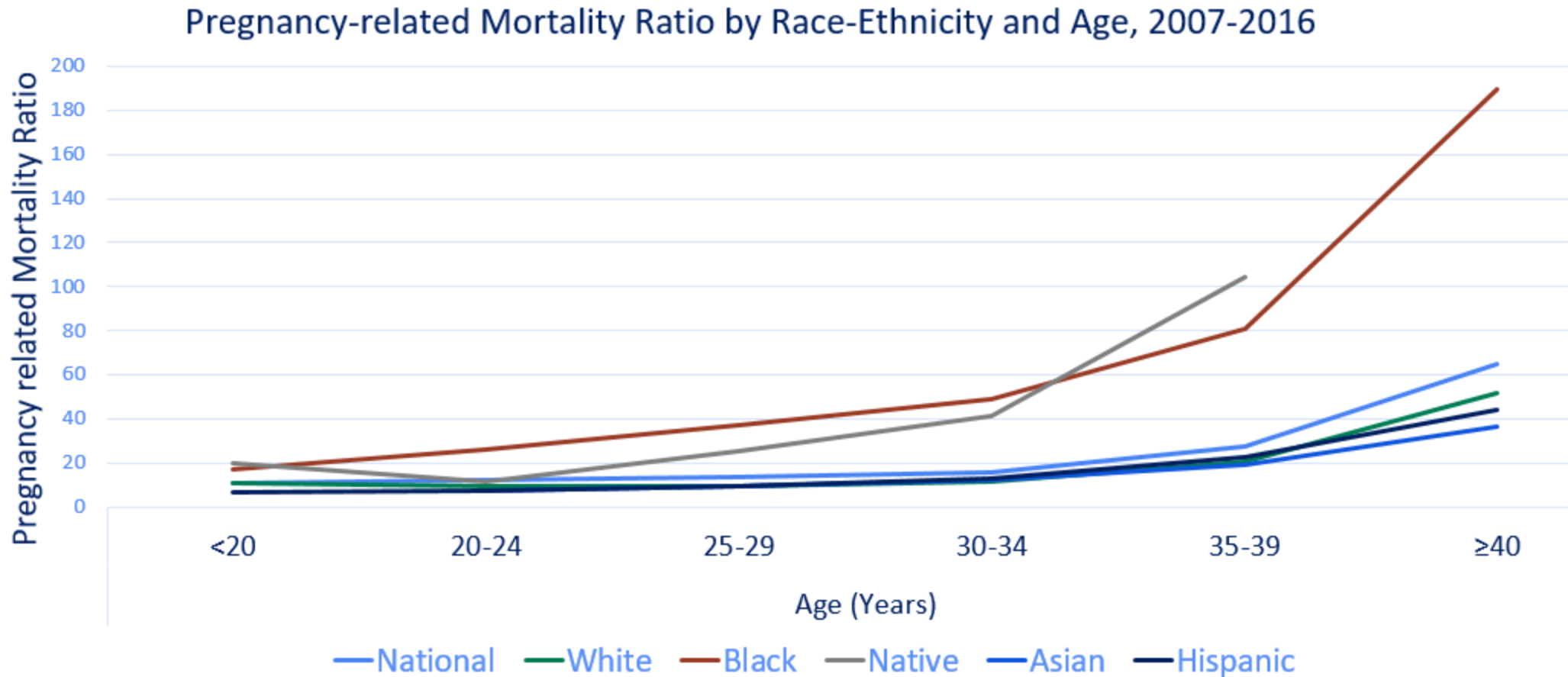
PMSS: Disparity Ratio



Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:762–765



PMSS: by Age Grouping



Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:762–765



Preventing Maternal Deaths: Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs)



Preventing Maternal Deaths: Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs)

MMRCs have 3 components that the other systems (NCHS and PMSS) don't have:

1. Robust **DATA** system dedicated to maternal mortality with multi-level data from multiple sources (including non-traditional sources)
2. A multidisciplinary committee of **EXPERTS** to review each death, through clinical and non-clinical lens, with a focus on prevention (population level)
3. PH **STAFF** (usually a state department of public health team) to gather and manage the data, establish and guide the committee, communicate with stakeholders, and conduct and disseminate research and surveillance. (AKA, put it all together)



