



# Strategies to Improve Maternal Health

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Health Legislative Staff Seminar  
October 13, 2022

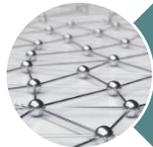
# Agenda



Maternal Mortality in the United States



State Policy Trends



Deeper Dive into Two Top Trends: Medicaid Levers



State Respondents



Discussion



# Maternal Mortality in the United States

**What is the difference between “pregnancy-associated”  
and “pregnancy-related” death?**

# What is the difference between “maternal death” and “pregnancy-related death”?

Maternal mortality rates are presented as X number of deaths per \_\_\_\_\_ live births.

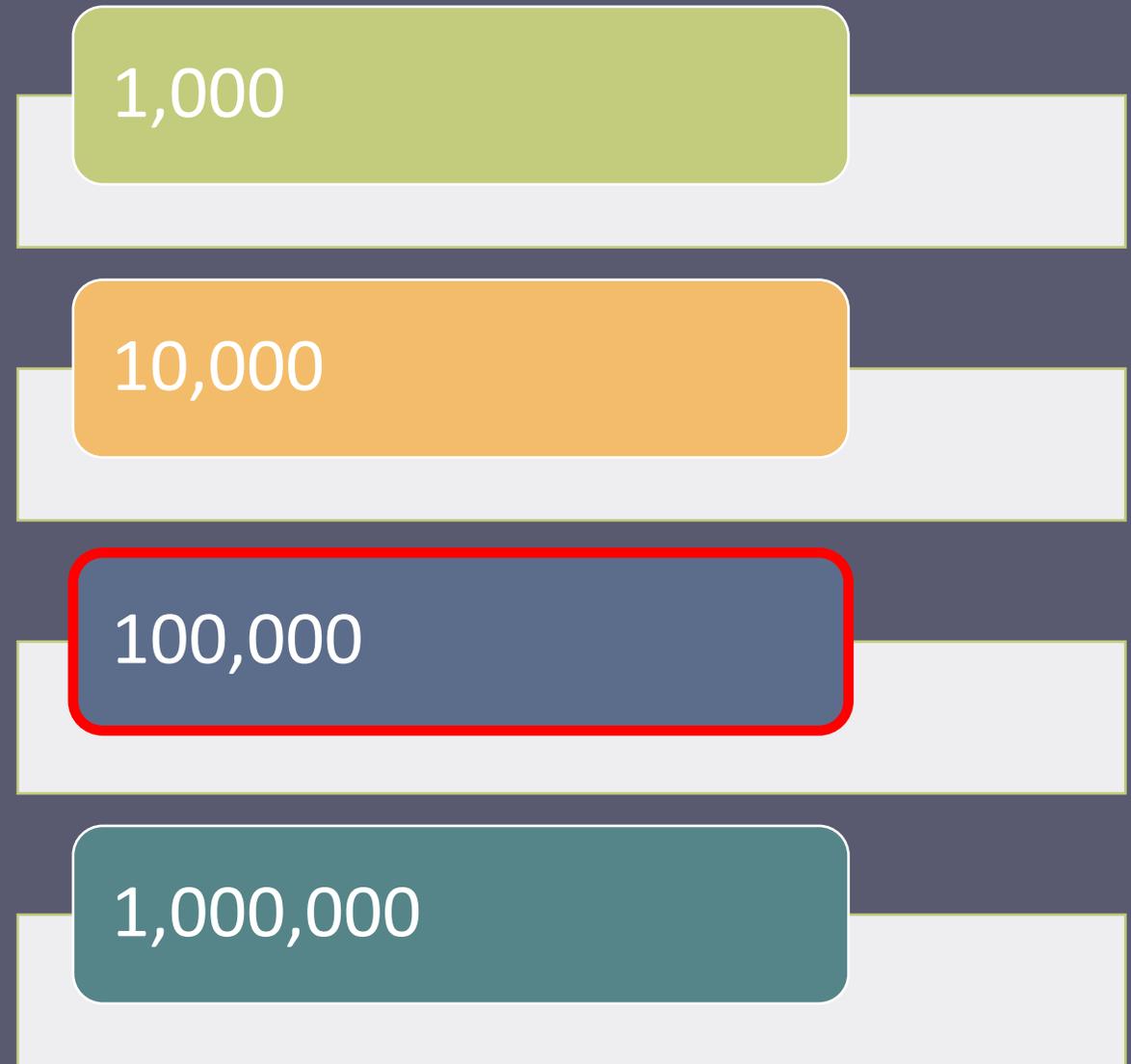
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10,000

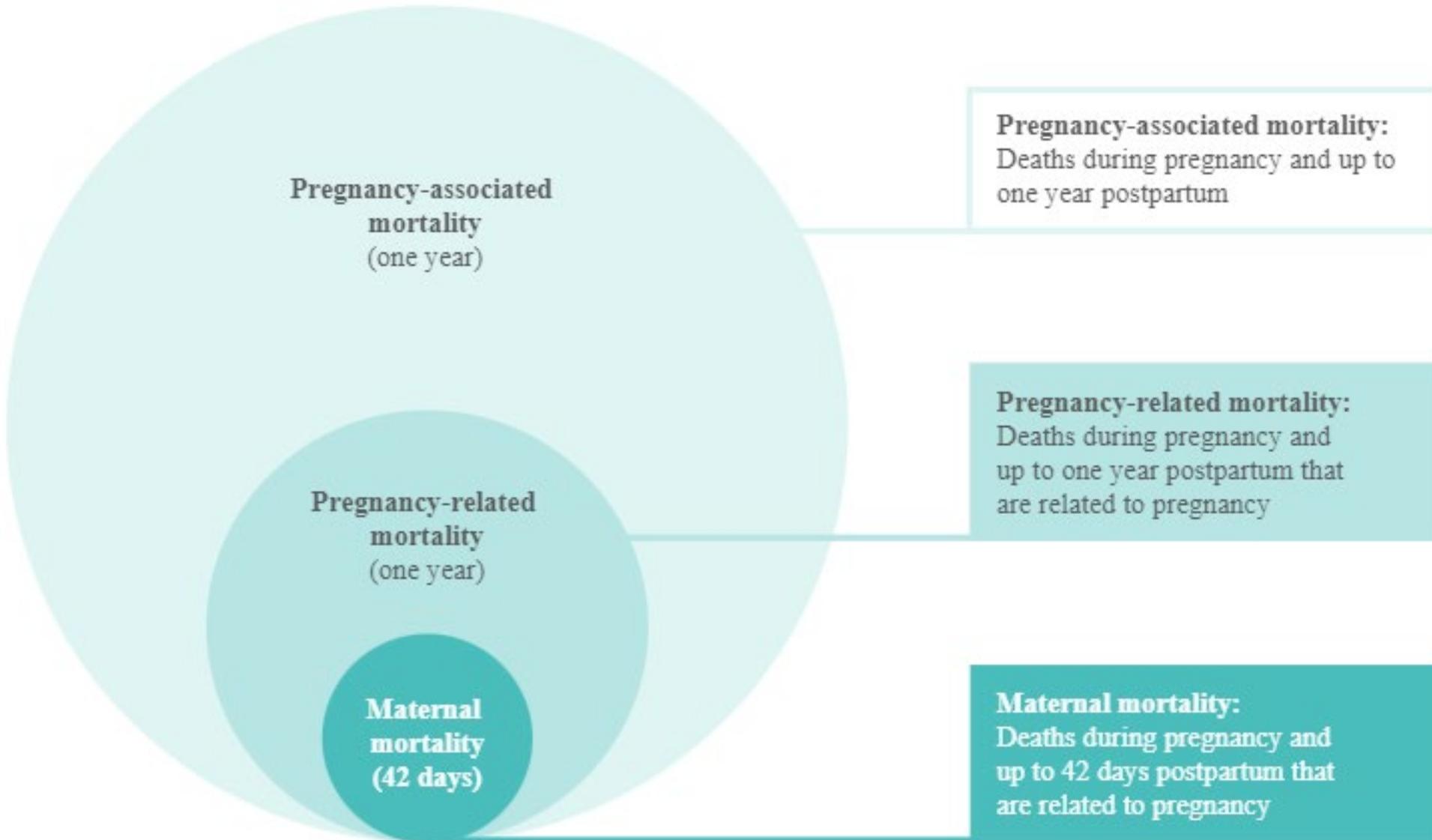
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1,000,000

