

Reshaping African American Women's Birthing Experience

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Serena Williams wasn't an exception

- ❖ The United States has the highest MMR amongst high-income countries of 17.4 deaths per 1000,000 live births (CDC, 2019)
- ❖ African American women experience 37.3 deaths per 100,000 while Hispanics death rate is 11.8, and 14.9 deaths for White individuals (CDC, 2020)



Research question:

How does structural racism perpetuate a higher maternal death rate for African American women?

Critical Race Theory

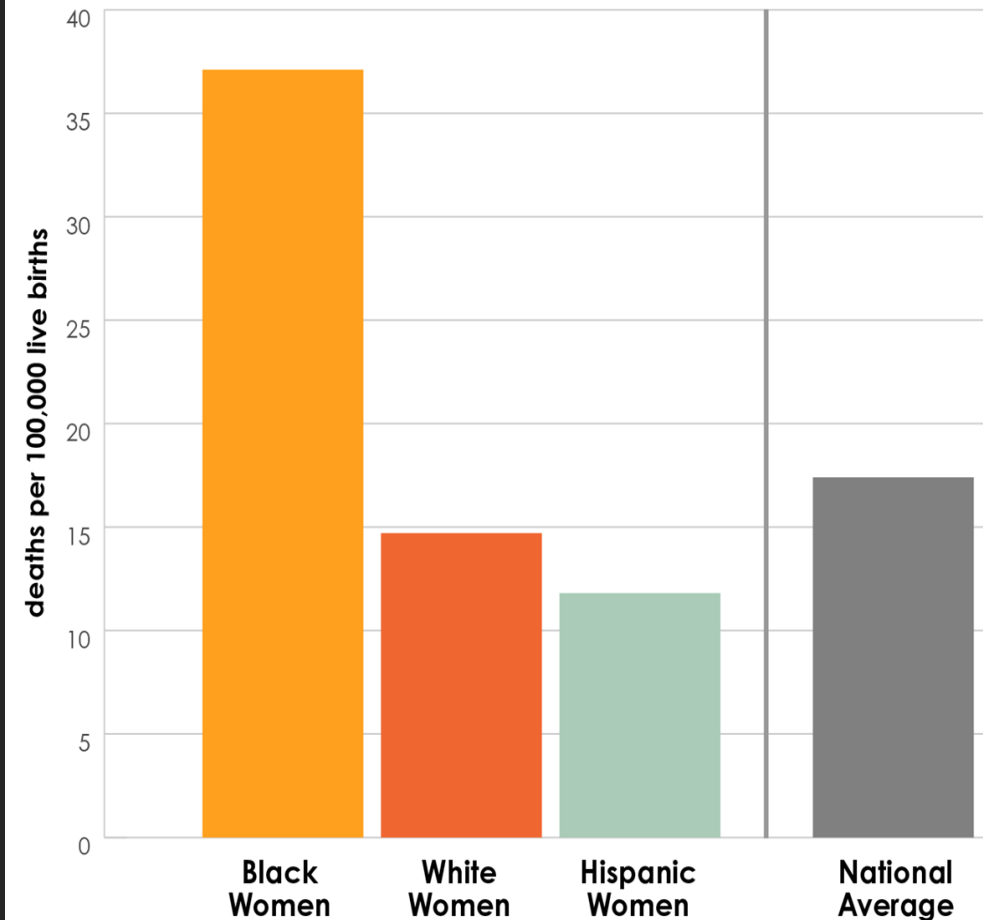
Purpose:

- Looking at where oppression began
- Using these findings to design a health system that:
 - Makes African American women's birthing experience safer and more equitable in the U.S.

 THIRD WAY

2018 Maternal Mortality Rates Highlight Wide Racial and Ethnic Gaps

To ensure the health of all women, better data is needed to track maternal health among women of additional races and ethnicities.



Source: Hoyert, Donna, Minino, Arialdi. "Maternal Mortality in the United States: Changes in Coding, Publication, and Data Release, 2018." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 69, Number 2, January 30, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr69_02-508.pdf. Accessed February 27, 2020.

Global Relevance

Sustainable Development Goal	Target	Indicator
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio

U.S. Legacy of Medical Racism

- 1845, Sims conducted experiments on enslaved women, without anesthesia.
- Violent birthing experience
- Survived but not necessarily thriving





Approaching a solution

Doula & Midwifery care

- Sweden-
 - 4 deaths per 100,000
 - Midwives for 300 years
 - Doulas- cultural interpreter
 - Low risk births