

Supporting Equitable Birth Outcomes

House Health Policy Committee
September 28, 2023



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Birth equity (noun):

The assurance of the conditions of optimal births for all people with a willingness to address racial and social inequalities in a sustained effort.

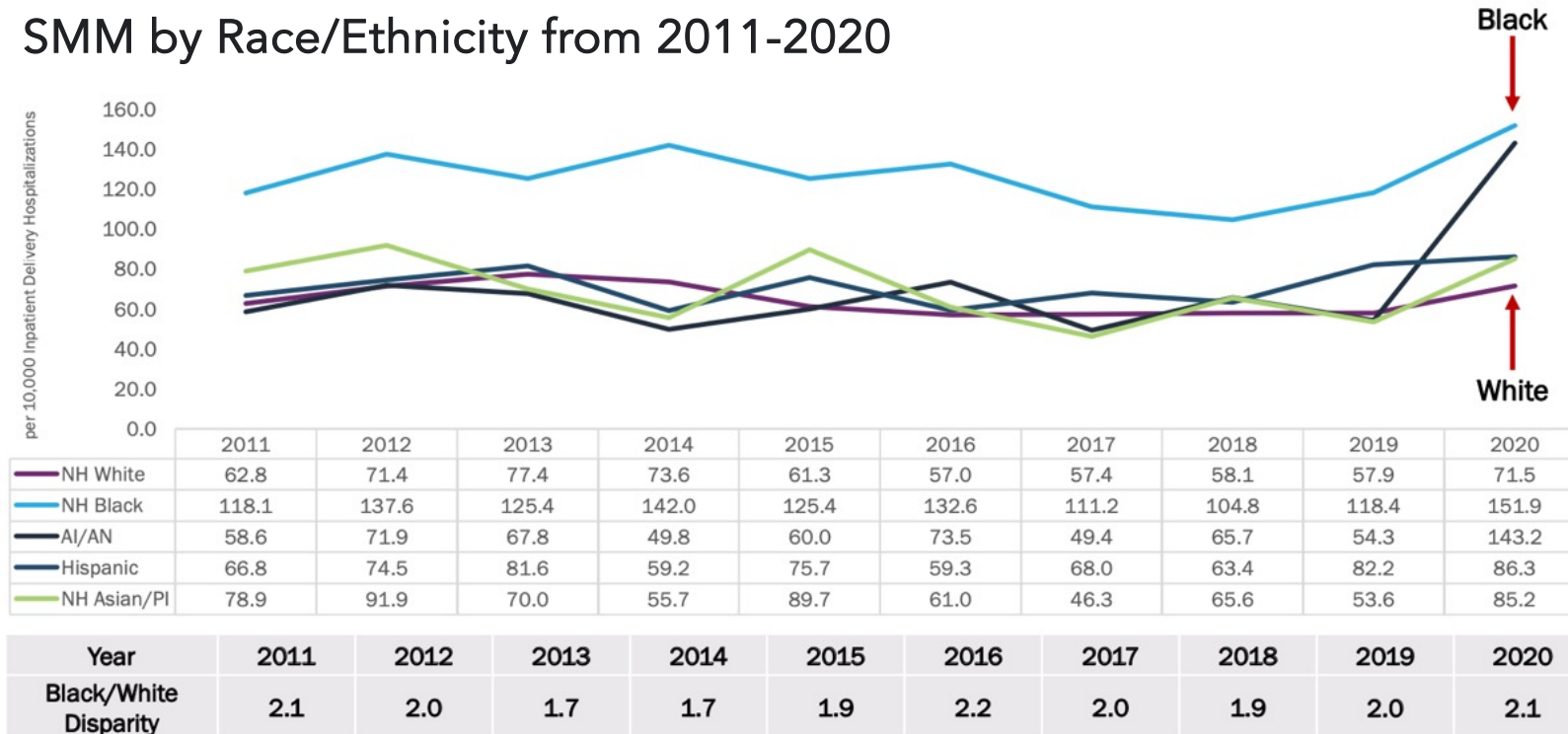


Severe Maternal Morbidity in Michigan

Severe maternal morbidity (SMM) includes unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- or long-term consequences to a woman's health.


