

The Influence of Pre-conceptual Health on Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality

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Volume I
Executive Summary

Report of the
Secretary's Task
Force on

Black & Minority Health

Margaret M. Heckler
Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services

1985-2015



Years of
Advancing
Health Equity



Six Causes of Excess Mortality Identified in the Heckler Report

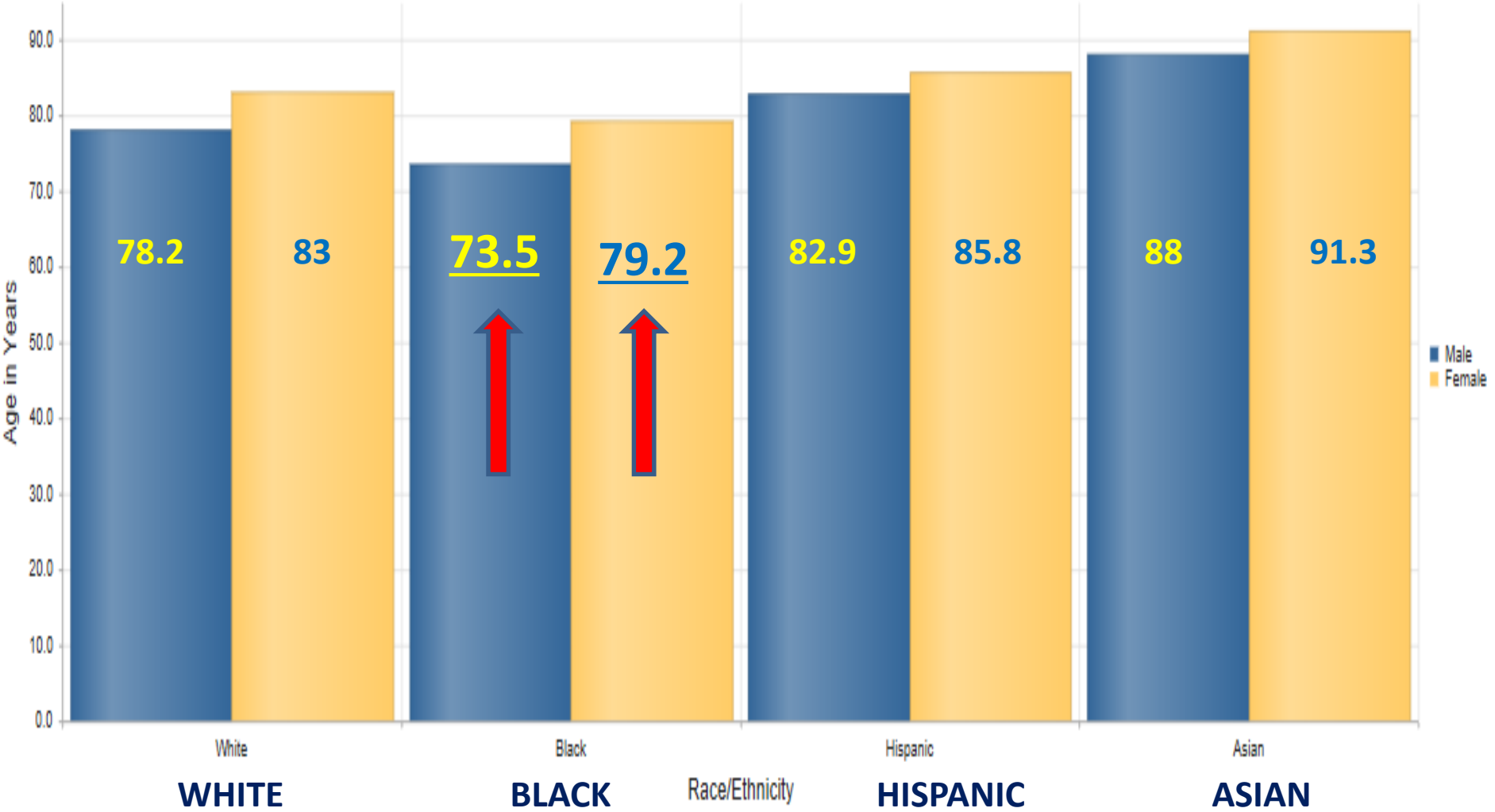
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Diseases
- Chemical Dependency
- Diabetes
- Homicide, Suicide and Accidents
- Infant Mortality

Six Causes of Excess Mortality Identified in the Heckler Report

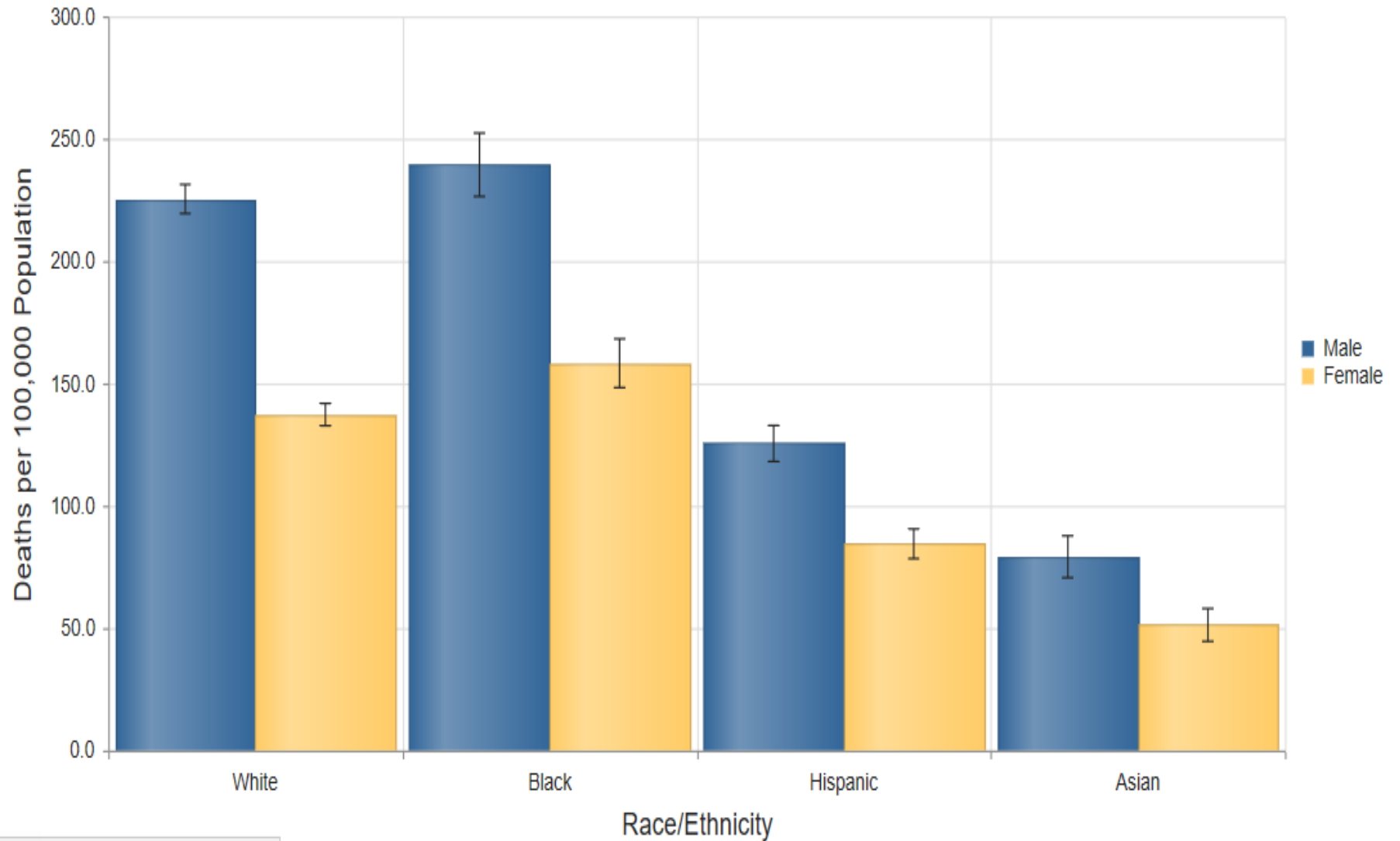
- Cancer
 - Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Diseases
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 - Diabetes
 - Homicide, Suicide and Accidents
 - Infant Mortality
-
- HIV/AIDS

