

Saving Lives!

Transforming Maternal Health Care in America's Materno-Toxic Zones

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Commonsense Childbirth

BECAUSE EVERY WOMAN DESERVES A HEALTHY BABY

HRSA's Maternal Mortality, June 19-21, 2018

- HRSA convened the summit to discuss evidence-based approaches and identify innovative solutions to decreasing maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates
- The report summarizes key findings from the 3-day summit

Summit key findings include areas where action could contribute to decreased rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, as listed below including:

- **Access:** Improve access to patient-centered, comprehensive care for women before, during, and after pregnancy, especially in rural and underserved areas;
- **Safety:** Improve quality of maternity services through efforts such as the utilization of safety protocols in all birthing facilities;
- **Workforce:** Provide continuity of care before, during, and after pregnancies by increasing the types and distribution of health care providers;
- **Life Course Model:** Provide continuous team-based support and use a life course model of care for women before, during, and after pregnancies;
- **Data:** Improve the quality and availability of national surveillance and survey data, research, and common terminology and definitions;
- **Review Committees:** Improve quality and consistency of maternal mortality review committees through collaborations and technical assistance with U.S. states; and
- **Partnerships:** Engage in opportunities for productive collaborations with multiple summit participants.



London – circa 1981



Orlando, Florida 2019

The New York Times

Making Pregnancy Safer for Women of Color

By Miriam Zoila Pérez

Photo Credit: Zack Wittman for The New York Times Article 2/14/18



The New York Times 2018. Jennie Joseph with a patient at The Birth Place, Florida birth center.



Our Babies are Dying!

Twice as many African American babies being born:

Too SOON

Too SMALL

Too SICK

to survive the first year of life



Women are Dying Too!

Two to three women die every day during pregnancy, birth or their postpartum in the USA.

There is an alarming increase in severe pregnancy-related complications that nearly cause death, known as 'near miss' incidents.

50,000+ per year



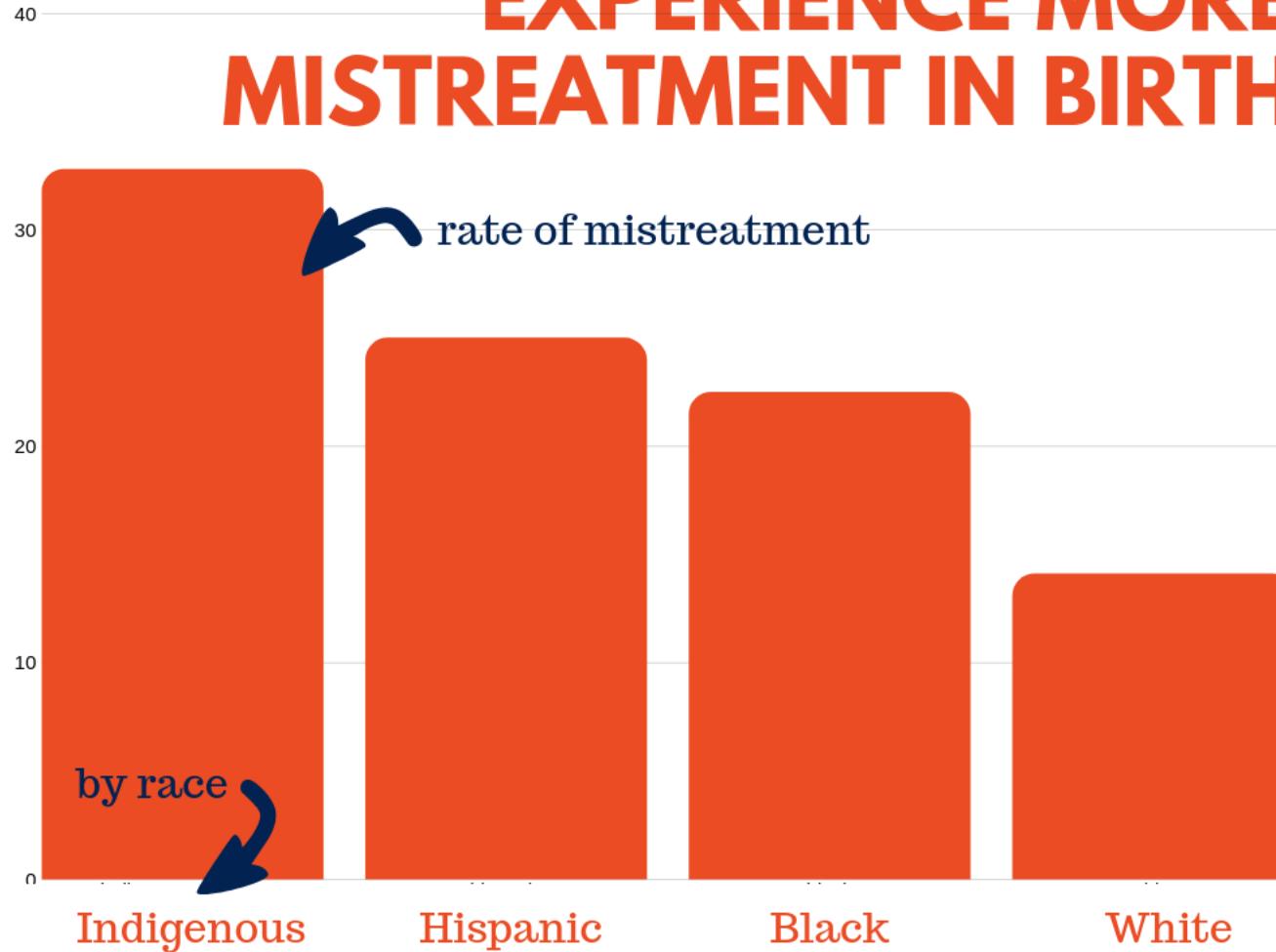
Capitol Hill Briefing - Amnesty International 2010