SMM examples include **heart attack, heart failure, eclampsia, sepsis/blood infection and hysterectomy**. Non-Hispanic (NH) Black individuals have consistently higher rates of SMM than other races and ethnicities.

SMM by Race/Ethnicity from 2011-2020



Data Source: Michigan Resident Inpatient Files created by the Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Bureau of Epidemiology and Population Health, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, using data from the Michigan Inpatient Database obtained with permission from the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Service Corporation (MHASC).

Maternal or Infant Mortality is just the tip of the iceberg

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, while the vast majority of the iceberg is submerged below the surface. The background is a blue sky and ocean.

Social Determinants of Health

Healthcare Access
and Quality

Implicit Bias

Environment

Racial & Ethnic Disparity

Psychosocial stressors

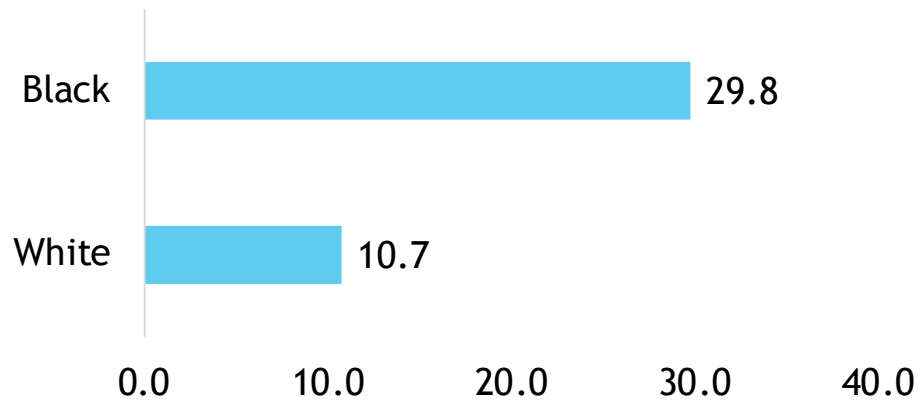
Economic Stability

Pregnancy-related mortality

From 2015-2019, **Black women were 2.8x more likely to die** from pregnancy-related causes in Michigan. Hypertensive disorders, followed by hemorrhage, thrombotic/pulmonary embolism, infection/sepsis and cardiac conditions are the leading causes of pregnancy-related death

DISPARITIES

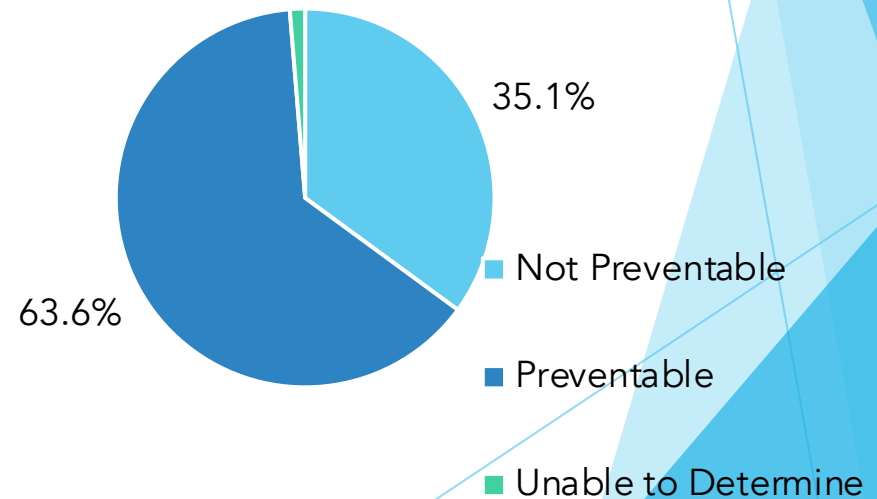
Pregnancy-Related Mortality by Race, 2015-2019



Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance Program

PREVENTABILITY

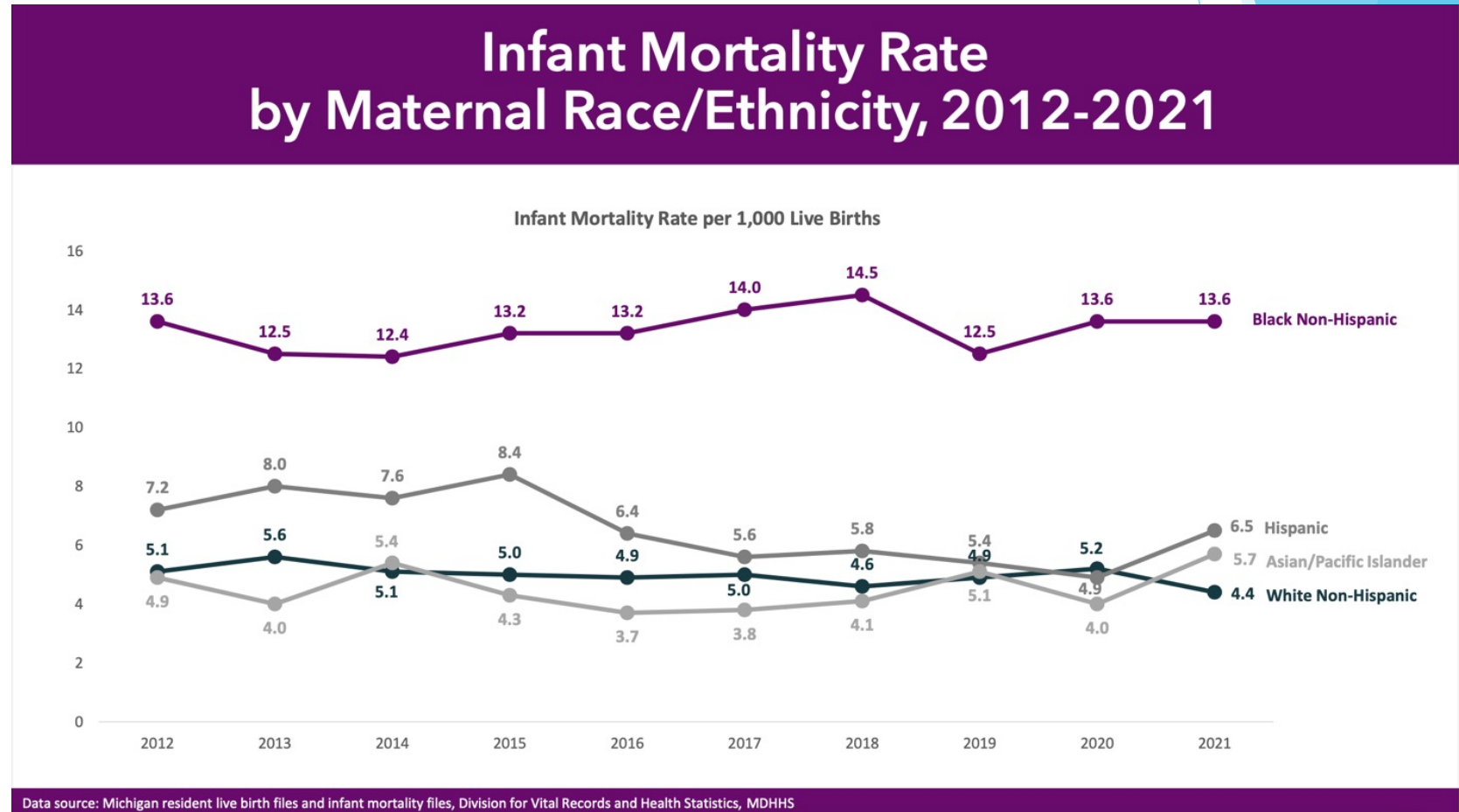
Pregnancy-Related Preventability, 2015-2019



Infant Mortality in Michigan

Infant mortality is defined as a death of a live-born baby before his or her first birthday and is expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births. Black Non-Hispanic infants die 3 times more often than white NH infants.