Maternal mortality rates are presented as X number of deaths per \_\_\_\_\_ live births.



# Definitions



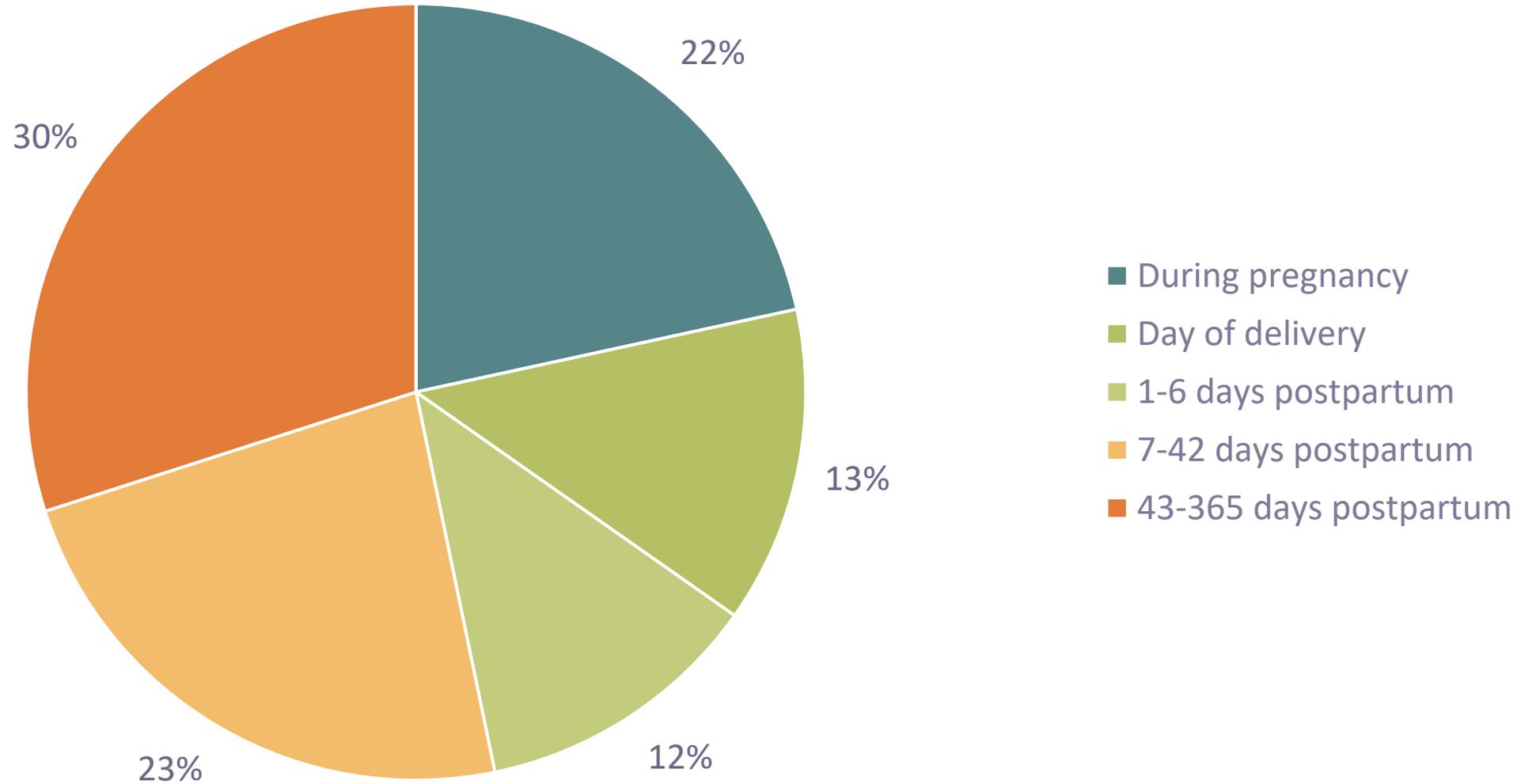
# Overview



- In 2020, 861 women died of maternal causes in the U.S.
- The 2020 U.S. maternal mortality rate was approximately 24 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- About 4 out of 5 pregnancy-related deaths are preventable.

Source: [CDC](#) and [CDC](#)