Three to four times as many African American women are dying as White women

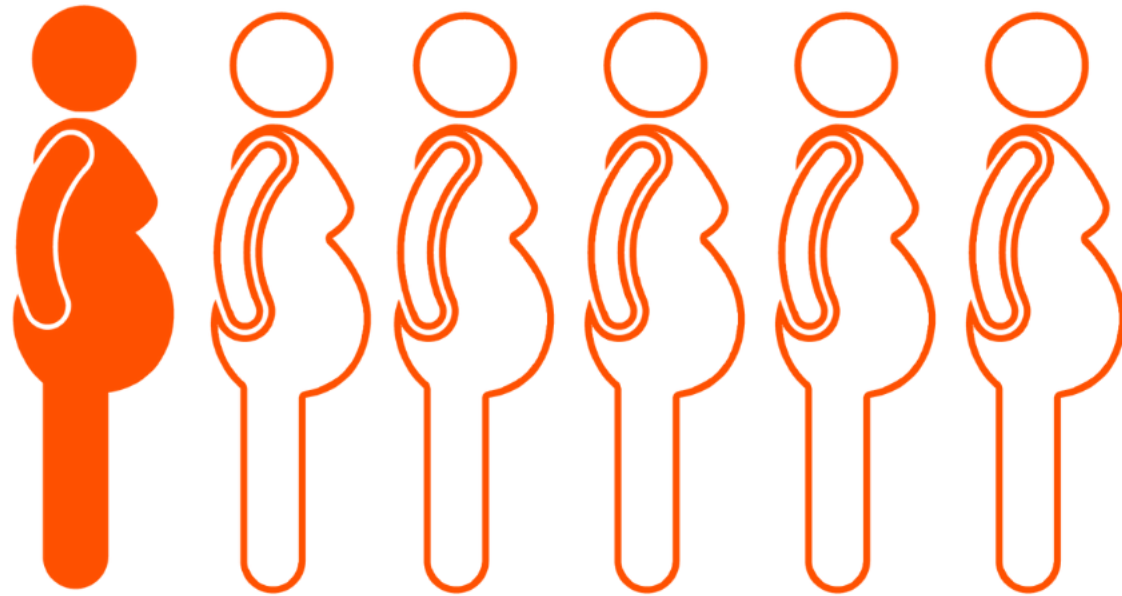
Ah, but it's those social determinants of health.....those **Materno-toxic** neighborhoods (JJ)



PEOPLE OF COLOR EXPERIENCE MORE MISTREATMENT IN BIRTH



www.birthplacelab.org/mistreatment



**1 IN 6 WOMEN
EXPERIENCE MISTREATMENT
DURING
CHILDBIRTH
MOST COMMON:**

- Being shouted at or scolded by a health care provider
- Health care providers ignoring women, refusing their request for help, or failing to respond to requests for help in a reasonable amount of time

Vedam, S., Stoll, K., Taiwo, T. K., Rubashkin, N., Cheyney, M., Strauss, N., . . . & the GVtM-US Steering Council. (2019).