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH BY RACE/ETHNICITY/AND SEX NJ 2014

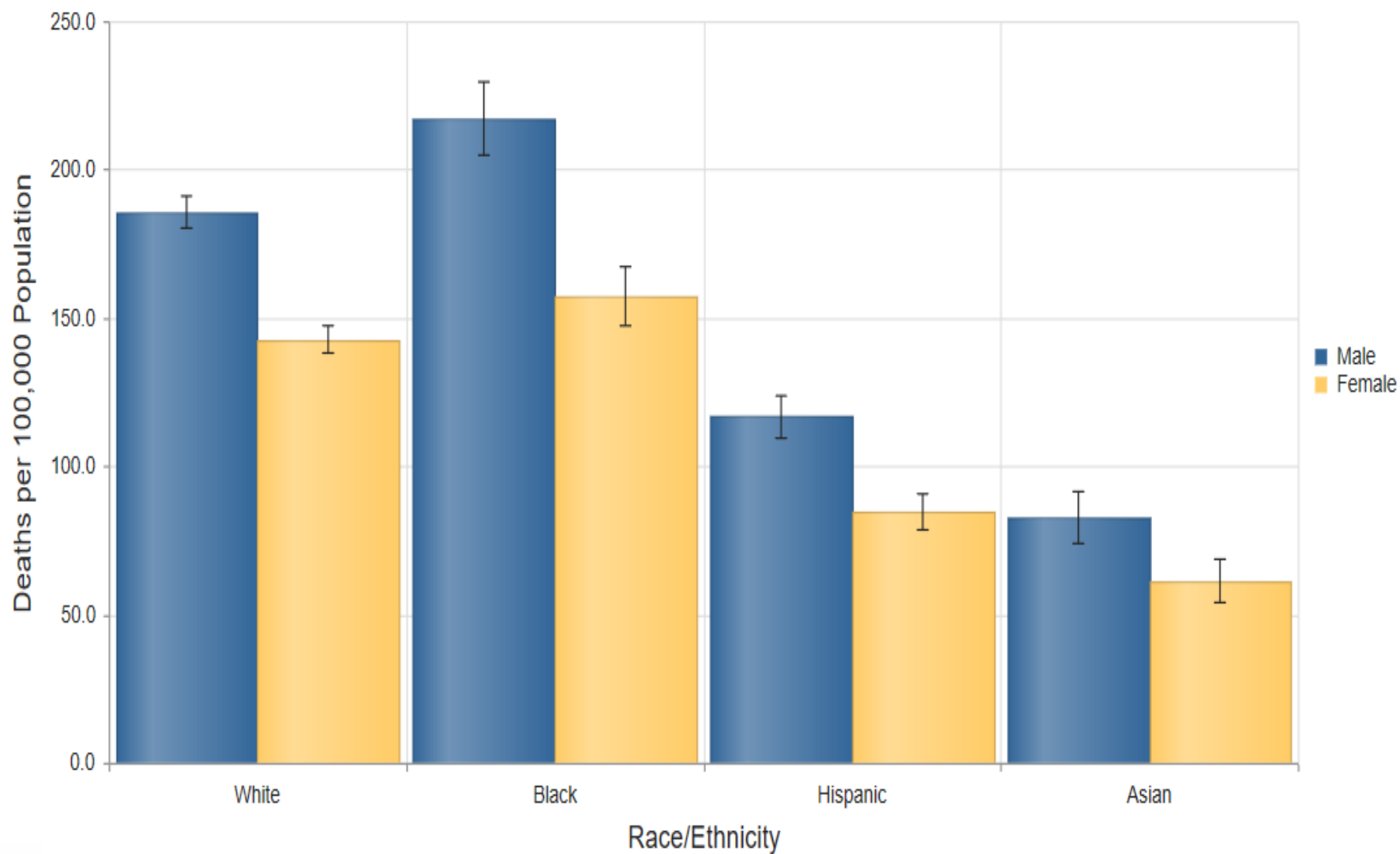
Life Expectancy at Birth by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, New Jersey, 2014



Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Heart Disease by Race/Ethnicity
and Sex, New Jersey, 2015