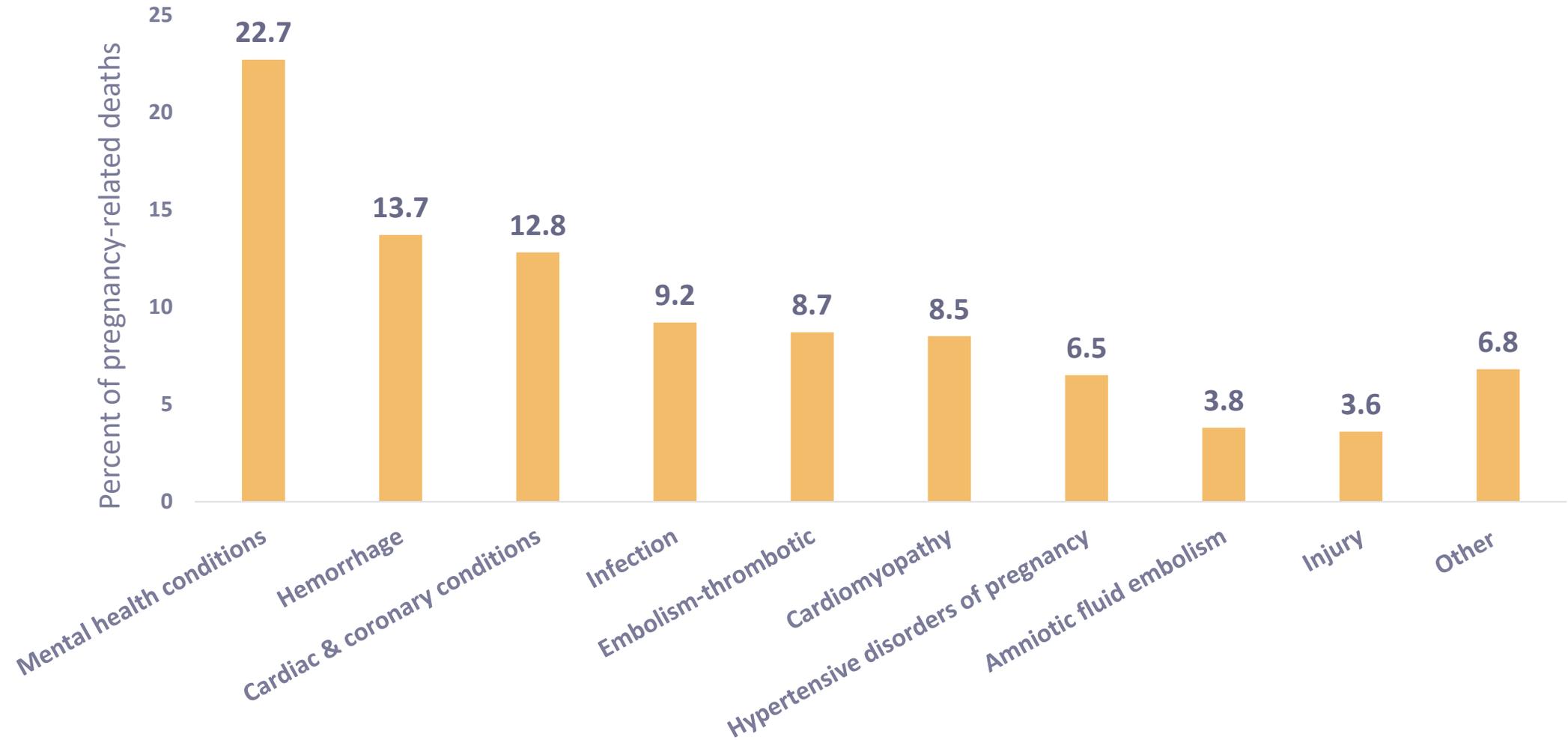
# Timing of Pregnancy-Related Deaths, 2017-2019



Source: CDC

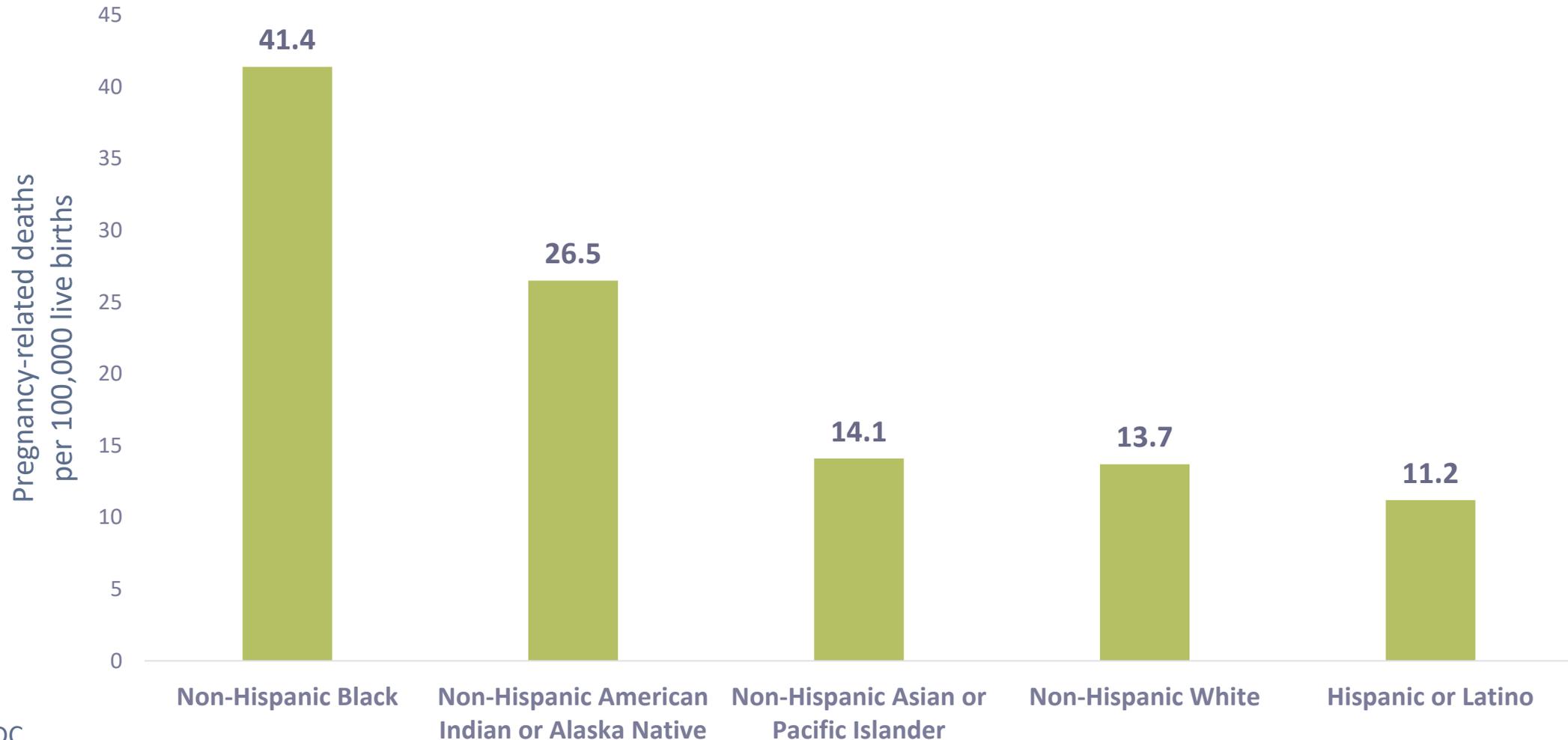
**What are the leading underlying causes of pregnancy-related death in the U.S.?**

