

Maternal Morbidity and Mortality & Health Disparities in the United States

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Forum on Improving Access to Maternal Health Care in Rural Communities
June 12, 2019

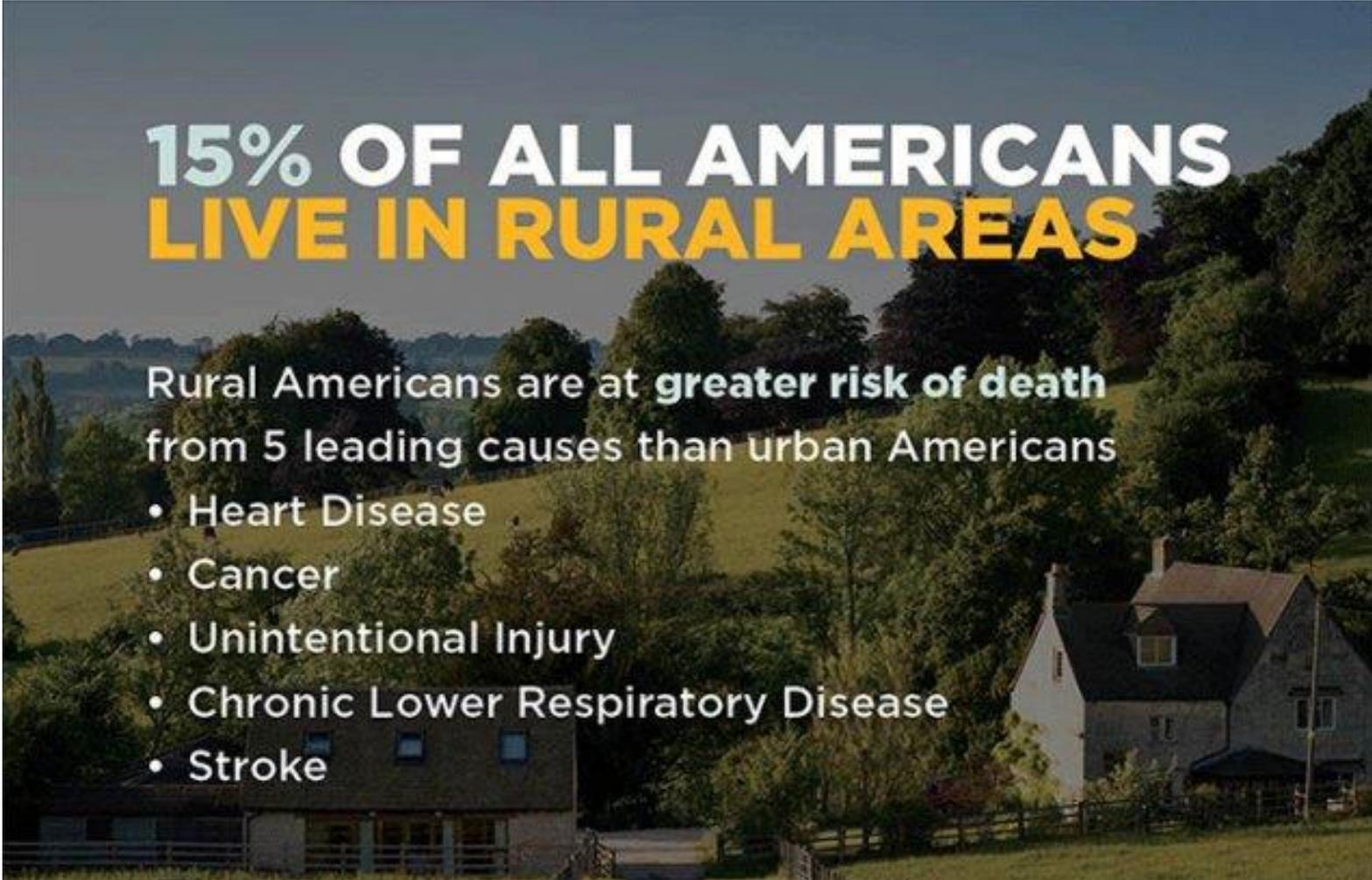


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Division of Reproductive Health



A photograph of a rural landscape featuring rolling green hills, dense trees, and several houses. The houses are multi-story with dark roofs and light-colored walls. The scene is captured in a slightly hazy, overcast light.

15% OF ALL AMERICANS LIVE IN RURAL AREAS

Rural Americans are at **greater risk of death** from 5 leading causes than urban Americans

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Unintentional Injury
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- Stroke