Preventing Maternal Deaths

Committee reporting forms

MMRIA



REVIEW DATE

RECORD ID #

COMMITTEE DETERMINATION OF CAUSE(S) OF DEATH

TYPE

CAUSE (DESCRIPTIVE)

IMMEDIATE

CONTRIBUTING

UNDERLYING

OTHER SIGNIFICANT

PREGNANCY-RELATEDNESS: SELECT ONE

☐ PREGNANCY-RELATED

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

☐ PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED, BUT NOT -RELATED

The death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a cause that is not related to pregnancy

☐ UNABLE TO DETERMINE IF PREGNANCY-RELATED OR PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED, BUT NOT -RELATED☐ NOT PREGNANCY-RELATED OR -ASSOCIATED
(i.e. false positive, woman was not pregnant within one year of her death)

ESTIMATE THE DEGREE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION (RECORDS) AVAILABLE FOR THIS CASE:

☐ COMPLETE

All records necessary for adequate review of the case were available

☐ SOMEWHAT COMPLETE

Major gaps (i.e. information that would have been crucial to the review of the case)

☐ MOSTLY COMPLETE

Minor gaps (i.e. information that would have been beneficial but was not essential to the review of the case)

☐ NOT COMPLETE

Minimal records available for review (i.e. death certificate and no additional records)

☐ N/A

DOES THE COMMITTEE AGREE WITH THE UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH LISTED ON DEATH CERTIFICATE?

☐ YES☐ NO

IF PREGNANCY-RELATED, COMMITTEE DETERMINATION OF UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH
Refer to page 3 for PMSS-MM cause of death list. If more than one is selected, list in order of importance beginning with the most compelling (1-2; no more than 2 may be selected in the system).

DID OBESITY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEATH?

☐ YES☐ PROBABLY☐ NO☐ UNKNOWN

DID MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEATH?

☐ YES☐ PROBABLY☐ NO☐ UNKNOWN

DID SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEATH?

☐ YES☐ PROBABLY☐ NO☐ UNKNOWN

WAS THIS DEATH A SUICIDE?

☐ YES☐ PROBABLY☐ NO☐ UNKNOWN

WAS THIS DEATH A HOMICIDE?

☐ YES☐ PROBABLY☐ NO☐ UNKNOWN

IF HOMICIDE, SUICIDE, OR ACCIDENTAL DEATH, LIST THE MEANS OF FATAL INJURY

☐ FIREARM☐ SHARP INSTRUMENT☐ BLUNT INSTRUMENT☐ POISONING/
OVERDOSE☐ HANGING/
STRANGULATION/
SUFFOCATION☐ FALL☐ PUNCHING/
KICKING/BEATING☐ EXPLOSIVE☐ DROWNING☐ FIRE OR BURNS☐ MOTOR VEHICLE☐ INTENTIONAL
NEGLECT☐ OTHER, SPECIFY:☐ UNKNOWN☐ NOT APPLICABLE

IF HOMICIDE, WHAT WAS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PERPETRATOR TO THE DECEDENT?

☐ NO RELATIONSHIP☐ PARTNER☐ EX-PARTNER☐ OTHER RELATIVE☐ OTHER
ACQUAINTANCE☐ OTHER, SPECIFY:☐ UNKNOWN☐ NOT APPLICABLE

COMMITTEE DETERMINATION OF PREVENTABILITY

A death is considered preventable if the committee determines that there was at least some chance of the death being averted by one or more reasonable changes to patient, family, provider, facility, system and/or community factors.

WAS THIS DEATH PREVENTABLE?

☐ YES☐ NO

CHANCE TO ALTER OUTCOME?

☐ GOOD CHANCE☐ SOME CHANCE☐ NO CHANCE☐ UNABLE TO DETERMINE

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS WORKSHEET

What were the factors that contributed to this death? Multiple contributing factors may be present at each level.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

If there was at least some chance that the death could have been averted, what were the specific and feasible actions that, if implemented or altered, might have changed the course of events?