# Underlying Causes of Pregnancy-Related Death 2017-2019



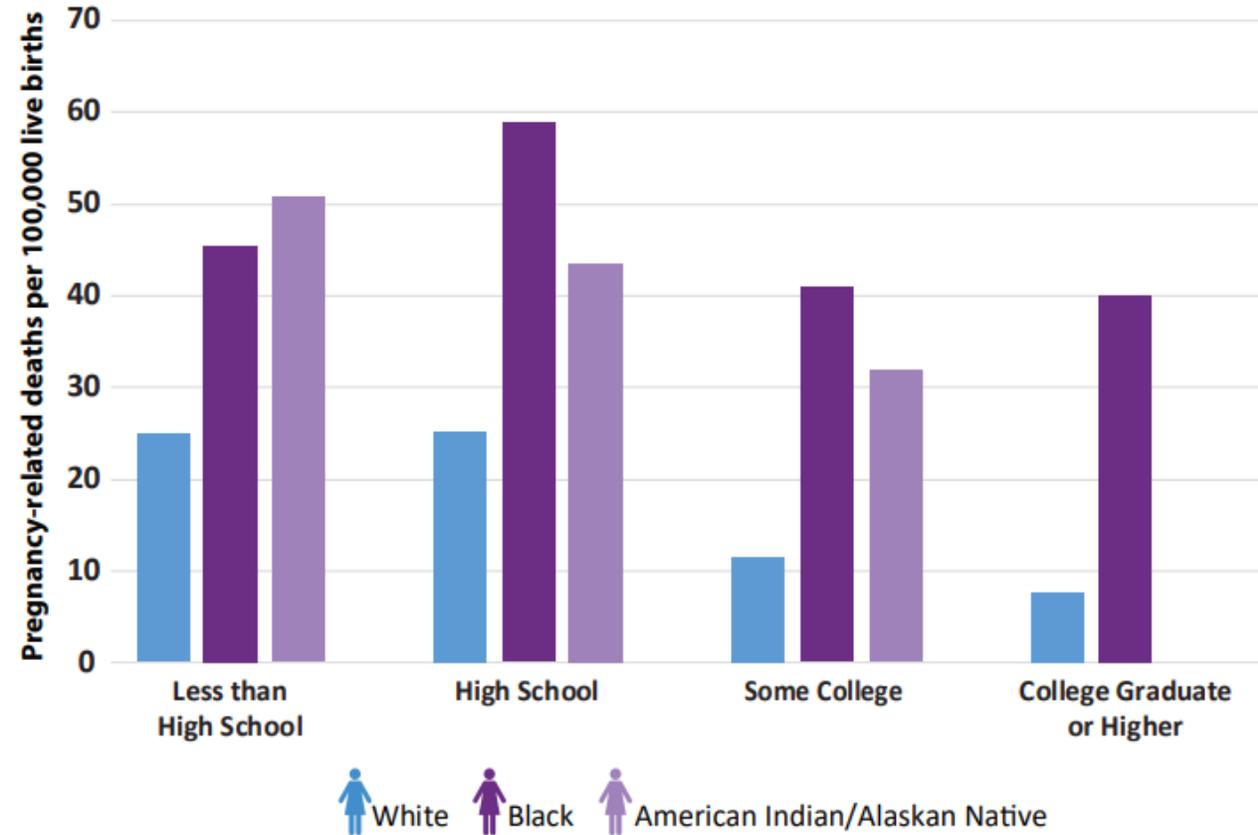
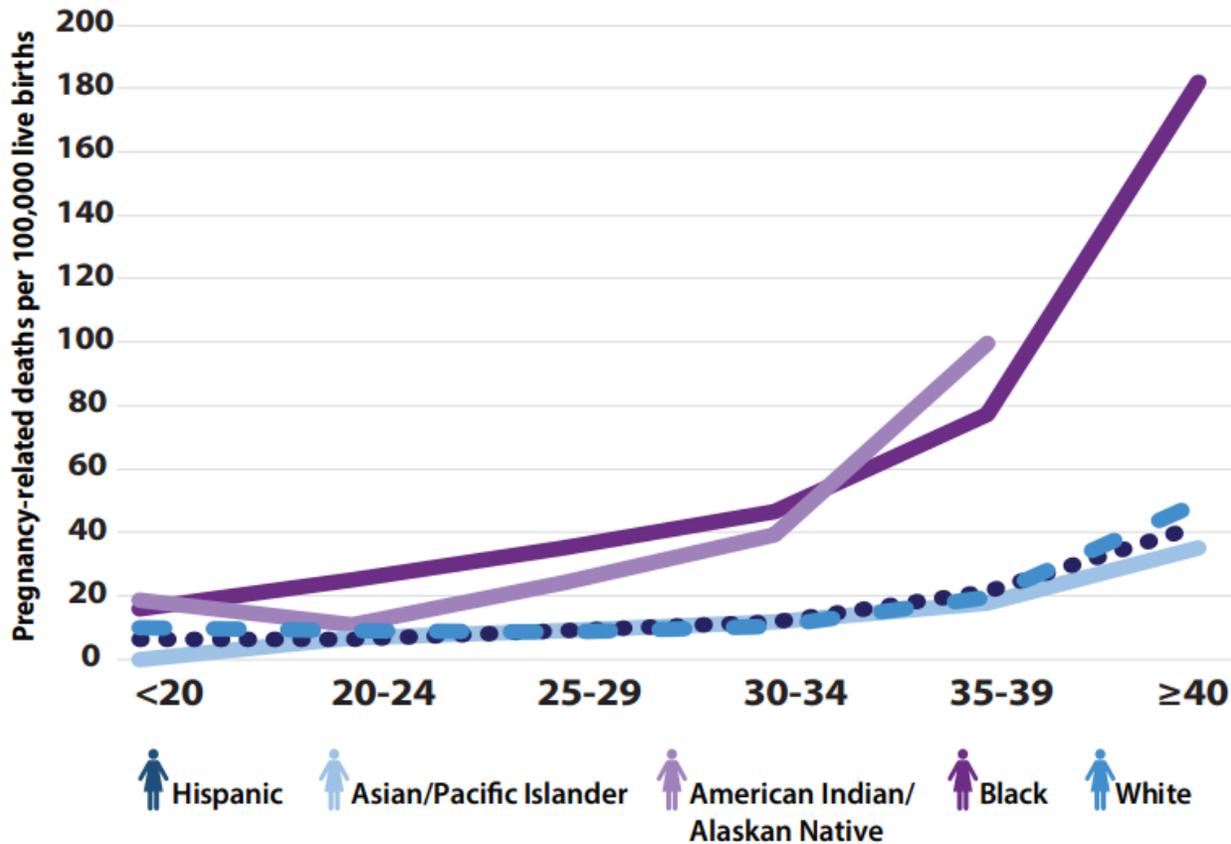
Source: CDC

