Maternal Healthcare Crisis for Women of Color

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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.

by Nina Martin, ProPublica, and Renee Montagne, NPR, Dec. 7, 2017, 8 a.m. EST

Hospitals know how to protect mothers. They just aren’t doing it.

by Annie Waldman, Dec. 27, 2017, 8 a.m. EST

Lost Mothers
How Hospitals Are Failing Black Mothers

A ProPublica analysis shows that women who deliver at hospitals that disproportionately serve black mothers are at a higher risk of harm.

by Nicholas Kristof
New York Times
July 29, 2017
Leading Causes of Pregnancy-Related Deaths by Race

For every maternal death, 100 women experience severe maternal morbidity.

- Life-threatening diagnosis during delivery; affects 50,000 women annually
- Racial and ethnic disparities exist

Severe Maternal Morbidity and Disparities

Severe Maternal Morbidity by Educational Attainment, New York City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Less than high school</th>
<th>High school graduate</th>
<th>Some college</th>
<th>College graduate or higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black non-Latina</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Latina</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Figure 1: Pathways to Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Severe Maternal Morbidity & Mortality

Quality of Care and Disparities

- Nearly one-half of maternal deaths/severe maternal morbidity events are preventable
- Hospital quality important contributing factor
- Growing body of research suggests
  - Black mothers deliver in specific set of hospitals and these hospitals have worse outcomes for both black and white women


New York City Hospital Rankings for Severe Maternal Morbidity

- Black and Latina women more likely to deliver in high morbidity hospitals
- ...and less likely to deliver in low morbidity hospitals

Observed rates: 0.6% to 11.5%; Risk standardized rates: 0.8% to 5.7%
Levers to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Access to postpartum care; extended Medicaid coverage
- Access to contraception, preconception health care
- Quality improvement, standardization, team training, bundles, disparities dashboard
- Access to high quality antenatal care, subspecialists, new models of care

Outcomes Severe Maternal Morbidity & Mortality

Preconception Care

Antenatal Care

Delivery & Hospital Care

What Serena Williams’s scary childbirth story says about medical treatment of black women

Black women are often dismissed or ignored by medical care providers. Williams wasn’t an exception.

By P.R. Lockhart | Jan 11, 2018, 4:40pm EST

Levers to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- **Preconception Care**
  - Access to contraception, preconception health care

- **Antenatal Care**
  - Access to high quality antenatal care, subspecialists, new models of care

- **Postpartum Care**
  - Access to postpartum care; extended Medicaid coverage

- **Delivery & Hospital Care**
  - Quality improvement, standardization, team training, bundles, disparities dashboard

Outcomes: Severe Maternal Morbidity & Mortality

Key Recommendations
- Collect Self-Identified Race/Ethnicity/Language
- Disparities Dashboard
- Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity Reviews
- Community Participation in Quality and Safety Committees
- Implicit Bias Training
- Promote Culture of Equity

Howell EA. Obstet Gynecol. 2018 May;131(5):770-782
THANK YOU

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