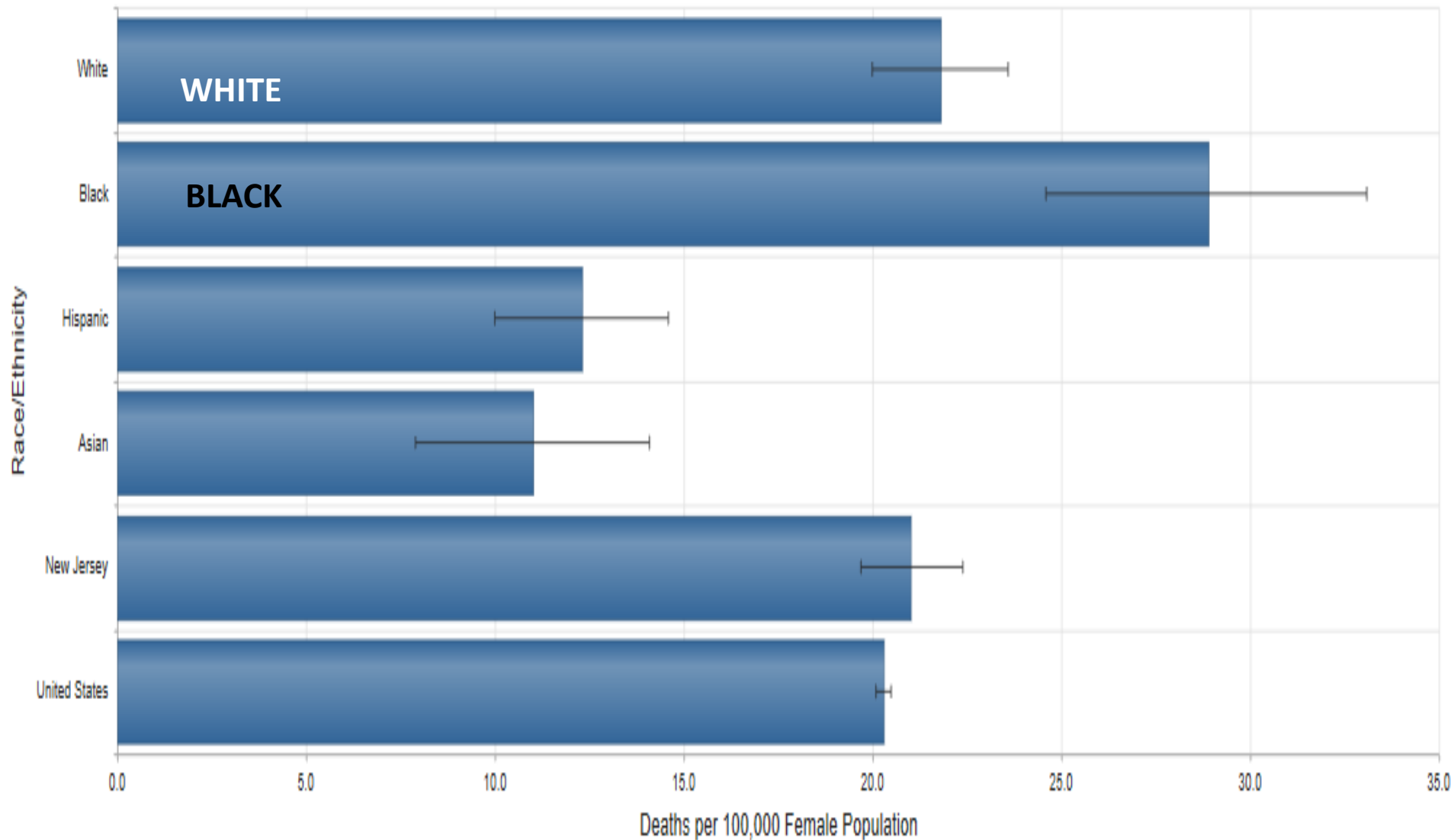


Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to All Cancers by Race/Ethnicity
and Sex, New Jersey, 2015



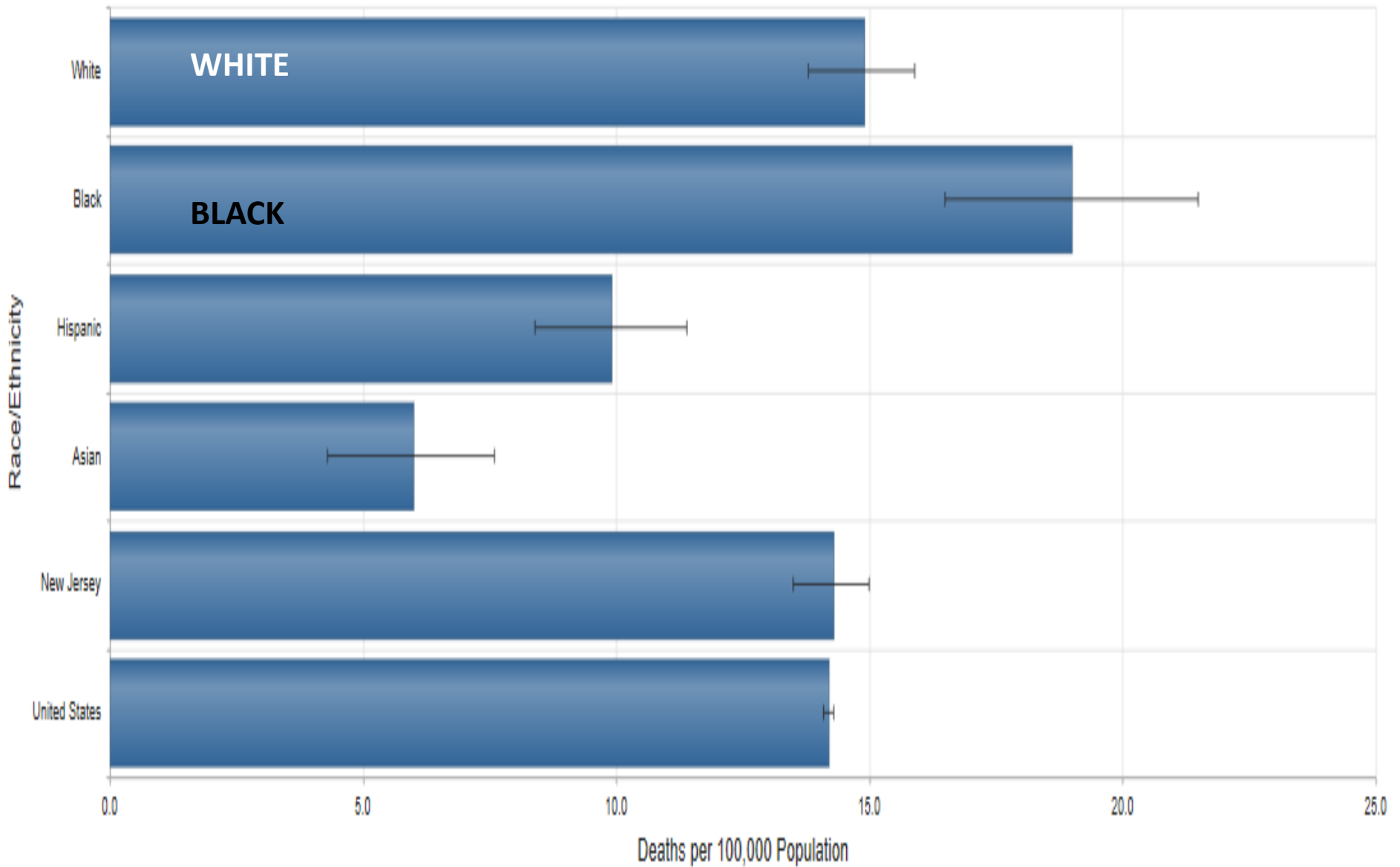
BREAST CANCER

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Female Breast Cancer by Race/Ethnicity, New Jersey, 2015