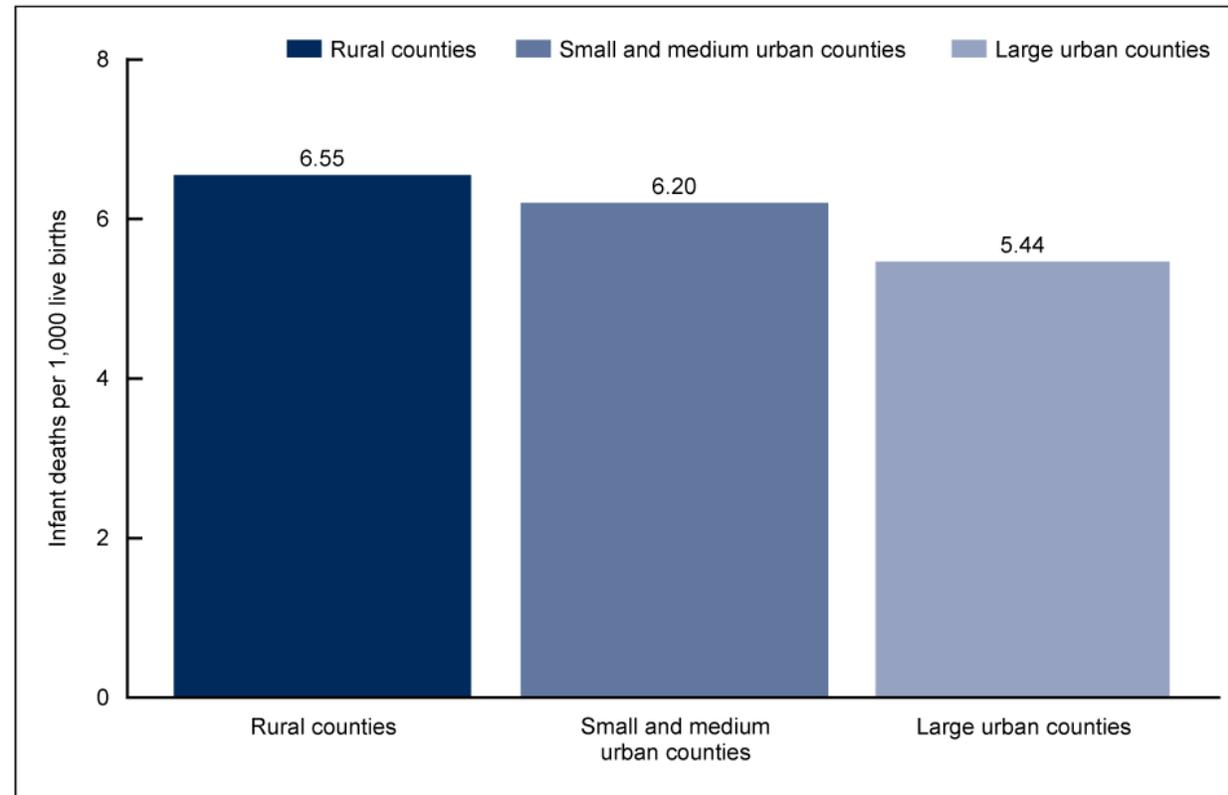
RURAL POPULATIONS: WHAT WE KNOW

- Less likely to have insurance or access to health care
- Likely to have higher rates of:
 - Smoking
 - High blood pressure
 - Unintentional injury, partly because of auto accidents and opioid overdoses
 - A host of other conditions

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/ruralhealth>

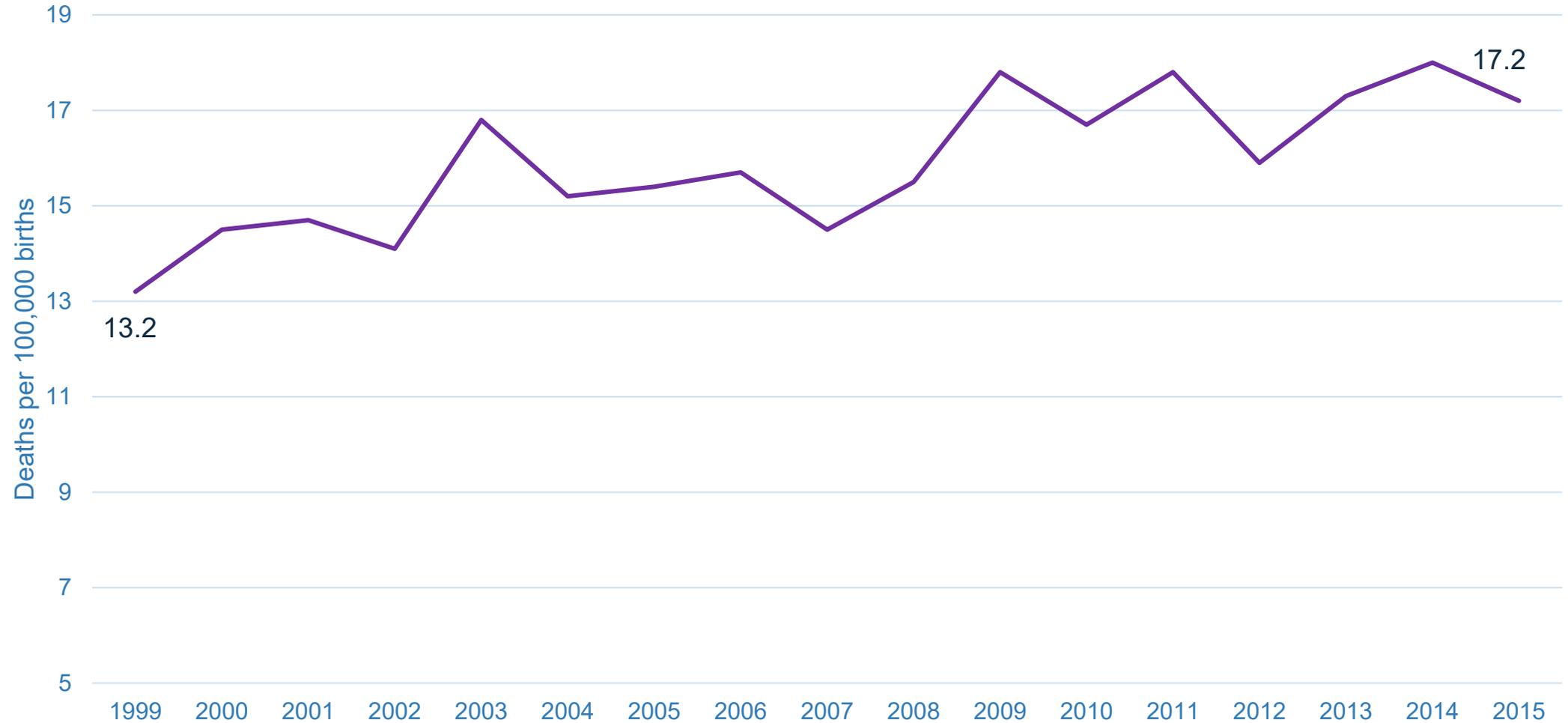
INFANT MORTALITY: RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN THE U.S.