# U.S. Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio by Race/Ethnicity, 2016-2018



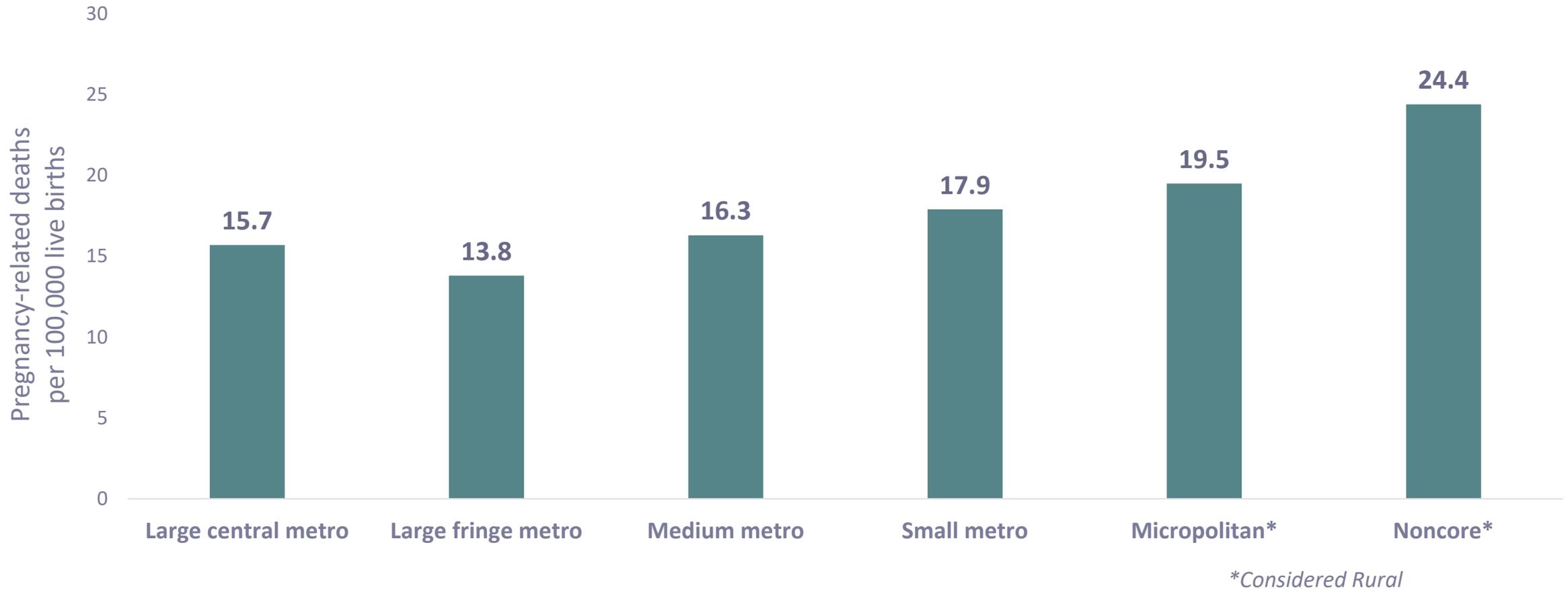
Source: CDC

# Disparities by Age and Education Level, 2007–2016



Source: CDC

# Pregnancy-Related Deaths by Urban-Rural Classifications, 2016-2018



Source: CDC



# State Legislative Trends and Examples



**Louisiana [SR 131](#)** (2022) - Creates the Study Commission on Maternal Health and Well-being to research and make recommendations on connecting pregnant women and new mothers to resources, particularly in rural and underserved areas

**Maine [SP 376](#)** (2021) - Directs the state's Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations to study and propose solutions to disparities in access to prenatal care.

**Minnesota [HB 33](#)** (2021) - Requires a biennial report on the effectiveness of state maternal and infant health policies and programs addressing health disparities in prenatal and postpartum outcomes.

# Revise Mortality Review Committees

**Colorado** SB 194 (2021) – Requires specific action on racial and ethnic disparities, bias, data collection and reporting.

**Delaware** HB 340 (2022) – Requires review include race/ethnicity data and recommendations on how to prevent or reduce racial disparities.

**North Carolina** HB 103 (2022) – Requires maternal mortality review committee to include community representation.

**South Carolina** HB 4100 (2021) – Requires department of health to collaborate with the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee to develop a method of evaluating the effectiveness of 12-month postpartum coverage as passed in the state.



# Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

## Screening

- **Arizona** [SB 1011](#) (2021) – Creates the maternal mental health advisory committee to recommend improvements for screening and treating maternal MH disorder.

## Medicaid coverage

- **Illinois** [HB 4343](#) (2022) – Approves Medicaid coverage for perinatal depression screenings for 12 months following pregnancy.

## Education

- **Louisiana** [HB 784](#) (2022) – Requires all hospitals and birthing centers to provide pregnant women and their family members information about perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

## Use of opioid settlement funds

- **Oregon** [HB 4098](#) (2022) – Funds programs that use evidence-based or -informed strategies to treat pregnant women w/ opioid use disorder and co-occurring mental health conditions.



# Midwifery Care

## Scope of practice

**Arkansas** [HB 1215](#) (2021) – Provides full practice authority to certified nurse-midwives (CNMs).

**Illinois** [HB 5013](#) (2022) – Licenses certified professional midwives and creates the Illinois Midwifery Board.

## Recruitment & Training

**California** [SB 65](#) (2021) – Directs the state to contract with midwife training programs to increase the number of students trained to serve in medically underserved multicultural communities, lower socioeconomic neighborhoods or rural communities.

## Coverage

**Louisiana** [HB 190](#) (2021) – Requires insurers to cover state licensed midwifery care, incl. CNMs and certified professional midwives.

# Doula Care

**Certification**

**Advisory  
Board**

**Medicaid  
Coverage**

**Arizona**  
SB 1181  
(2021)

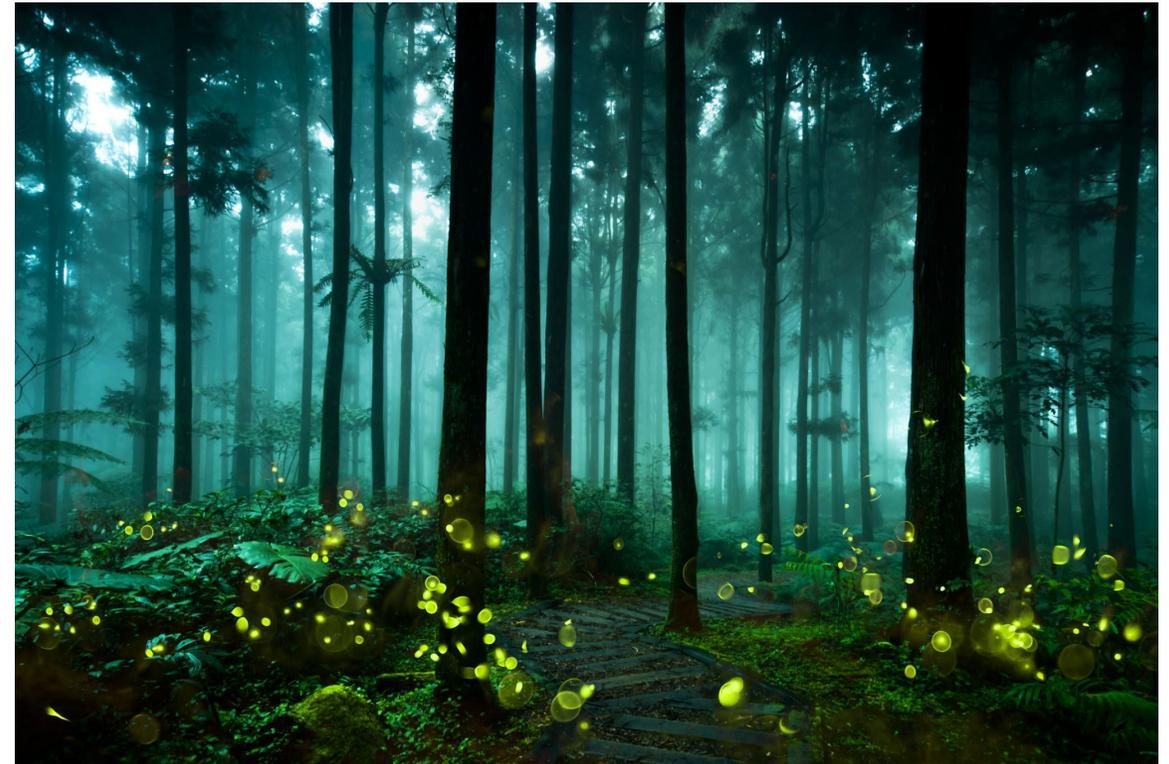
**Connecticut**  
SB 1 (2021)