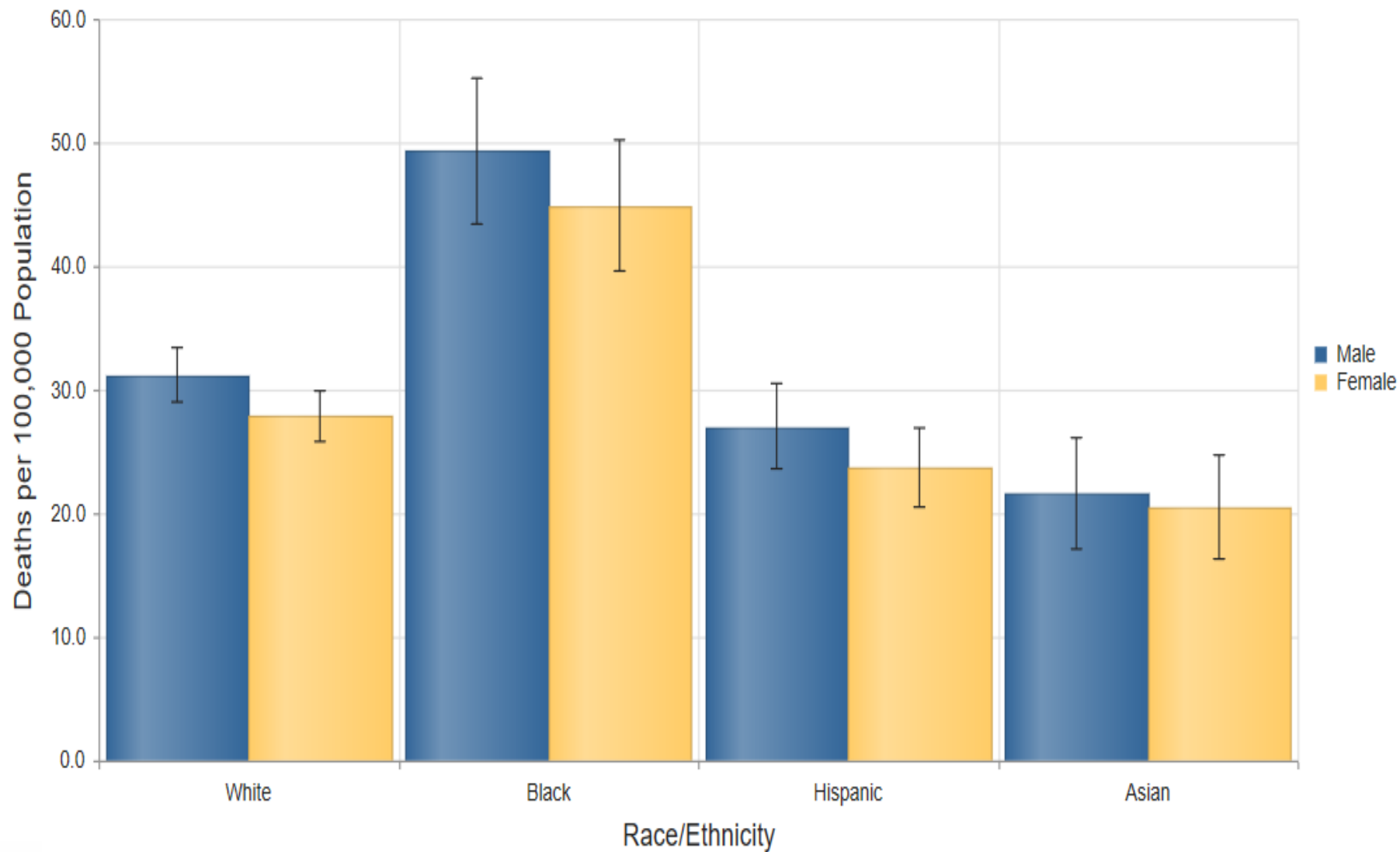


COLORECTAL CANCER

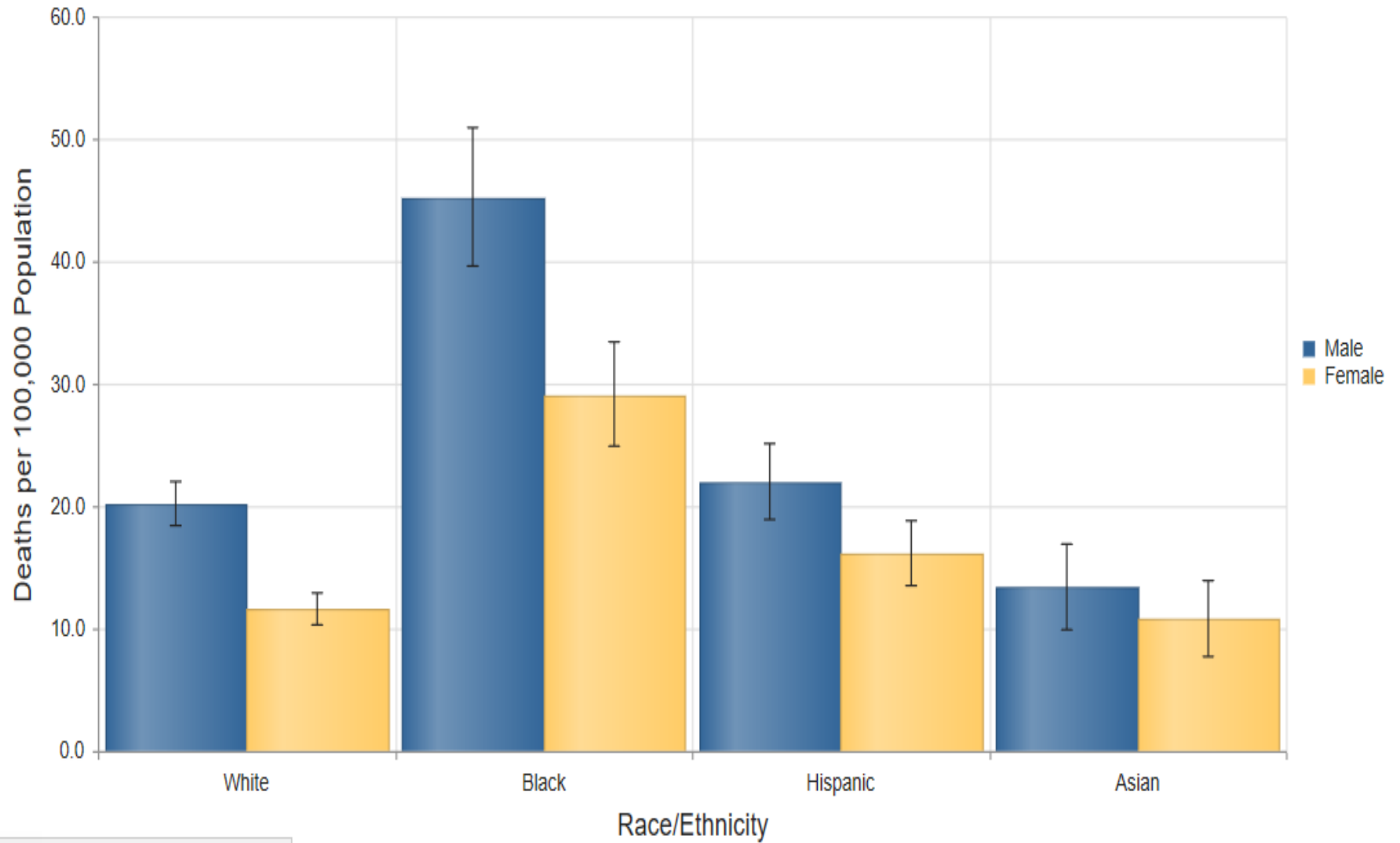
Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Colorectal Cancer by Race/Ethnicity, New Jersey, 2015