CONTRIBUTING
FACTOR LEVELCONTRIBUTING FACTOR AND DESCRIPTION
OF ISSUE

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

LEVEL OF PREVENTION
(SEE BELOW)LEVEL OF IMPACT
(SEE BELOW)

PATIENT/FAMILY

PROVIDER

FACILITY

SYSTEM

COMMUNITY

CONTRIBUTING FACTOR KEY (DESCRIPTIONS ON PAGE 4)

- Delay
- Adherence
- Knowledge
- Cultural/religious
- Environmental
- Violence
- Mental health conditions
- Substance use disorder - alcohol, illicit/prescription drugs

- Tobacco use
- Chronic disease
- Childhood abuse/trauma
- Access/financial
- Unstable housing
- Social support/isolation
- Equipment/technology
- Policies/procedures
- Communication

- Continuity of care/ care coordination
- Clinical skill/ quality of care
- Outreach
- Enforcement
- Referral
- Assessment
- Legal
- Other

PREVENTION LEVEL

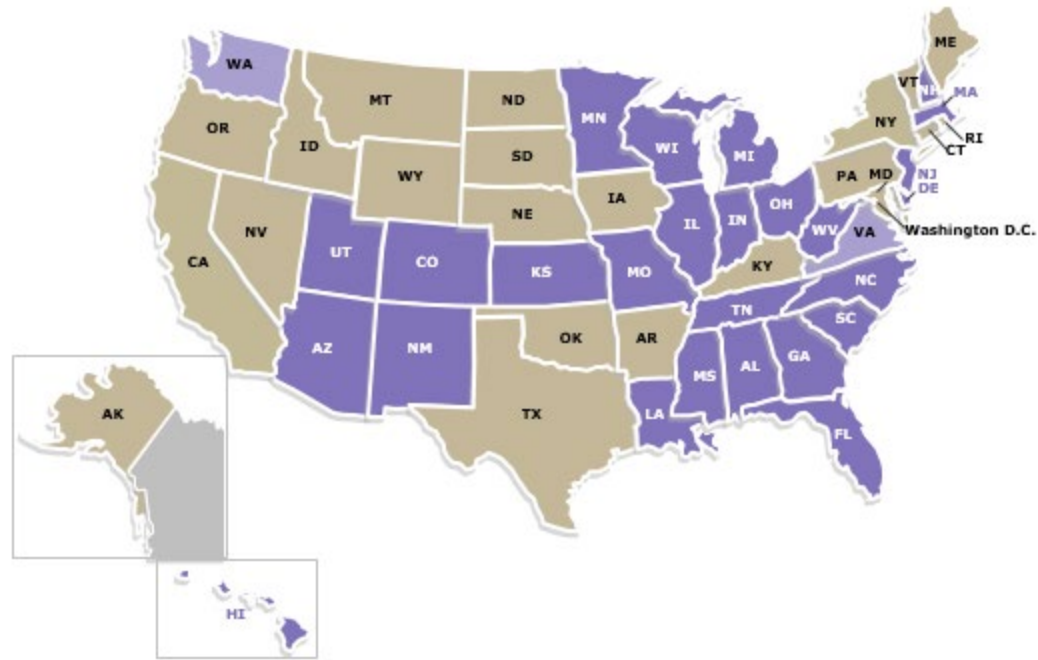
- **PRIMARY:** Prevents the contributing factor before it ever occurs
- **SECONDARY:** Reduces the impact of the contributing factor once it has occurred (i.e. treatment)
- **TERTIARY:** Reduces the impact or progression of an ongoing contributing factor once it has occurred (i.e. management of complications)

EXPECTED IMPACT LEVEL

- **SMALL:** Education/counseling (community- and/or provider-based health promotion and education activities)
- **MEDIUM:** Clinical intervention and coordination of care across continuum of well-woman visits through obstetrics (protocols, prescriptions)
- **LARGE:** Long-lasting protective intervention (improve readiness, recognition and response to obstetric emergencies/LARC)
- **EXTRA LARGE:** Change in context (promote environments that support healthy living/ensure available and accessible services)
- **GIANT:** Address social determinants of health (poverty, inequality, etc.)

Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA)

A common language for reviews to work together



MMRCs: Equity Framework

Understanding community contributing factors requires a shift in thinking

1. We can link MMRIA data to community context
2. Assigning contributing role of community in individual cases is challenging
3. Community factors may be more evident in aggregate data
4. Adaptation, implementation, and evaluation of a Health Equity Toolkit in process(!)