**Indiana** SB 2  
(2022)

**Louisiana**  
HB 190  
(2021)

**Maryland** SB  
166 (2022)

**Virginia**  
HB 1800  
(2021)



# Postpartum Medicaid Coverage



Kentucky SB 128 (2022)

Maine LD 1781 (2022)

Washington SB 5068 (2021)

West Virginia HB 2266 (2021)

# Resources

- Legislative Database | [Maternal and Child Health](#)
- Policy Brief | [State Approaches to Ensuring Healthy Pregnancies Through Prenatal Care](#)
- Policy Brief | [Preventing Infant and Maternal Mortality: State Policy Options](#)
- Podcast | [CDC and States Working to Reduce Maternal Mortality](#)
- Webinar | [Saving Moms: Strategies to Reduce Maternal Mortality in the U.S.](#)
- Webinar | [State Policies on Midwives and Doulas](#)

HEALTH

**State Approaches to Ensuring Healthy Pregnancies Through Prenatal Care**



 **NCSL**  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

APRIL | 2021



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**Thank you!**

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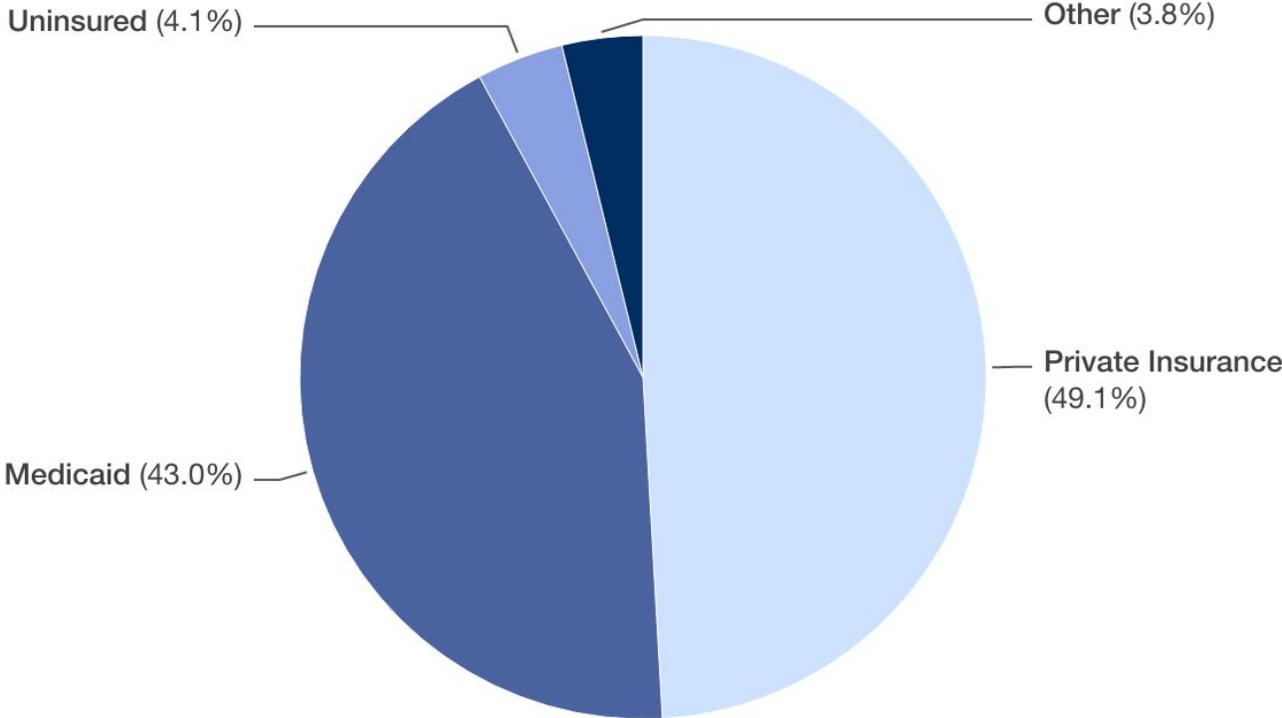
# Medicaid and Maternal Health

Maggie Clark, Senior Health Policy Analyst,  
Georgetown University Center for Children and  
Families

October 13, 2022

# Medicaid's Role in Maternity Care Financing

## Source of Coverage for Births, 2018

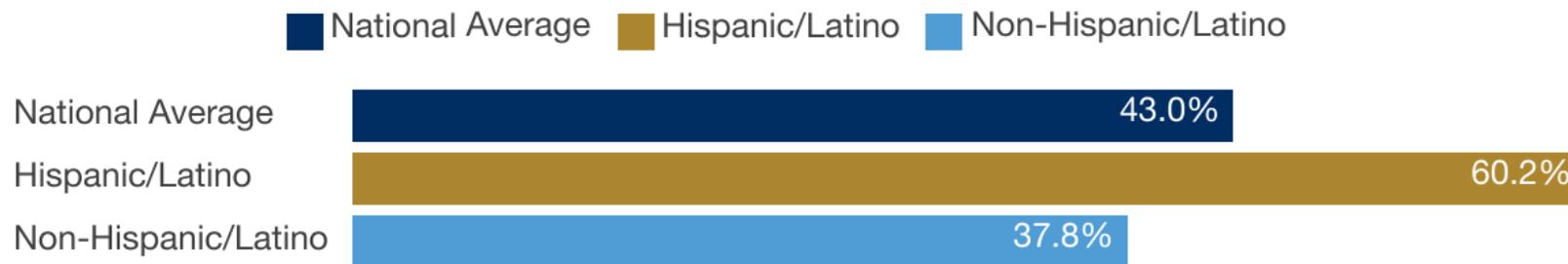


Source: Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, "Medicaid's Role in Financing Maternity Care," (January 2020), available at <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Medicaid%E2%80%99s-Role-in-Financing-Maternity-Care.pdf#page=7>