Figure 1. Infant mortality rates, by urbanization level: United States, 2014



NOTES: Significant decreasing linear trend from rural counties to large urban counties ($p < 0.05$). County designation is based on mother's county of residence. County classification is based on 2013 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Access data table for Figure 1 at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db285_table.pdf#1. SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

U.S. MATERNAL MORTALITY HAS BEEN RISING FOR YEARS



MATERNAL DEATHS: THE NUMBERS



700

Around 700 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes. CDC's Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) is committed to fully understanding and addressing this tragedy.

3X

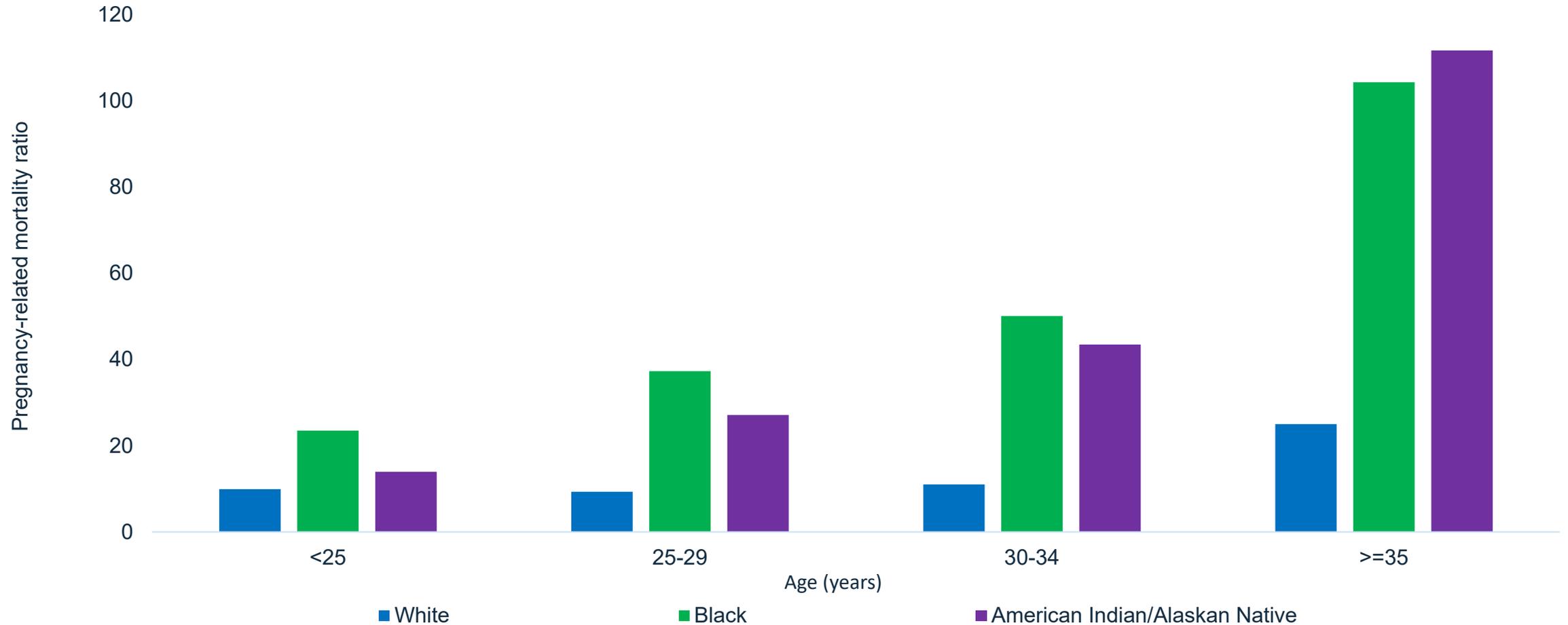
Considerable racial disparities exist, with Black and American Indian/ Alaskan Native women over 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women.