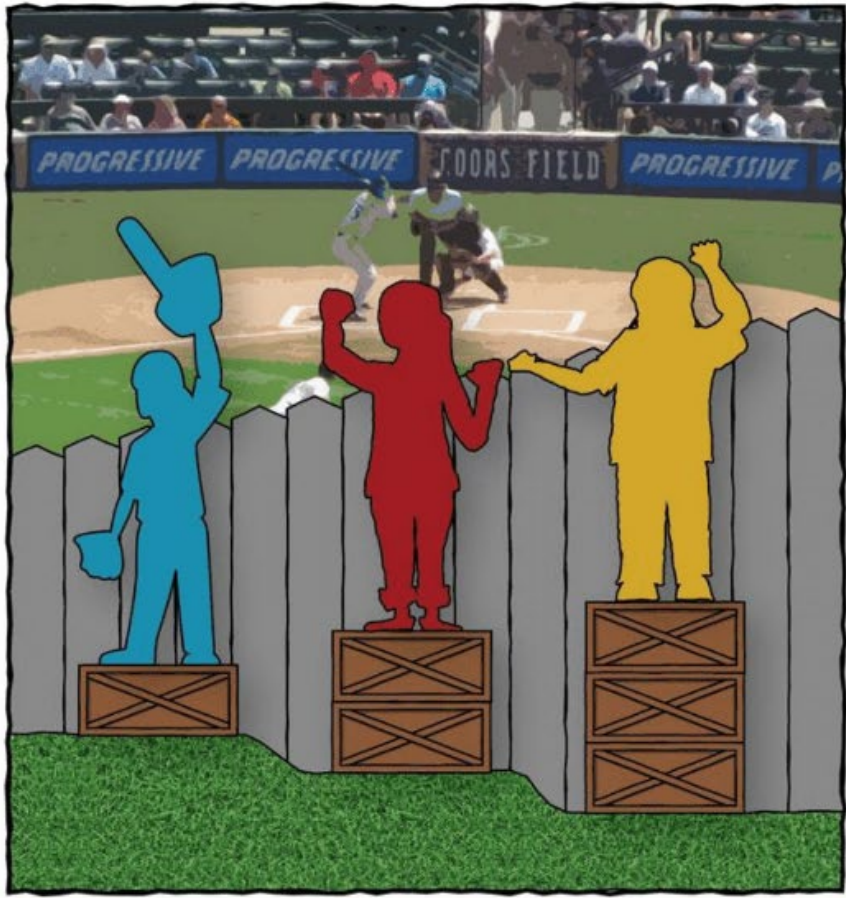
Kramer MR, Strahan AE, Preslar J, Zaharatos J, ST. Pierre A, Grant J, Davis NL, Goodman D, Callaghan W, Changing the conversation: Applying a health equity framework to maternal mortality reviews, *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* (2019), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2019.08.057>