“The Giving Voice to Mothers study: Inequity and mistreatment during pregnancy and childbirth in the United States”. *Reproductive Health*, June 11, 1-18.
DOI: 10.1186/s12978-019-0729-2



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TOP 4 TYPES

OF MISTREATMENT DURING CHILDBIRTH BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Being shouted at or scolding

Ignoring women, **refusing their request for help**, or failing to respond to requests for help in a reasonable amount of time

Violation of physical privacy

Threatening to withhold treatment or forcing them to accept treatment they did not want



The JJ Way®

A Maternal Child Healthcare System

Could it be possible that creating a **culture** and **environment** that supports all pregnant people could make the difference between health, gestational age, birth weight and breastfeeding rates in women at risk for poor maternal health outcomes in the USA?



The JJ Way® Fundamental Premise

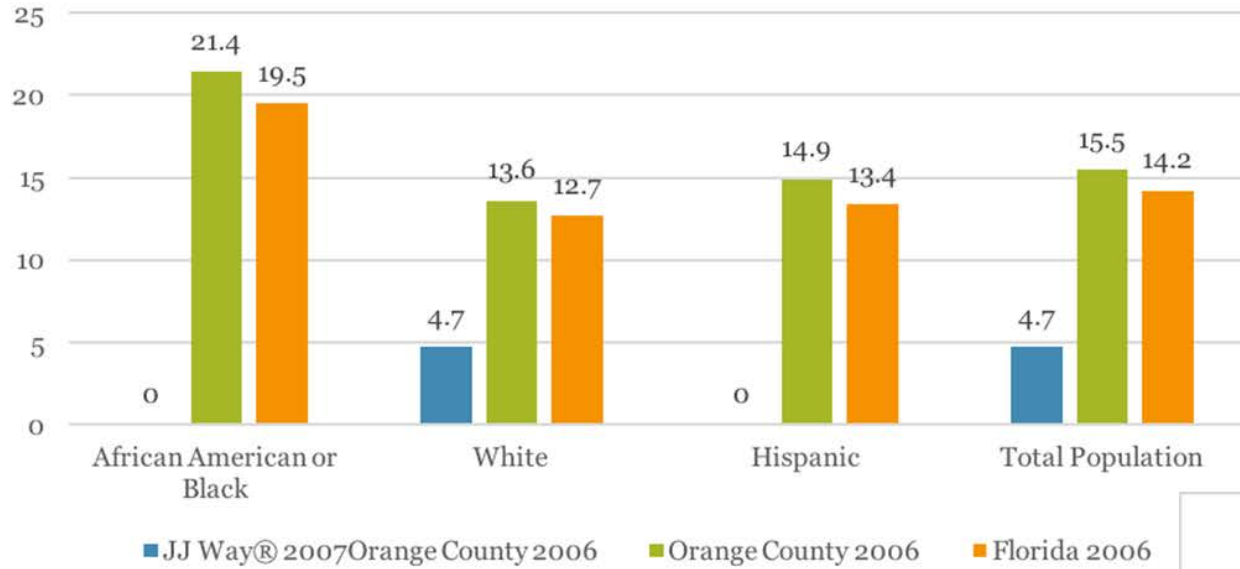


**Every woman
wants a healthy
baby and every
woman deserves
one**



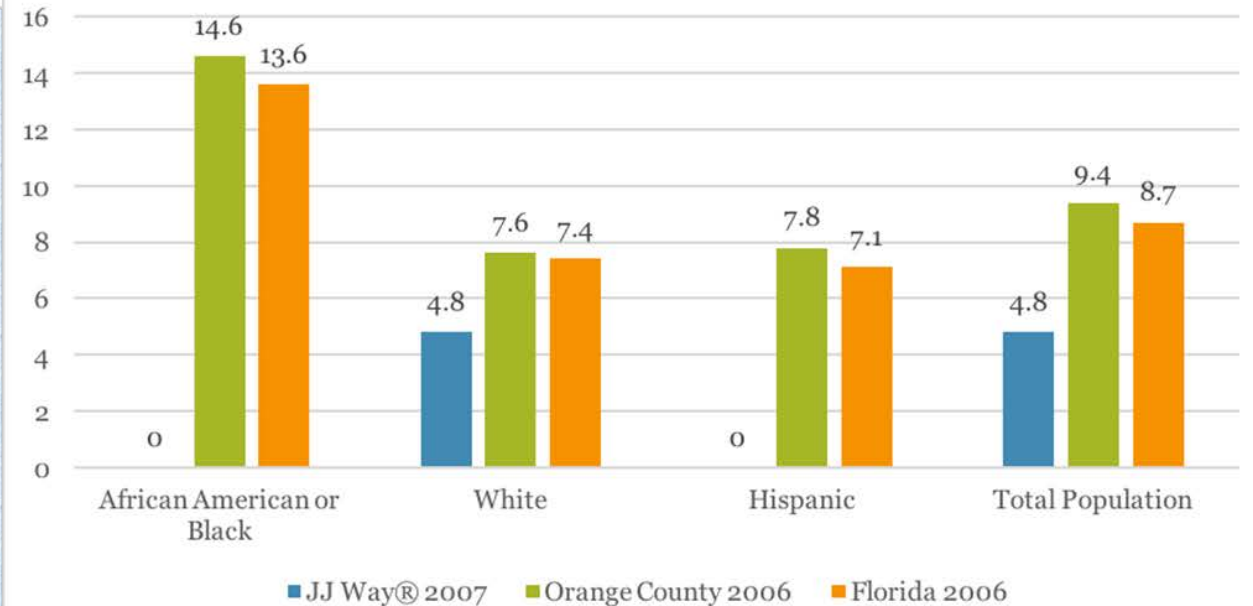


Preterm Birth Rate Comparisons- Health Council Study