66%

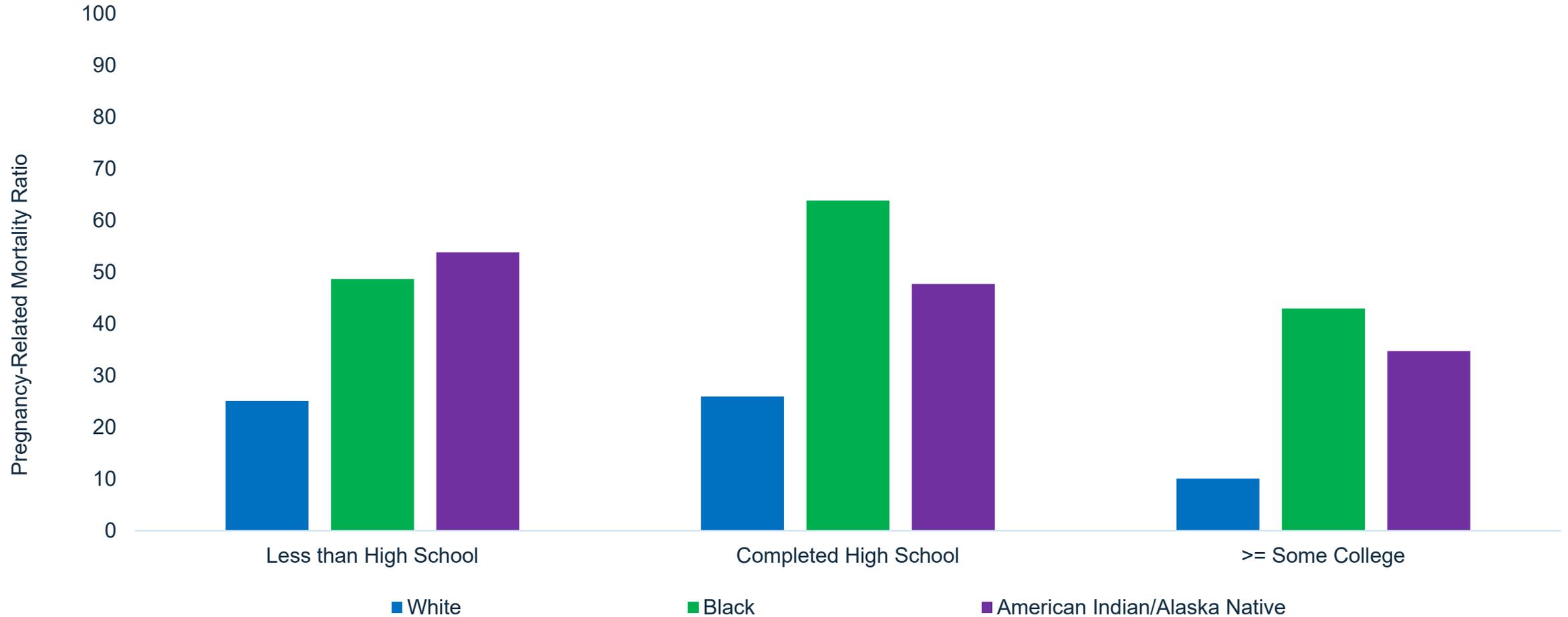
About 66% of these deaths may be preventable.