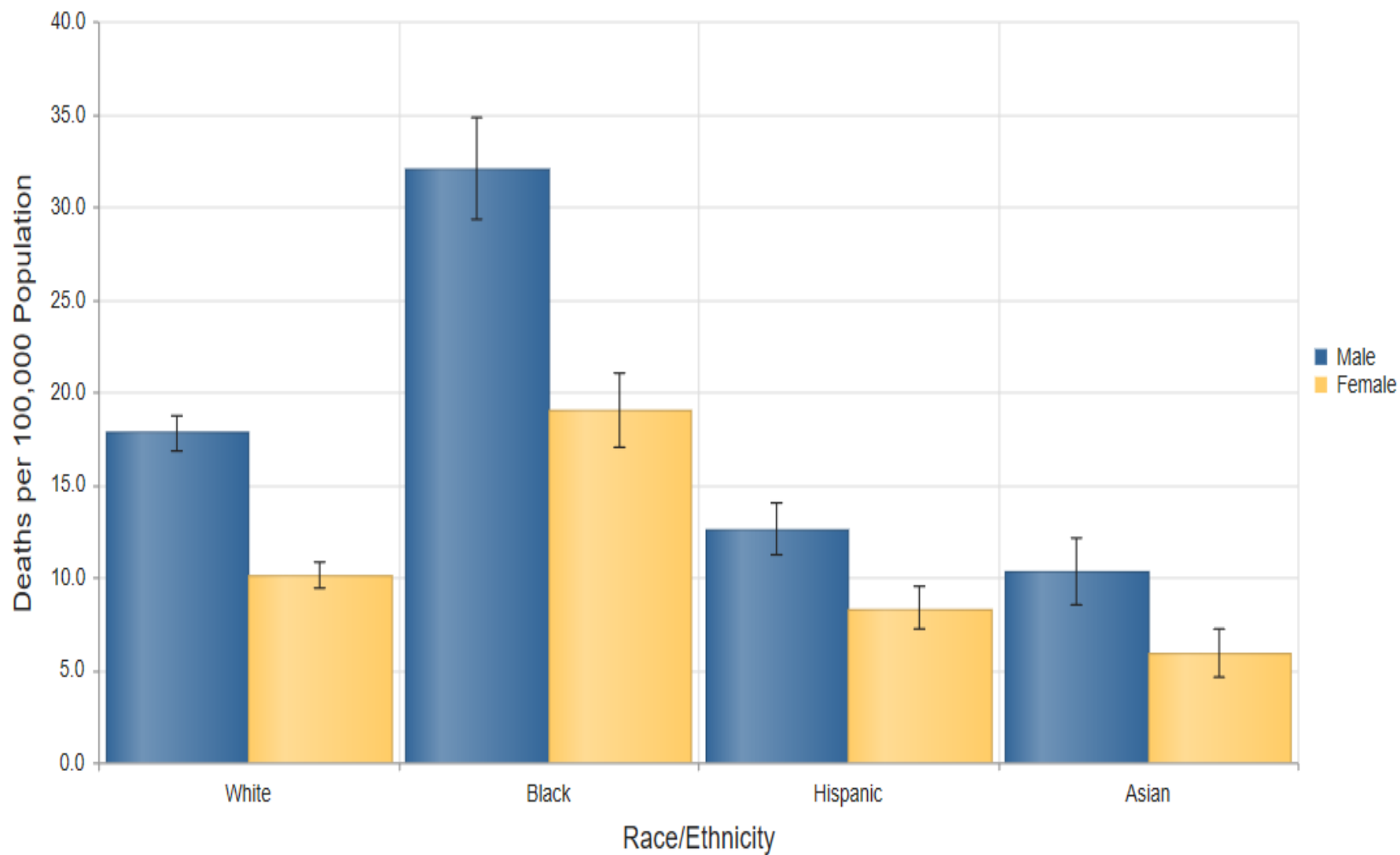
Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Stroke by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, New Jersey, 2015



Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Diabetes by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, New Jersey, 2015



Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Kidney Disease by
Race/Ethnicity and Gender, New Jersey, 2013-2015



HIV Transmission Rate, by Race/Ethnicity, New Jersey,
2008-2014 (HNJ2020)



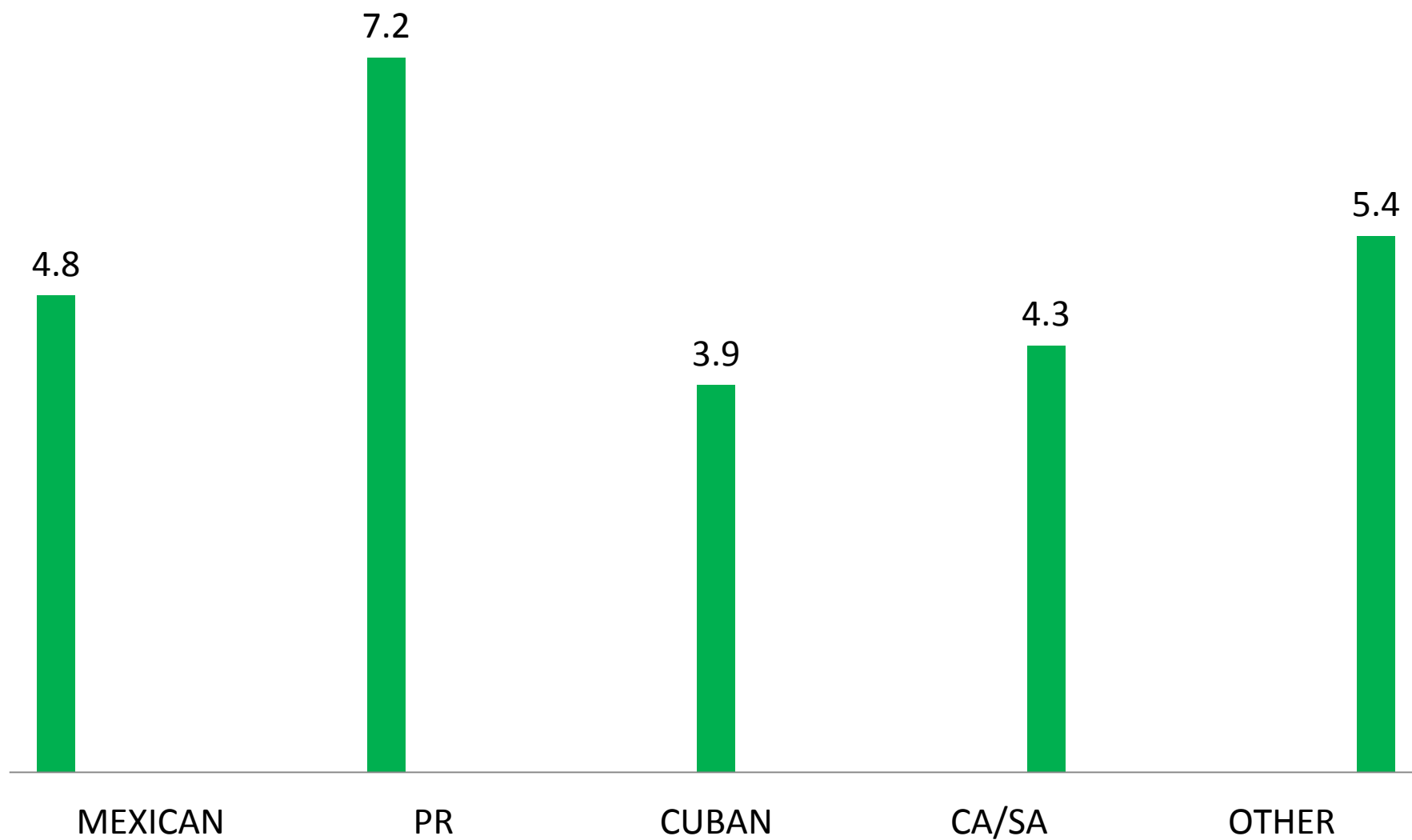
Infant Mortality Rate by Race

1983 - 2013

Health, United States 2015

RACE	1983	2013
White (NH)	9.2	5.1
Black	19.1	11.1
Difference	2.07x	2.18x

INFANT MORTALITY RATES by HISPANIC SUB-GROUP 2014



State-Level Progress in Reducing the Black–White Infant Mortality Gap, United States, 1999–2013