MMRCs Equity Framework



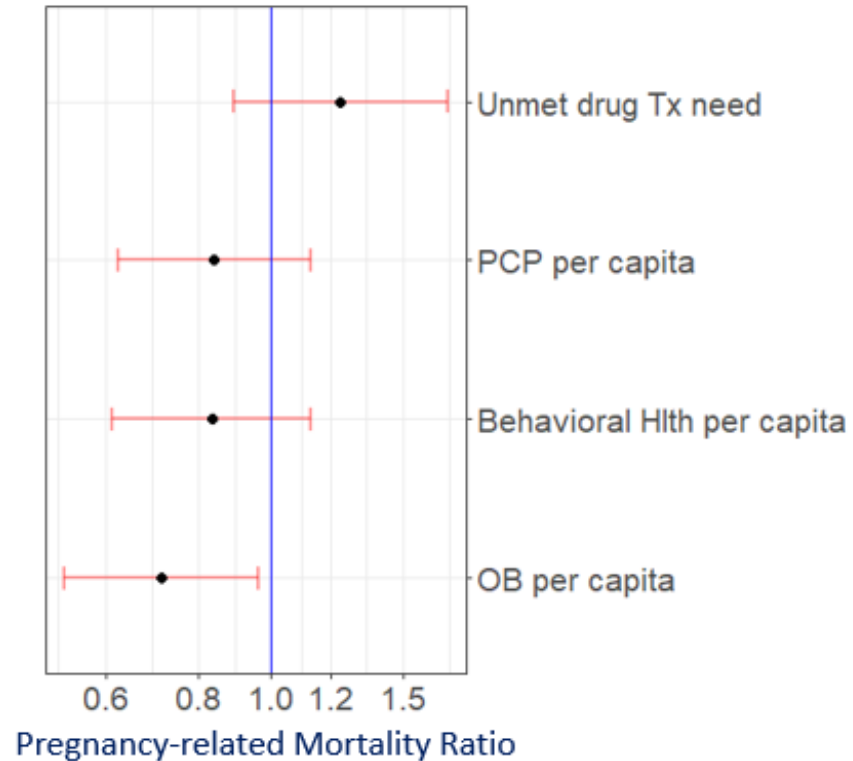
EQUALITY



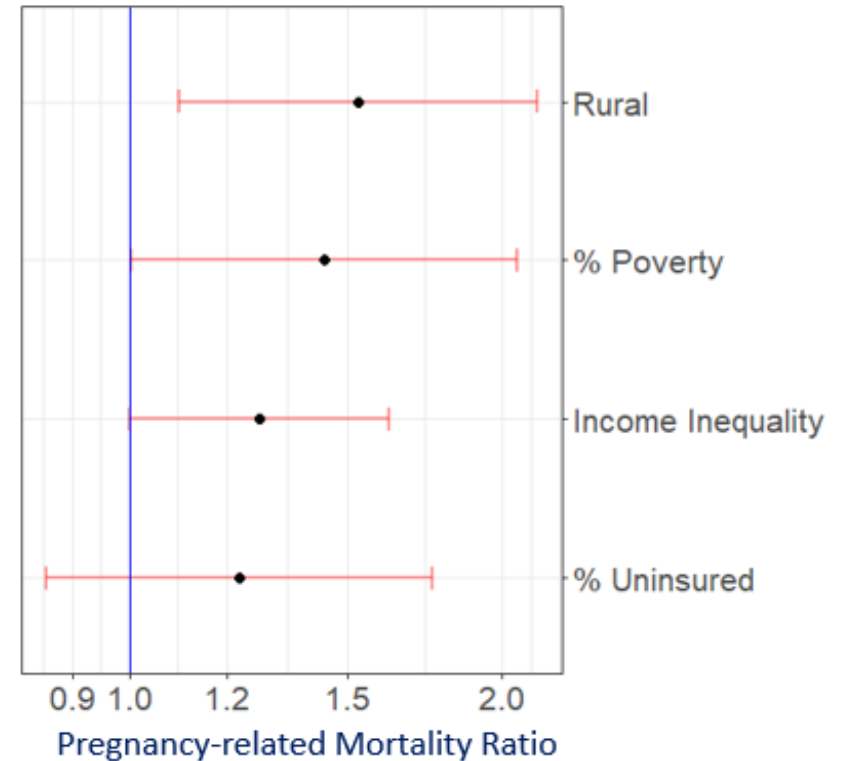
EQUITY

MMRCs: Equity Framework

Health Care Service Environ



Social Environ



MMRIA: Preventability

Definition

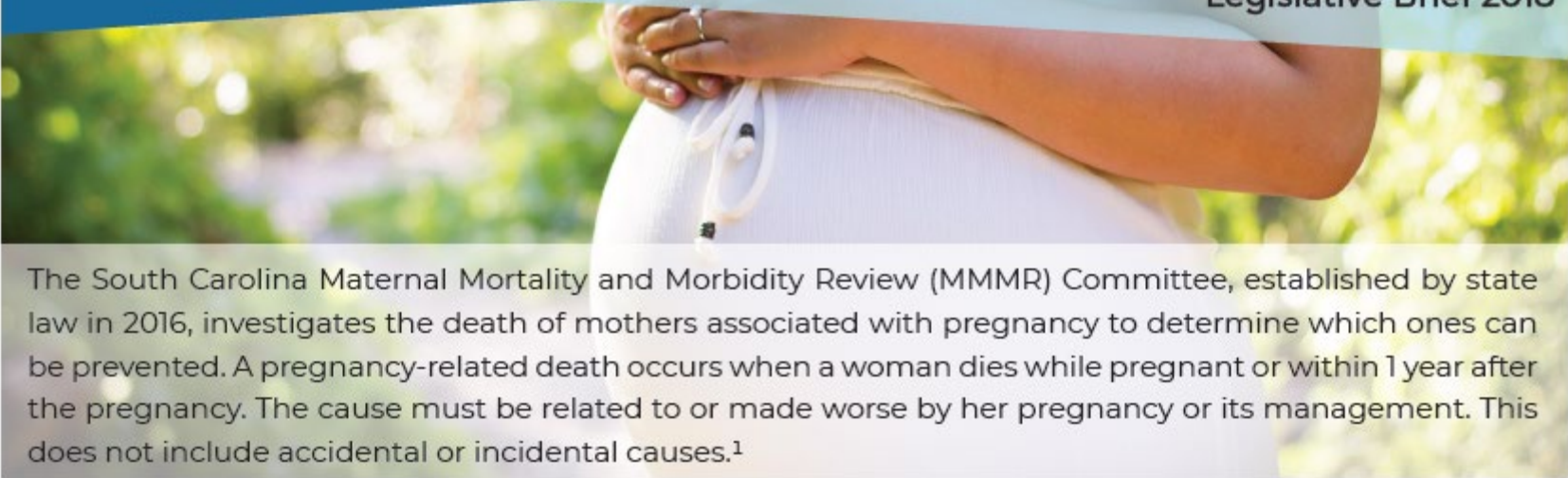
A death is **considered preventable** if the committee determines there was at least some chance of the death being averted by one or more reasonable changes to patient, family, provider, facility, system and/or community factors.

Why

MMRCs determine preventability to prioritize interventions with the greatest opportunity for impact.

South Carolina Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee

Legislative Brief 2018



The South Carolina Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review (MMMR) Committee, established by state law in 2016, investigates the death of mothers associated with pregnancy to determine which ones can be prevented. A pregnancy-related death occurs when a woman