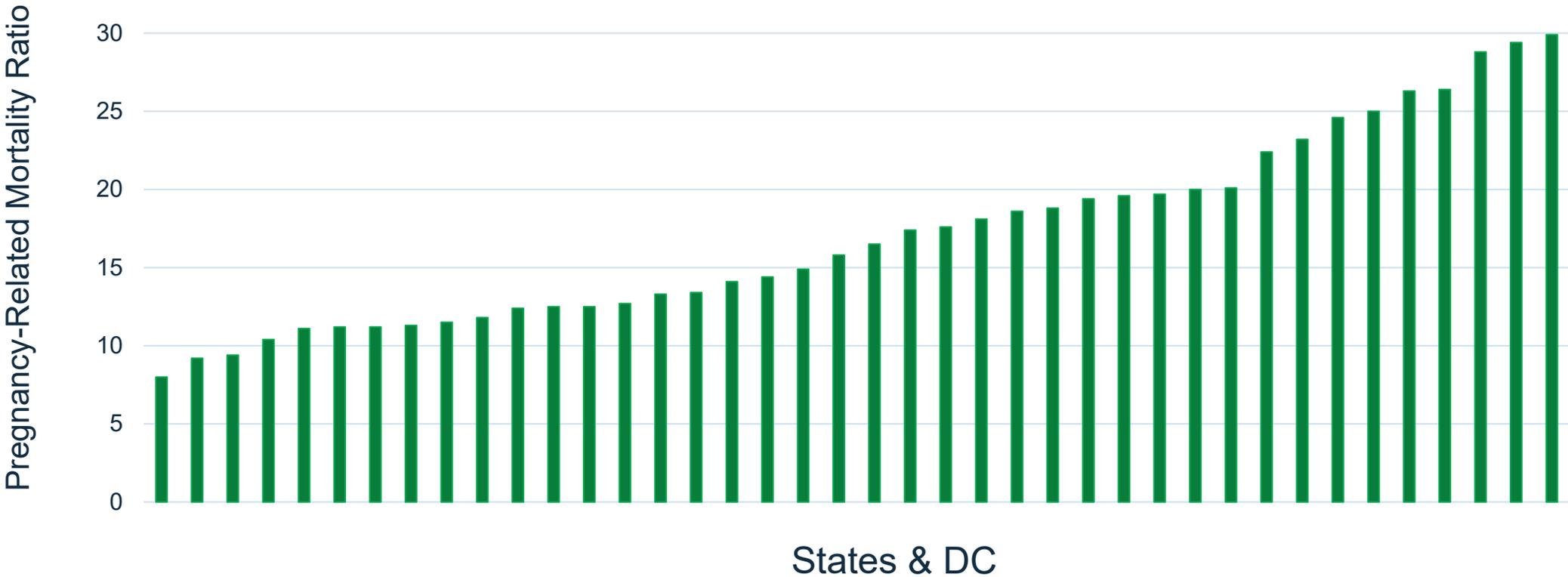
PRMR BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND AGE, PMSS, 2006–2015



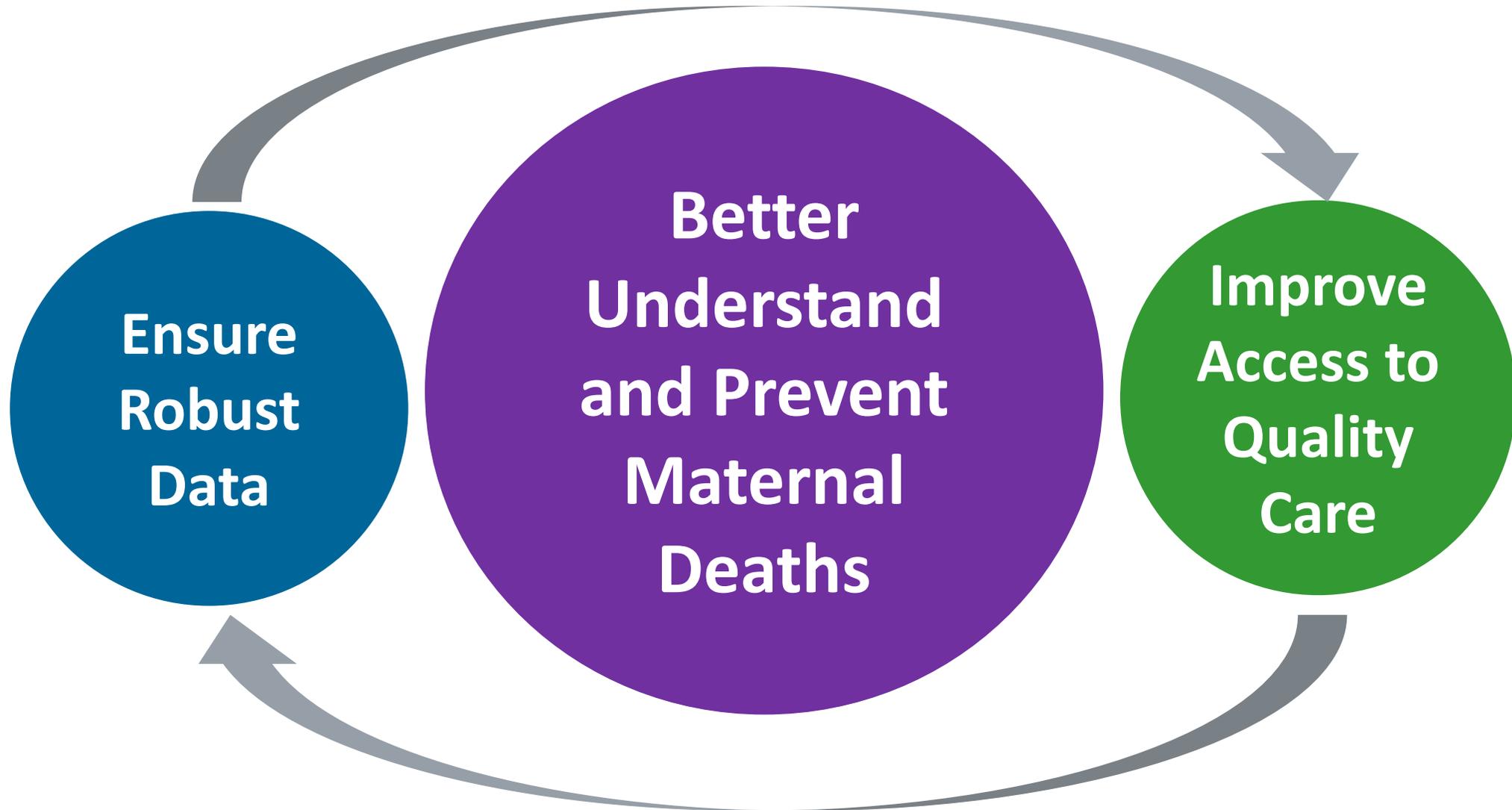
PRMR BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND EDUCATION, PMSS, 2006–2015