Joedrecka S. Brown Speights, MD, Samantha Sittig Goldfarb, DrPH, Brittany A. Wells, DrPH, CHES, Leslie Beitsch, MD, JD, Robert S. Levine, MD, and George Rust, MD, MPH

State-level Progress in Reducing the Black-White Infant Mortality Gap, United States, 1999-2013

Eliminating the Black–White IMR gap would have saved 64,876 babies during these 15 years.

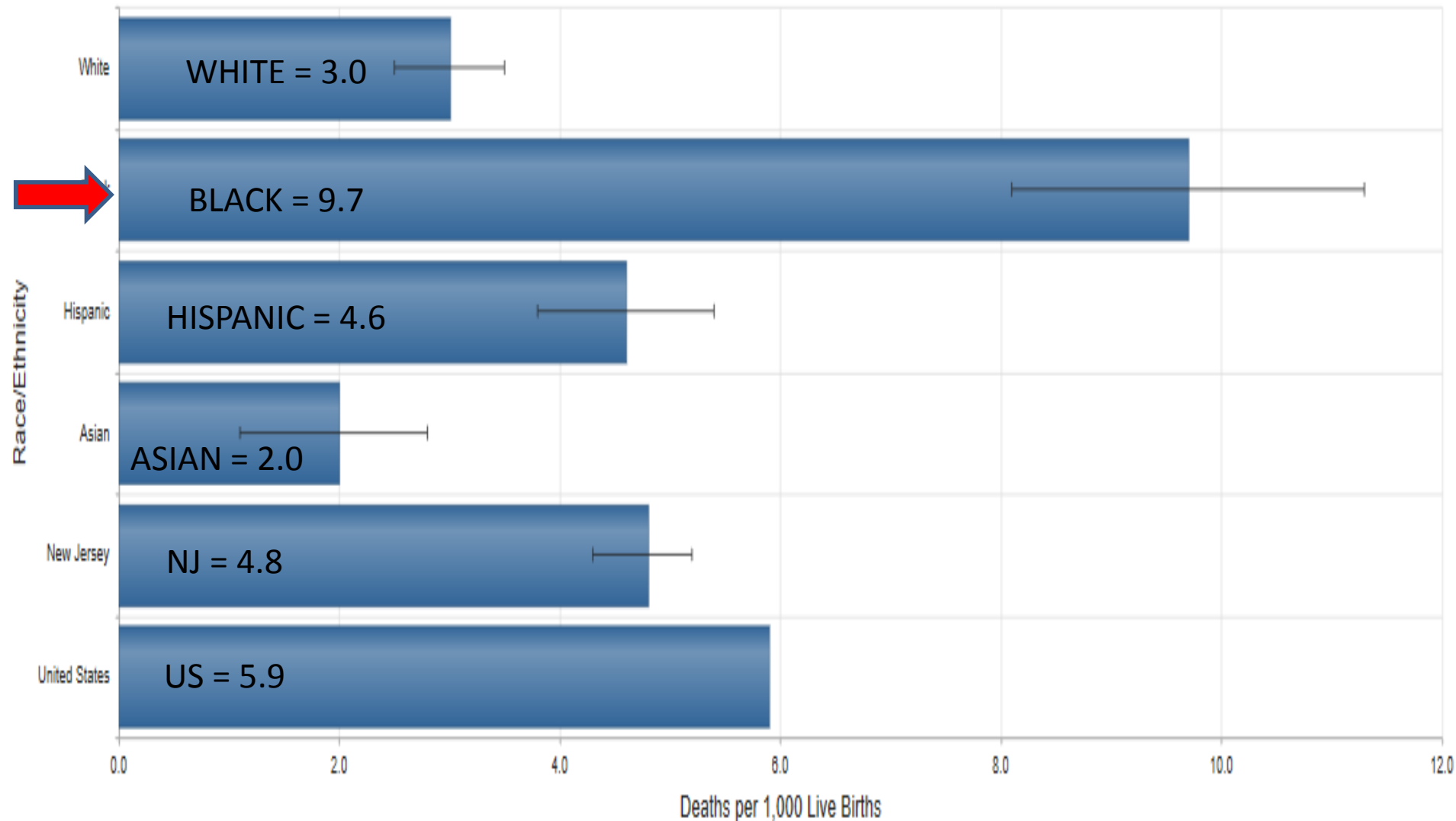
Eighteen states would achieve IMR racial equality by the year 2050 if current trends are sustained.

TABLE 1—State Rankings by Optimal Improvement in Black Infant Mortality Rate: United States, 1999–2013

State	Black IMR (2000) ^a	Black IMR (2012) ^a	% Reduction in Black IMR From 2000 to 2012 ^a	Black IMR Rolling Average 3-Year Rate, 2000–2012, Mean (95% CI)	What if We Were Equal? Number of Black Infant Lives Saved if Rates Were Equal to State's White IMR From 1999 to 2013 (Cumulative) ^b	Year State Would Achieve IMR Equality on Current Trend (95% CI)
Arizona	16.6	10.5	36.5	12.38 (11.18, 13.58)	373	2038 (2036, 2040) ^c
Iowa	16.0	10.6	33.5	11.23 (10.19, 12.27)	163	WNC
Massachusetts	9.9	6.7	32.6	8.74 (7.96, 9.51)	592	2025 (2024, 2027) ^c
New Jersey	13.5	9.6	29.2	11.31 (10.63, 11.98)	2 169	WNC
Tennessee	16.0	11.4	28.9	14.82 (13.70, 15.94)	2 114	2029 (2026, 2031) ^c
Colorado	12.7	9.3	26.9	12.97 (11.73, 14.22)	344	2028 (2026, 2031) ^c
Connecticut	13.1	9.6	26.8	12.25 (11.43, 13.07)	566	2039 (2037, 2041) ^c
Nebraska	13.0	9.5	26.6	12.55 (11.44, 13.66)	178	2036 (2034, 2039) ^c
Georgia	13.4	9.9	26.3	12.13 (11.21, 13.06)	4 493	2039 (2037, 2041) ^c
South Carolina	15.3	11.4	25.4	13.17 (12.29, 14.05)	2 147	2035 (2033, 2037) ^c