# Enrollment in Medicaid Coverage for Pregnancy

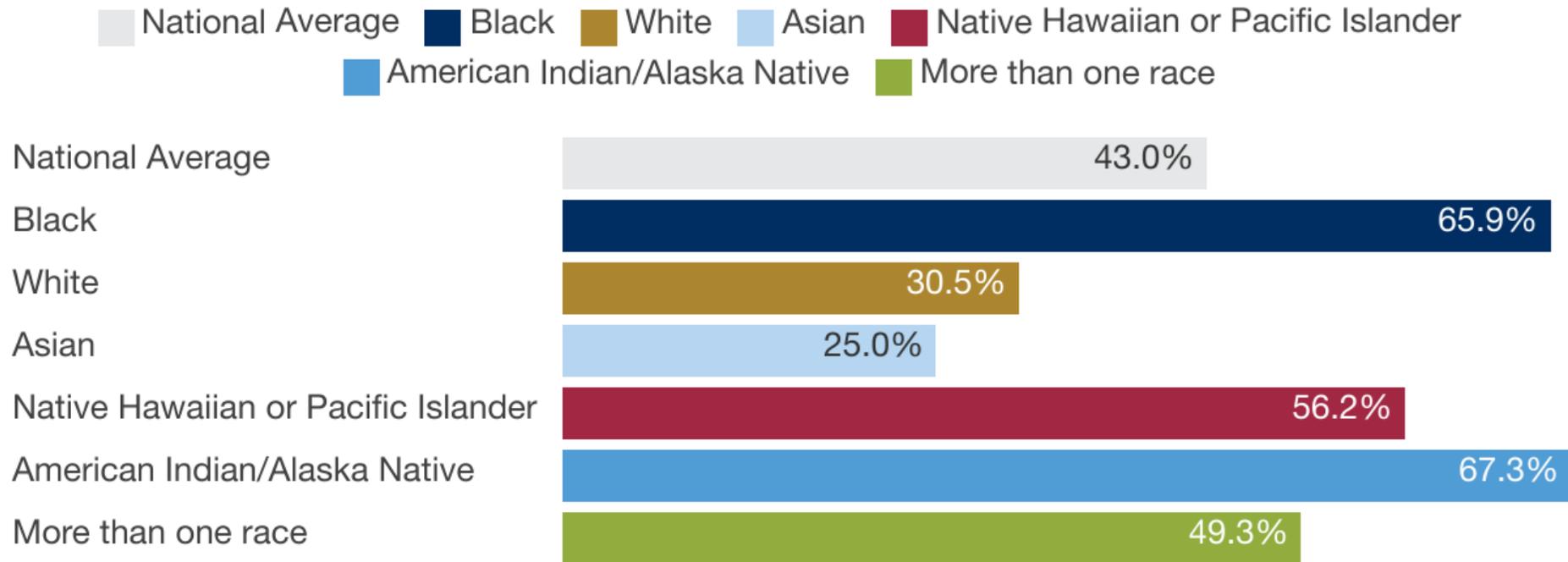
- Medicaid covers a disproportionate share of births to people of color, younger people, and people living in rural areas

## Share of Births by Ethnicity of People Covered in Medicaid for Pregnancy, 2018



Source: Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, “Medicaid’s Role in Financing Maternity Care,” (January 2020), available at <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Medicaid%E2%80%99s-Role-in-Financing-Maternity-Care.pdf#page=7>

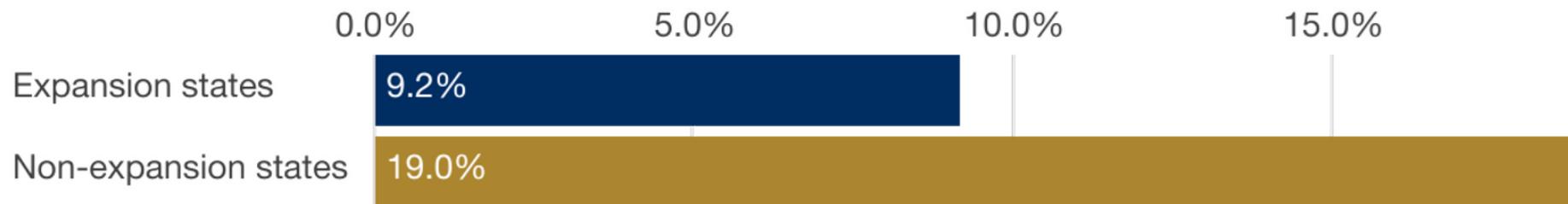
# Share of Births by Race for People Covered in Medicaid for Pregnancy, 2018



Source: Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, “Medicaid’s Role in Financing Maternity Care,” (January 2020), available at <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Medicaid%E2%80%99s-Role-in-Financing-Maternity-Care.pdf#page=7>

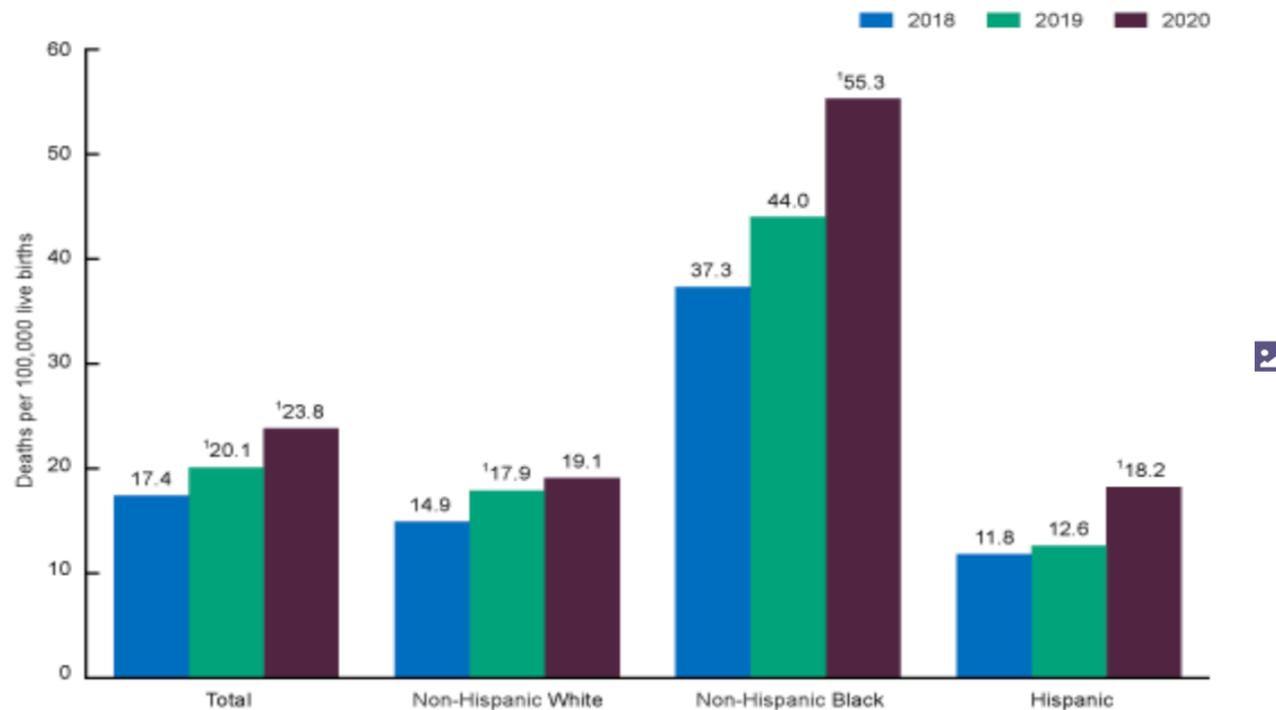
# Affordable Care Act and Maternal Health