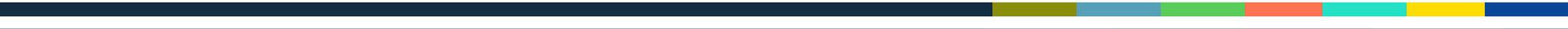
PRMRS BY STATES AND DC, PMSS, 2006-2015



PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS



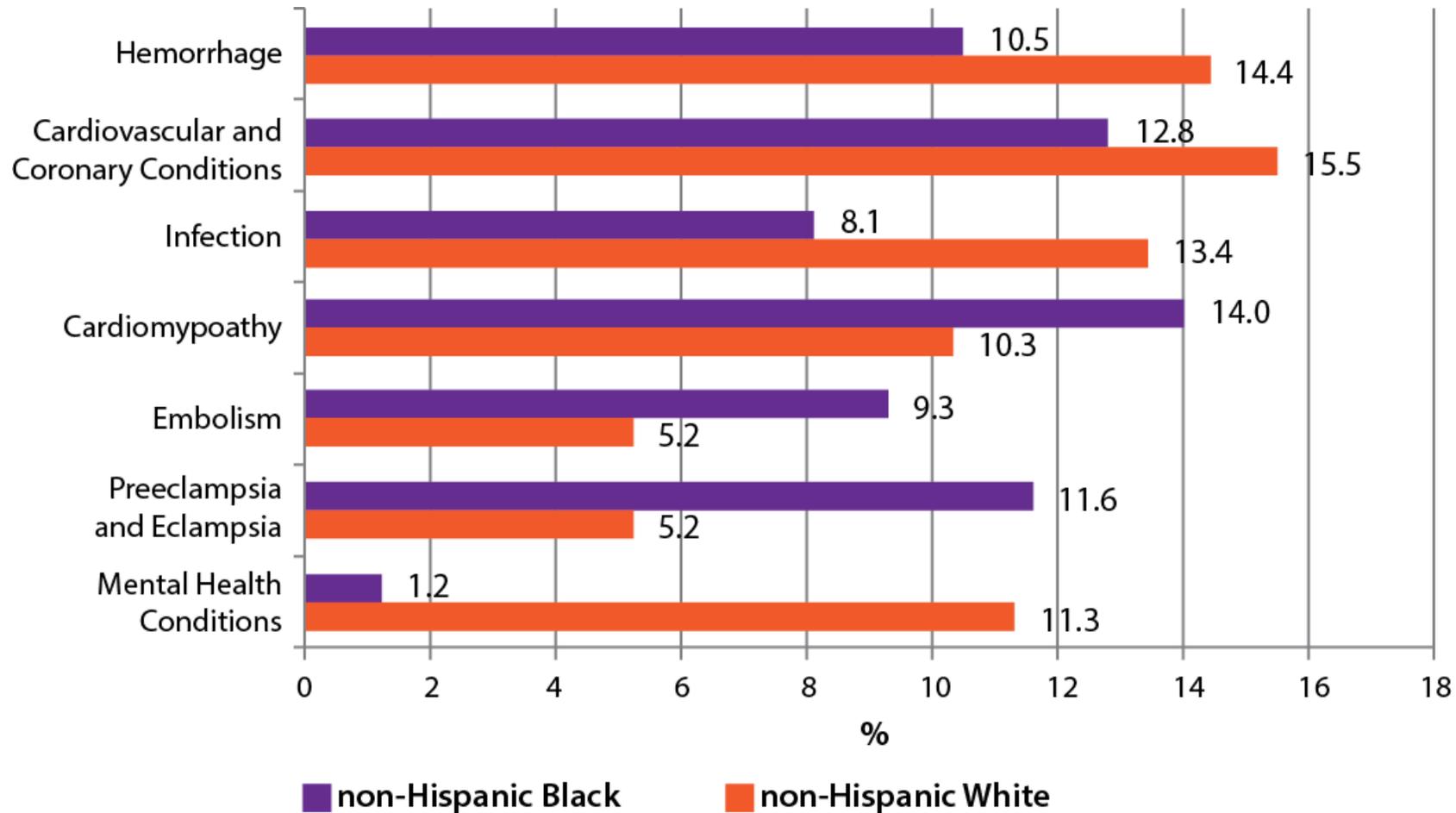
RURAL POPULATIONS: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