INFANT MORTALITY NEW JERSEY 2015

Infant Mortality Rate by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, New Jersey, 2015



Newark Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity 2011-2015

Data Table

Race/ethnicity combined	5-Year Groups	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000	95% CI LL	95% CI UL	Number of Infant Deaths	Number of Live Births
White, non-Hispanic						
White, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	**	0.1	6.4	4	1,246
Black, non-Hispanic						
Black, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	9.8	7.9	11.8	100	10,154
Hispanic (of any race)						
Hispanic (of any race)	2011-2015	5.4	3.9	6.9	50	9,283
Asian, non-Hispanic						
Asian, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	**	0.0	17.2	2	276
Overall	Overall	7.4	6.3	8.6	156	20,959

Black infants were 48% of births and 64% of deaths

Atlantic City Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity 2011-2015

Data Table

Race/ethnicity combined	5-Year Groups	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000	95% CI LL	95% CI UL	Number of Infant Deaths	Number of Live Births
White, non-Hispanic						
White, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	**	0.0	22.9	3	278
Black, non-Hispanic						
Black, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	24.1	15.6	32.6	30	1,244
Hispanic (of any race)						
Hispanic (of any race)	2011-2015	**	3.8	13.5	12	1,391
Asian, non-Hispanic						
Asian, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	**	0.0	6.6	1	451
Overall	Overall	13.7	9.8	17.6	46	3,364

Black infants were 37% of births and 65% of deaths

Camden City Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity 2011-2015

Data Table

Race/ethnicity combined	5-Year Groups	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000	95% CI LL	95% CI UL	Number of Infant Deaths	Number of Live Births
White, non-Hispanic						
White, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	**	0.0	13.7	1	216
Black, non-Hispanic						
Black, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	15.4	11.1	19.8	47	3,043
Hispanic (of any race)						
Hispanic (of any race)	2011-2015	8.4	5.6	11.3	33	3,904
Overall	Overall	11.2	8.7	13.6	81	7,267

Black infants were 42% of births and 58% of deaths

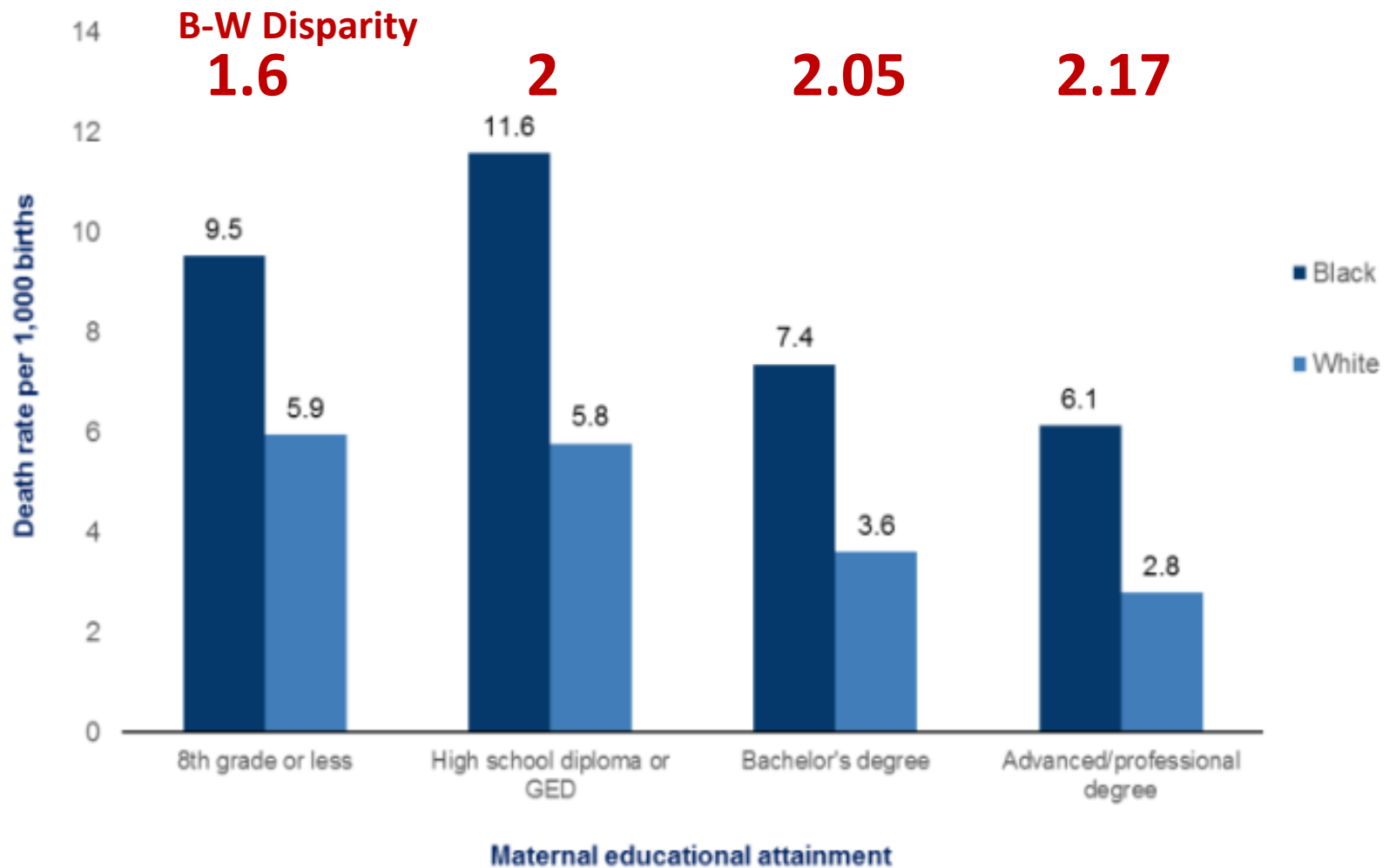
Mercer County Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity 2011-2015

Data Table

Race/ethnicity combined	5-Year Groups	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000	95% CI LL	95% CI UL	Number of Infant Deaths	Number of Live Births
White, non-Hispanic						
White, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	**	1.4	3.7	19	7,418
Black, non-Hispanic						
Black, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	15.1	11.7	18.4	77	5,107
Hispanic (of any race)						
Hispanic (of any race)	2011-2015	5.5	3.5	7.5	30	5,456
Asian, non-Hispanic						
Asian, non-Hispanic	2011-2015	**	1.4	6.6	9	2,249
Overall	Overall	6.7	5.6	7.8	135	20,230