For additional information see Michigan Infant Mortality data at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/statisticsreports/vitalstats/infantdeaths>



Climate ripe for change and collaboration to improve outcomes

- Much greater awareness of need to focus on maternal health
- Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies initiative at state level with new investments in FY 24
- MOMNIBUS bills at federal level
- Importance of hearing and honoring voices of those most impacted, amplified by community organizations
- Partnership and collaboration at national, state and local level

A close-up photograph of a Black woman smiling and holding a baby. The woman is wearing a white top, and the baby is also wearing a white top. The image is partially obscured by a blue geometric graphic on the right side of the slide.

Birth Equity Education Project

- Series of knowledge products funded by the WK Kellogg Foundation to promote policy improvements in specific areas of maternal and infant health with goal to highlight initiatives and policy strategies that can reduce health inequities for black and indigenous women and babies.
- Audience includes policy makers, legislators, state administrators, as well as health care leaders.
- MCMCH offering policy considerations for each:
 - Doula Services for Improving Birth Outcomes
 - Reimagining Perinatal Care
 - Nurturing a Healthy Dyad: The Importance of Maternal and Infant Mental Health
 - Diversifying the Healthcare Workforce
 - Finance and Payment Innovation
 - Breastfeeding
 - Substance use and perinatal interventions

All BEEP knowledge products and
policy considerations at:
www.mcmch.org

Ensuring quality, responsive care

- Michigan Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (MI AIM) – CQI effort to improve hospital culture regarding maternal safety, decreasing preventable severe maternal morbidity and mortality through the implementation of early recognition patient safety bundles.
- \$10 million in FY 24 state budget to provide incentives to hospitals for participation which can be paired with Levels of Maternal Care designation in statute.



Empower and sustain collaboration



Perinatal Quality Collaborative and the regional entities bring together all partners working with perinatal families in their area to focus on local data and local strategies.

Efforts are linked back back to the state's plan to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Funding in FY 24 budget to fund locally-led projects based on local data.

Centering black and indigenous led organizations whenever system, policy and funding decisions are considered.

Sustainability including statutory recognition is key to long term success

A close-up photograph of a pregnant woman's hands holding a pair of small, white, lace-up sneakers. The woman's belly is visible in the background, and she is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt. The image is set against a blue geometric background on the right side of the slide.

Innovations led by Communities

- Use of different models of perinatal care
 - Free-standing birth centers
 - Centering Pregnancy
 - Hybrid models with telehealth visits
- Recognition of support services and professionals
 - Doulas
 - Community health workers
 - Lactation support professionals
- Additional mental health and substance use tools and approaches
 - High Touch, High Tech
 - Rooming in

Supporting New Families

- Connecting families to resources
 - Perinatal mental health screenings at well child and postpartum visits
 - Home Visiting
 - Child care
- Making space to heal and bond
 - Paid leave
 - Lactation support in the workplace
 - Grief supports when needed



Resources & Links

- Maternal Mortality Surveillance System Information and reports available here:
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_87421---,00.html
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review Information and reports available here:
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_4912_86838---,00.html
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System:
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_21428---,00.html
- Mother Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plan 2020-2023:
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_96967_97025---,00.html
- Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives Data by prosperity region and contact information for local leaders:
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_96967_97028---,00.html

Resources & Links

- Federal MOMNIBUS legislation:
<https://blackmaternalhealthcaucus-underwood.house.gov/Momnibus>
- Birth Equity Education Project from Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health briefs and policy recommendations:
www.mcmch.org
- National Birth Equity Collaborative:
<https://birthequity.org/>
- Aftershock documentary:
<https://www.aftershockdocumentary.com/>