dies while pregnant or within 1 year after the pregnancy. The cause must be related to or made worse by her pregnancy or its management. This does not include accidental or incidental causes.¹

Committee established by statute – 2016

Meets quarterly

Voluntary reporting

Annual report to the legislature

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/DHEC/MMMR%202019%20Legislative%20Brief%20-%20Revised%2003182019.pdf>

SC Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Committee (MMMRC)

Multidisciplinary

Actively practicing

Based on ACOG and CDC recommendations

Three- to four-year terms

75% attendance requirements

Renewable once

SC Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Committee (MMMRC)

3 YEARS

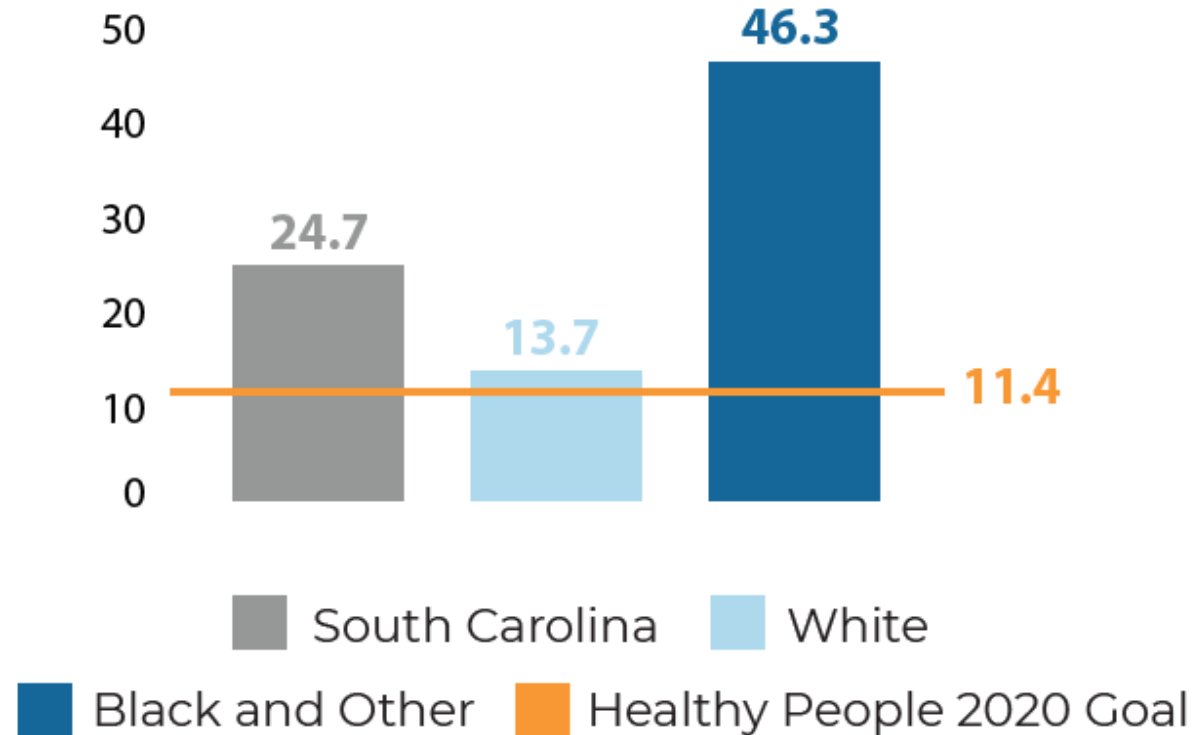
- ACOG
- MRM/OB each Regional Perinatal Center (RPC)
- SC Perinatal Association
- Coroner
- SC Hospital Association
- SC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- OB MD FQHC
- OB MD Level II hospital

