



# Safety Bundles and Maternal Mortality: Do lack of safety bundles increase the risk of mortality in black mothers compared to white mothers?

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## BACKGROUND

CDC reports there are 42.2 deaths amongst black women compared to 13.0 deaths amongst white women per 100,000 live births. Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die in a pregnancy related death in the US regardless of age, level of education, or social status.

## IMPLICATIONS

- Research findings indicate a need for maternal mortality programs to be tailored to black women
- Effective interventions exist, but there needs to be federal and state support for widespread impact

## POTENTIAL BARRIERS

- Barriers vary from facility to facility
- Various human and systemic factors limit the implementation of safety bundles
- Human factors:
  - Hesitancy to change approach for treating patients
  - Patients lack access to basic medical care
  - Implicit bias
- Systemic Factors
  - Funding
  - Allocation of budget and resources to safety bundle implementation

## RESEARCH EVIDENCE SUMMARY

- Studies suggest leading cause of these deaths are due to hemorrhage, HTN and embolism.
- White women are more likely to deliver in low-morbidity hospitals: 65% of white v 23% black deliveries
- Racial and ethnic disparities play an important role in maternal and perinatal health outcomes.
- Patient-provider communication significantly predicted prenatal care satisfaction, key component in building a strong provider-patient relationship
- Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Program has created safety bundles that are clear-cut, evidence-based practices that improve patient outcomes.

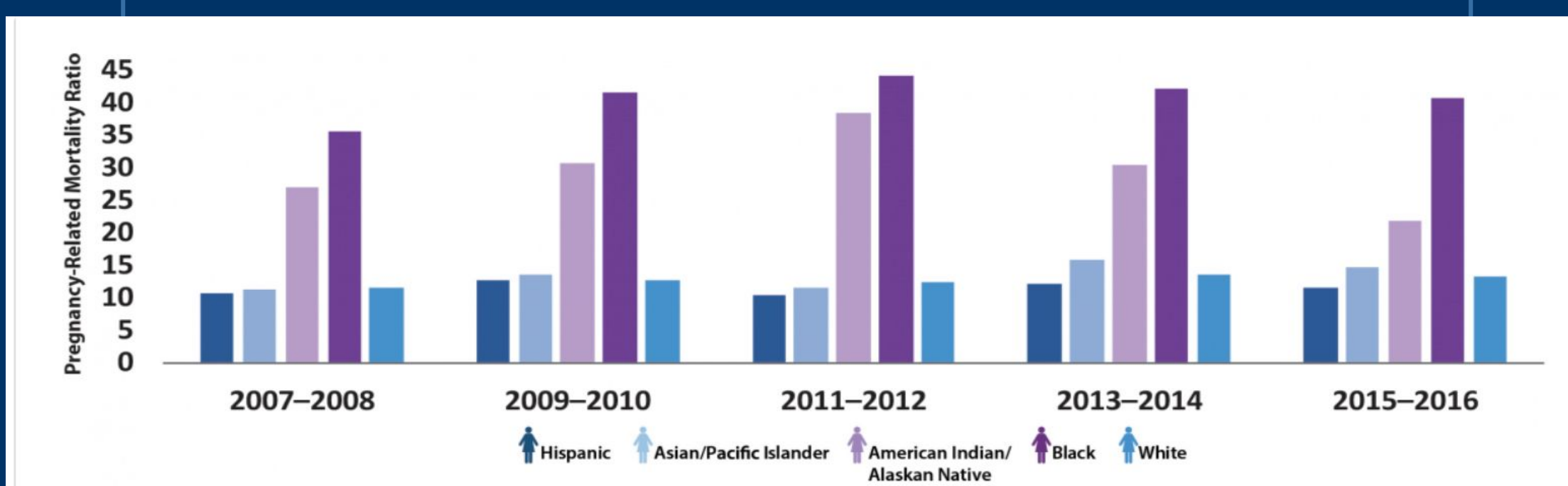


## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Telehealth discussions among women and maternal fetal specialist reduced preterm labor from 18.5% to 8%. These sessions can serve as a way to promote healthy behaviors, educate women on prenatal care, unplanned pregnancies, & risk factors for complicated delivery. This new adoption has potential to improve maternal outcomes.
- The World Health Organization Safe Childbirth Checklist is a 26 item list that is meant to be tailored according to target population. Studies showed improved preeclampsia and maternal infection management.
- Address structural racism, implicit bias, improve staff training,

## CONCLUSION

- Intrapartum and postpartum deaths can be reduced significantly with proper training and the use and implementation of safety bundles
- Barriers may slow the process of change
- Implementing bundles as a standard of practice can greatly help address gaps in medicine and decrease maternal mortality



Center for Disease Control, 2020