- What are the factors that contribute to deaths in rural settings?
 - What are the important interventions to prevent deaths?
 - What tools are needed to inform prevention efforts?
 - What are the measures needed to monitor our progress?
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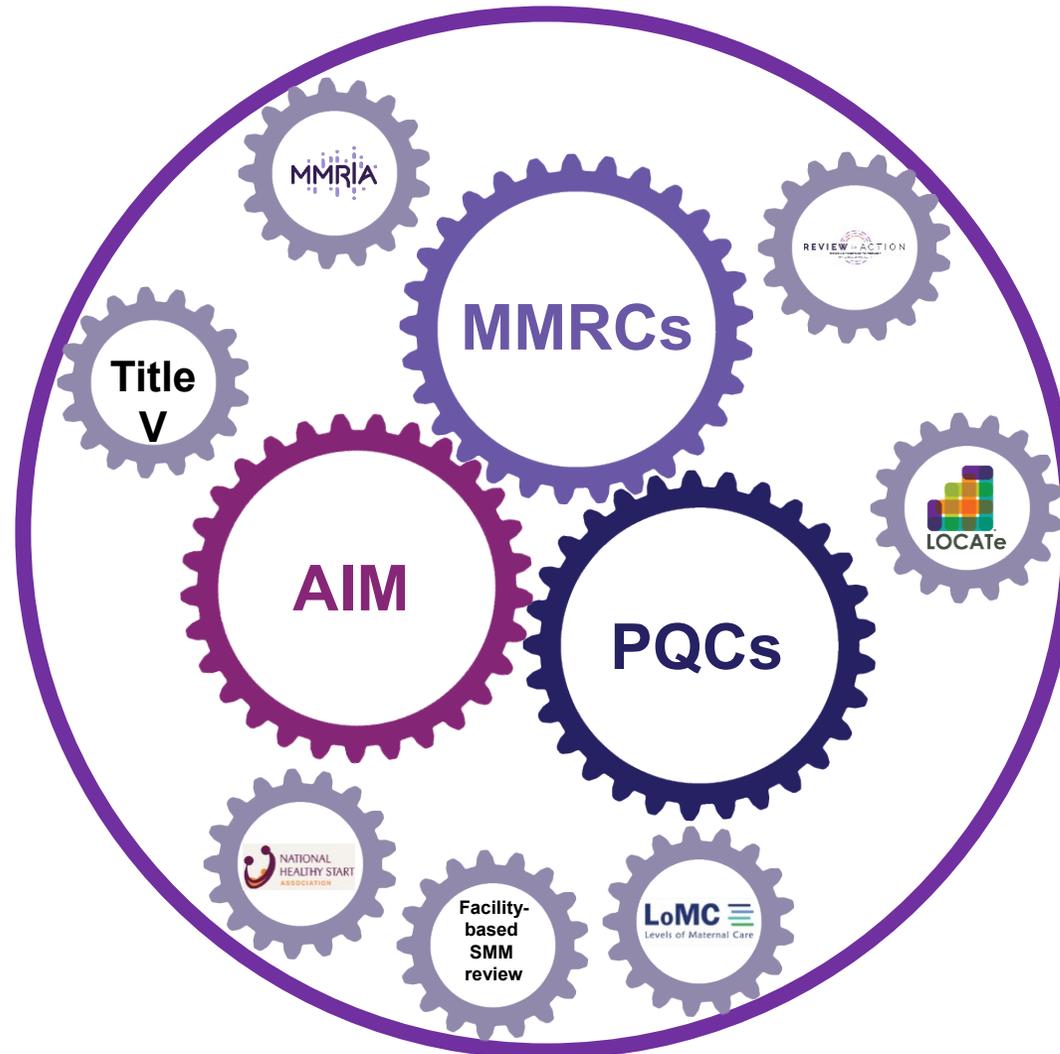
WHAT IS CDC DOING TO GET BETTER DATA?