4 YEARS

- OB Anesthesia
- Cardiology
- Domestic Violence
- Midwife
- Law Enforcement
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Regional Systems Developers (RSDs)
- Family Medicine
- Psychiatry/Behavioral Medicine

South Carolina Pregnancy-Related Death by Race, 2013-2017²

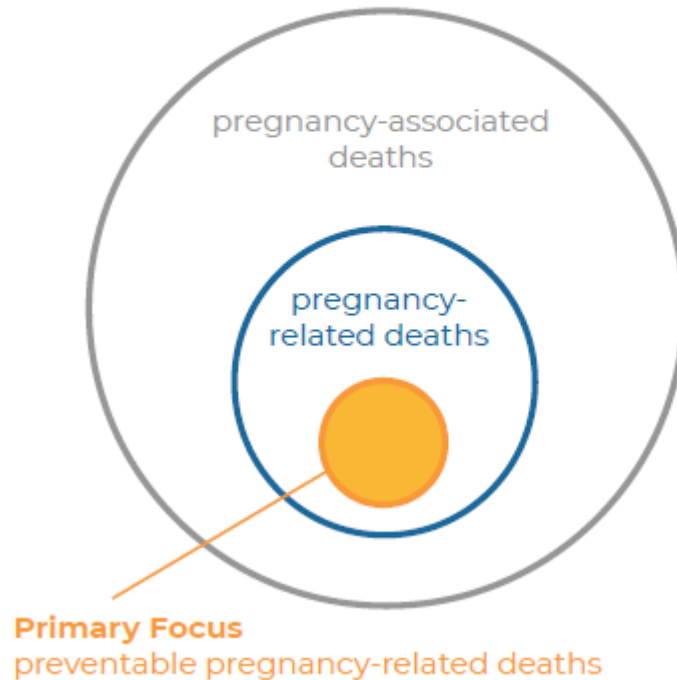
Rate per 100,000 live births



<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/DHEC/MMMR%202019%20Legislative%20Brief%20-%20Revised%2003182019.pdf>

SC Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Committee (MMMRC)

Scope of Case Review



MMMR Committee Findings

During the 2016-2018 review period, 13 of the 15 maternal deaths reviewed in South Carolina were determined to be pregnancy-related. One death was determined to be pregnancy-associated but not related to pregnancy, and the other could not be determined. Among the 13 pregnancy-related deaths, 54% were determined to be preventable.

54%

As reported nationally³, the findings from South Carolina's MMMR Committee show that the common causes of maternal death include cardiovascular and coronary conditions, hemorrhage, infection, and embolism.