Preterm Birth and Low Birth Weight by Race 2006 - 2007

Low Birth Weight Comparisons -Health Council Study



Elimination of the Racial Disparity

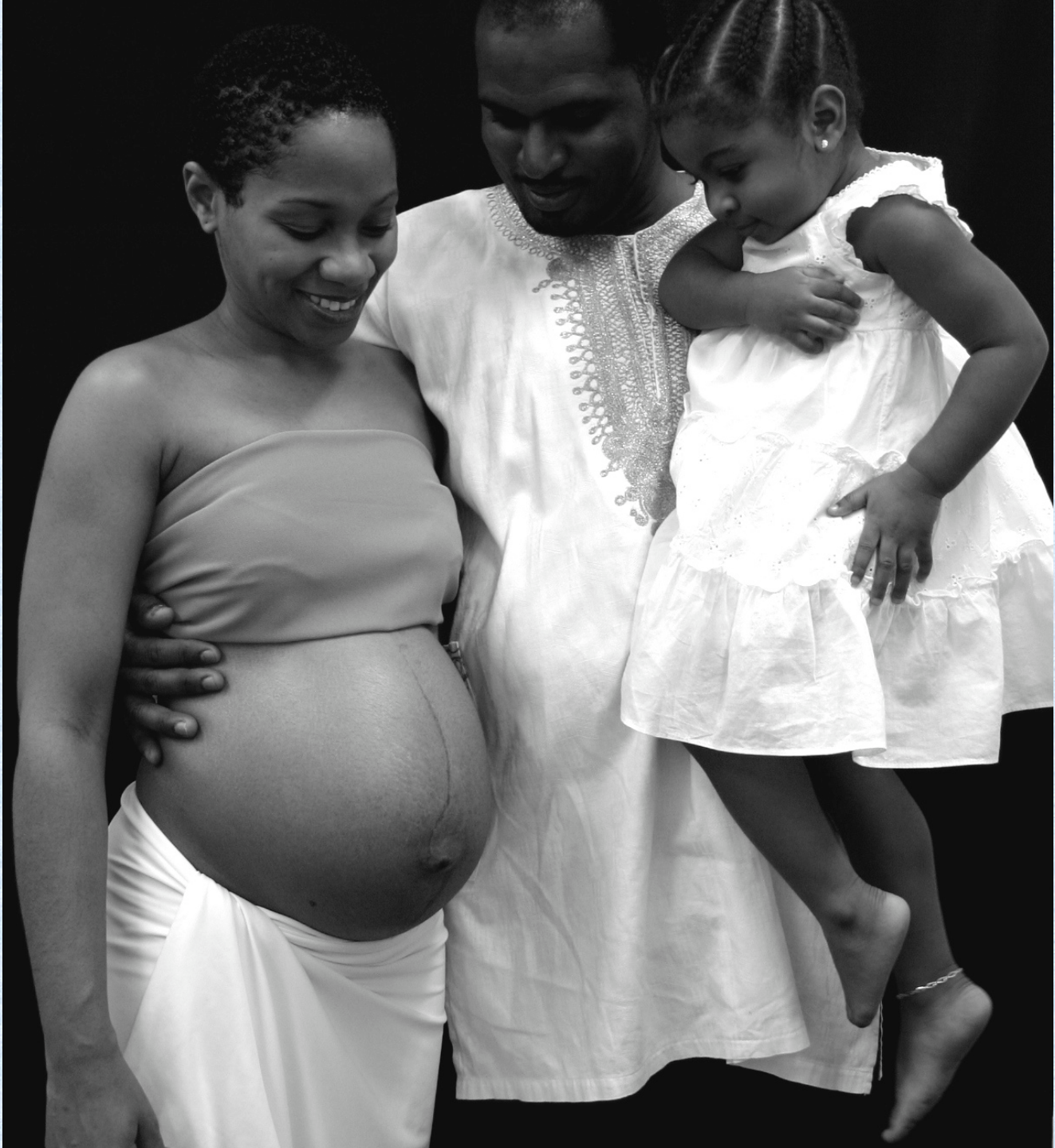
**NO low birth weight or premature infants born to
African American or Hispanic women in the 2007
Study**

- 100 'Easy Access Clinic' women enrolled
- 95% of babies weighed an average 7lbs 7ozs
- 95% of women delivered at 39 weeks

The JJ Way® Works!



















JJ Way® Solutions

Community-based, community-owned and community-led perinatal providers and practices using doulas, lactation educators, community health workers, medical assistants, nurses and midwives are:

- PROTECTIVE in all materno-toxic zones and situations
- Able and **willing** to create and navigate a 'team' approach to maternity care
- Providing quality, culturally-congruent, perinatal care where women 'are' – physically, mentally, emotionally and even financially
- Able to train and support other willing providers and agencies in interdisciplinary and collaborative practice

What do we need?

- ACCESS to **what**? *Safe, quality* maternity care for ALL women
- ACCESS to **who**? *Appropriate level* providers, with cultural humility and willingness to acknowledge the true dangers for women
- ACCESS to **where**? All sites, all levels of care – home birth, clinic, birth center, hospital

Who else has ACCESS issues?

Providers need

- ACCESS to understanding the inbuilt historical and structural harms of disconnected, broken and unwieldy medical systems;
- ACCESS to cultural humility training, and training to reach in, and work collaboratively, with underserved communities and providers

Students need

- ACCESS to scholarships, grants, loans for training, and establishing sustainable community-based perinatal practices

The National Perinatal Task Force

THE NATIONAL PERINATAL TASK FORCE

*Building a Movement to Birth a
More Just and Loving World*



**Building a Movement to Birth a
More Just and Loving World –**

www.perinataaltaskforce.com

- Organizing for Maternal Justice
- National network of Perinatal Safe Spots
- Best practice, evidence-based models for reducing disparities
- Council of Midwifery Elders

ACCESS. CONNECTION. KNOWLEDGE. EMPOWERMENT.





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Commonsense Childbirth
National Perinatal Task Force