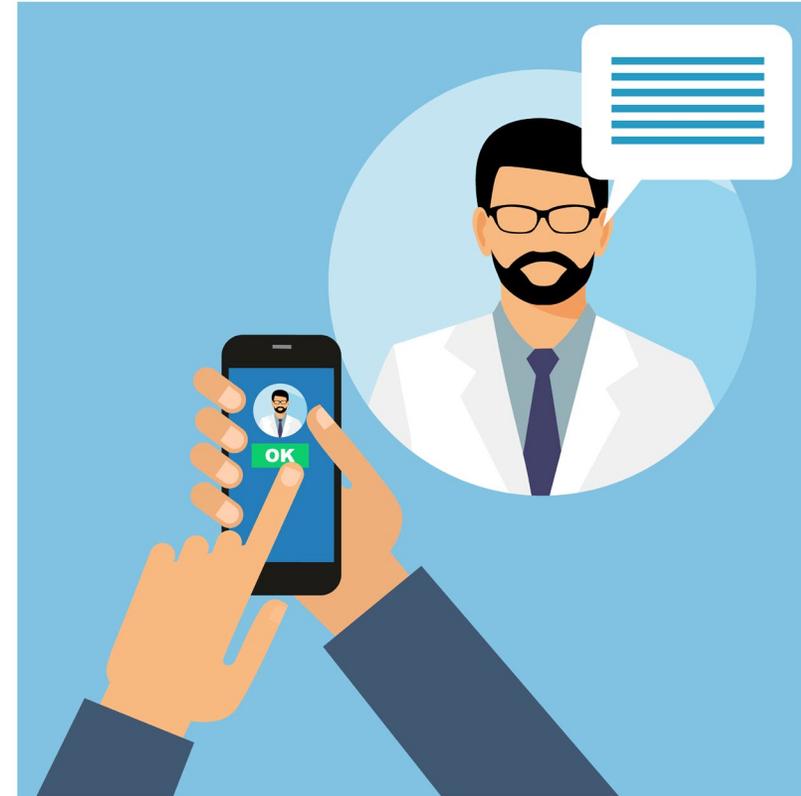
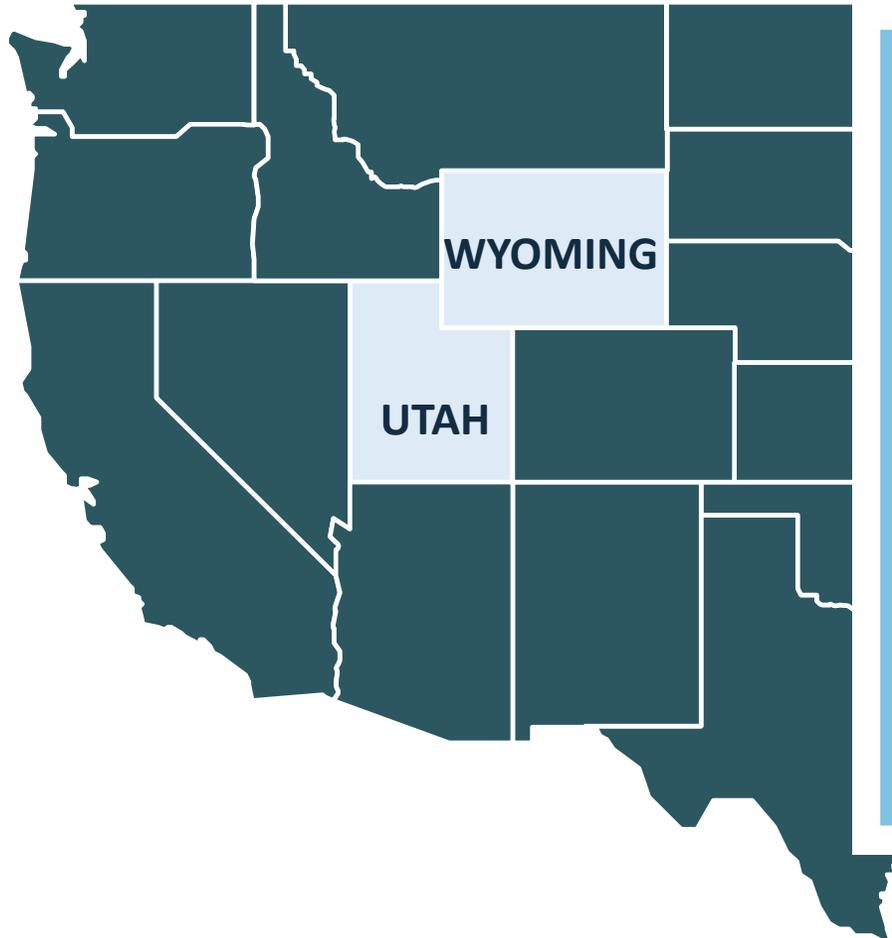
WHAT BETTER DATA CAN DO



BRINGING THE PIECES TOGETHER



ECHO PROJECT - UTAH AND WYOMING

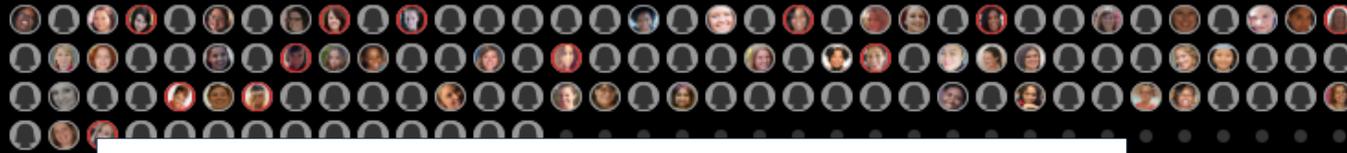




Lost Mothers

An estimated 700 to 900 women in the U.S. died from pregnancy-related causes in 2016. We have identified 134 of them so far.

*by Nina Martin, ProPublica, Emma Cillekens and Alessandra Freitas, special to ProPublica
July 17, 2017*



Focus On Infants During Childbirth Leaves U.S. Moms In Danger

12:11

May 12, 2017 · 5:00 AM ET
Heard on [Morning Edition](#)

+ QUEUE

EMBED

NINA MARTIN, PROPUBLICA



RENEE MONTAGNE



The New York Times Magazine



FEATURE

Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis

The answer to the disparity in death rates has everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.

Childbirth is killing black women in the US, and here's why



CBS NEWS / August 5, 2018, 10:06 AM

Maternal mortality: An American crisis



THANK YOU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [CDC.GOV/REPRODUCTIVEHEALTH](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