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/DHEC/MMMR%202019%20Legislative%20Brief%20-%20Revised%2003182019.pdf>

SC Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Committee (MMMRC)

SC MMMRC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SC uses the **MMRIA** reporting format

CDC-developed

Assist with identifying social determinants

Includes **community factors**

SC Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Committee (MMMRC)

SC MMMRC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Annual Report to the South Carolina Birth
Outcomes Initiative (SC BOI) each Spring**

Annual Report to the SC General Assembly

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/DHEC/MMMR%202019%20Legislative%20Brief%20-%20Revised%2003182019.pdf>

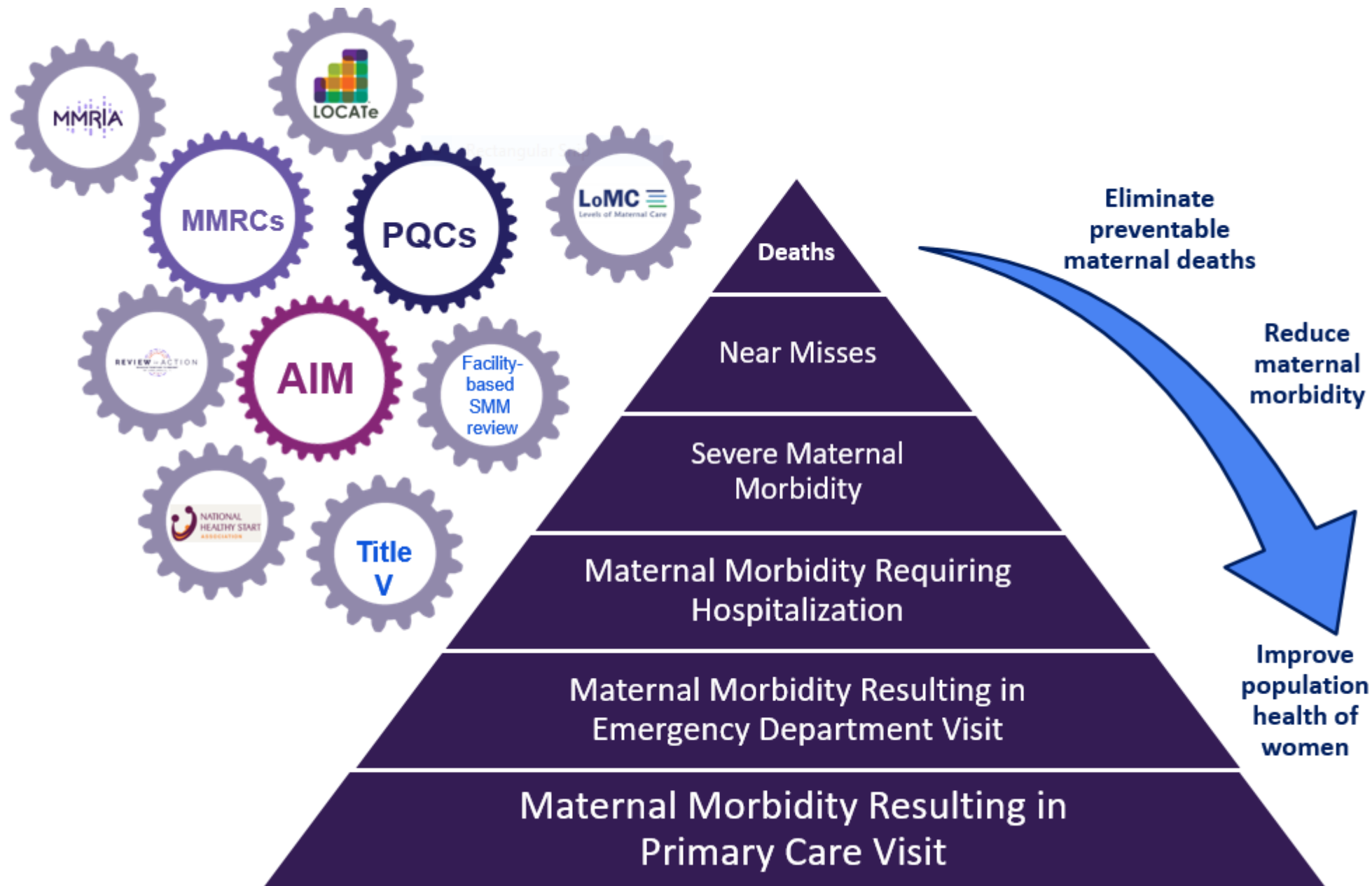
Moving from Thought to Action: State Level South Carolina SimCoach



Moving from Thought to Action: Local Level GHS Postpartum Hemorrhage Cart



A standardized PPH cart that contains all equipment needed for any staff in any setting within the Women's Hospital.



Thanks



Judith.burgis@prismahealth.org