## Uninsured Rate for Women of Childbearing Age (18-44) by Expansion Status, 2019

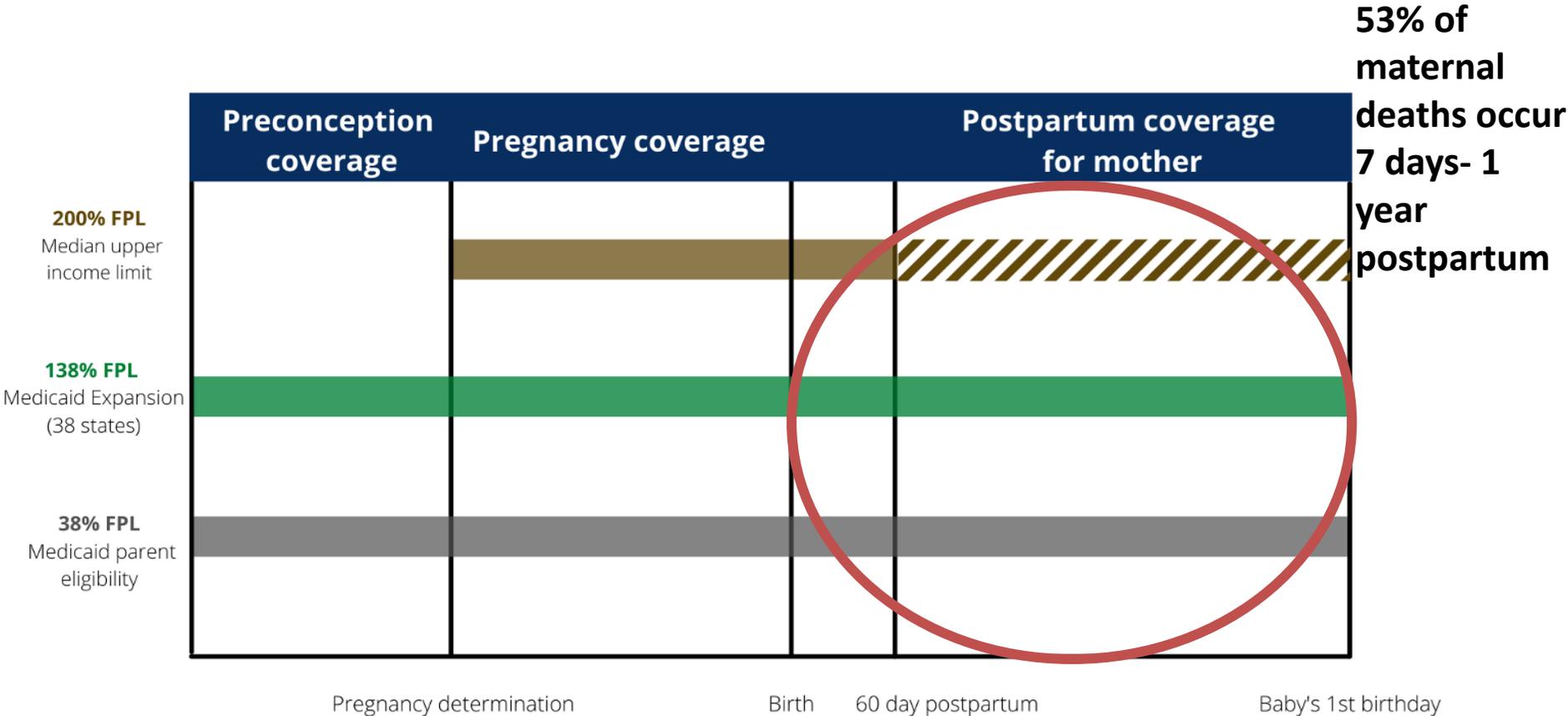


# Leveraging Medicaid to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes

Figure 1. Maternal mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2018–2020



# Extending Postpartum Medicaid Coverage



# Postpartum Coverage Option under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



## American Rescue Plan Act: Health Coverage Provisions Explained

*by Edwin Park and Sabrina Corlette*

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319). The wide-ranging, critically needed COVID-19 relief legislation includes a number of key provisions that strengthen both public and private health insurance coverage. Some of the new provisions build on actions Congress previously took in earlier COVID relief packages including the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (116-127).<sup>1</sup>

- 12-month postpartum extension state option in Medicaid and CHIP
- States submit state plan amendment (SPA) to CMS for approval
- Federal matching funds available at regular matching rate beginning April 1, 2022
- State share required



# Key Questions for States *Considering* Postpartum Medicaid Coverage

- Determine the eligible population
  - Does your state offer pregnancy coverage in CHIP or the unborn child option?
  - What is the state's pregnancy eligibility level in Medicaid and/or CHIP?
- Define benefits
  - Does the state offer a full pregnancy benefit package?
  - Include optional benefits? (e.g. dental, targeted case management, doula care, etc.)
- Estimate costs

# Cost considerations

- Rough cost estimate formula
  - Number of pregnant women who lose coverage after 60 days postpartum
  - Average per member/per month rate for parent group/Medicaid expansion adult
  - 10 additional months of coverage
- Potential cost savings
  - Averted cost of medical emergencies, NICU, readmissions
  - Continuity for people who re-enroll in Medicaid
- Benefits to child health

# Key Considerations for States *Implementing* Postpartum Medicaid Coverage Extension

- What metrics is the state using to track improvement?
- Plans for outreach to pregnant people and providers
- Consider coverage during PHE unwinding
- Opportunities to link to well-child visits, infant health

# Doula Care in Medicaid

- Non-medical support providers
- Research shows better birth outcomes, lower costs for Medicaid
- States add doulas as a provider type via state plan amendment, set reimbursement rate
- 36 states taking steps towards covering doula care

# Key considerations for covering doula care in Medicaid

- Engage with practicing doulas and assess workforce needs
- Understand the role of doulas in health equity
- How to set sustainable reimbursement rates?
- How will doulas interact with other maternal health care providers
  - Consider the Medicaid preventive services authority

# Questions?

Maggie Clark

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# State Respondents

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*Senior Budget and Policy Analyst*

*Georgia House Budget and Research Office*

***Michael Fahncke***

*Principal Counsel*

*New Jersey Office of Legislative Services*



# Q&A

# Table Talk

- What policies has your state considered or implemented?
- Share a lesson learned or ongoing challenge with your peers.
- Share a success or resource you found helpful.
- What would you like to learn more about?