Black infants were 25% of births and 57% of deaths

Infant mortality higher for middle-class blacks than lower-class whites



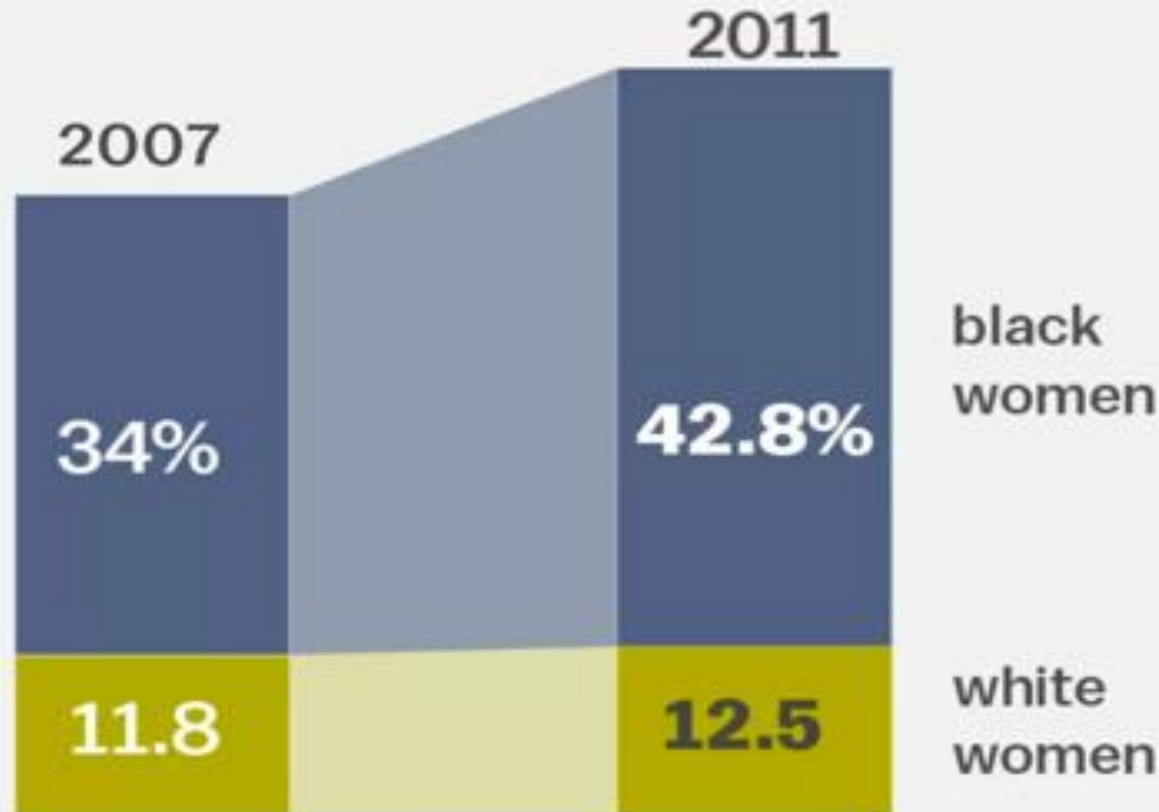
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Wonder), Linked Birth / Infant Death Records, 2007 - 2013.

BROOKINGS

IMR for a Black woman with a HS diploma is nearly 2X IMR for a Black woman with an advanced degree.

America's black-white maternal mortality gap is widening

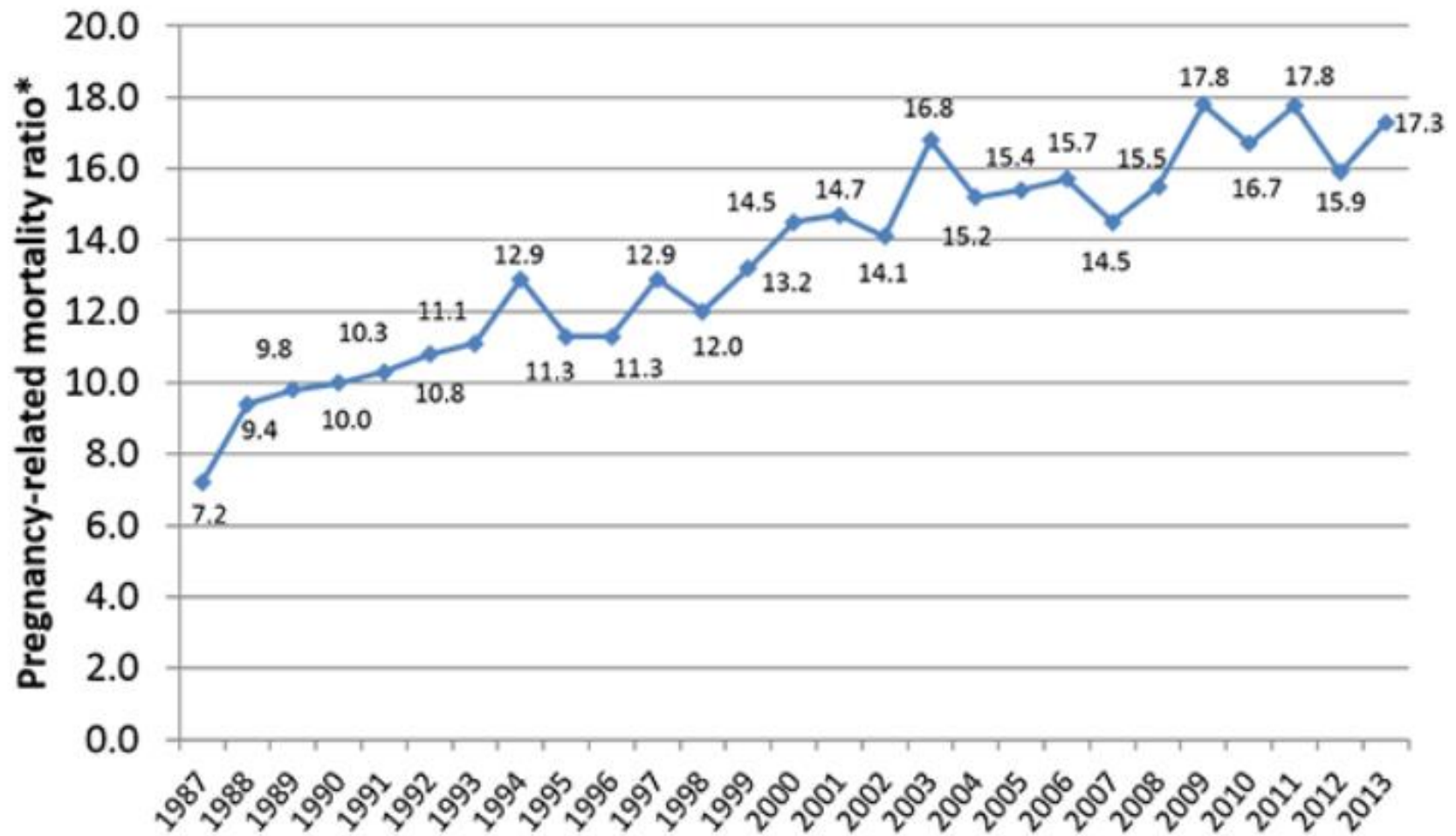
Percentage of pregnancy-related deaths by race



SOURCE: CDC Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System
CREDIT: Sarah Frostenson

Vox

Trends in pregnancy-related mortality in the United States: 1987–2013



*Note: Number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births per year.

Maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States of America

Priya Agrawal ^a

a. Merck for Mothers, Merck & Co. Inc., 1 Merck Drive, Mail Stop WS2A-56, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, 08889, United States of America.

Correspondence to Priya Agrawal (email: priya.agrawal@merck.com).

Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2015;93:135. doi:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.14.148627>

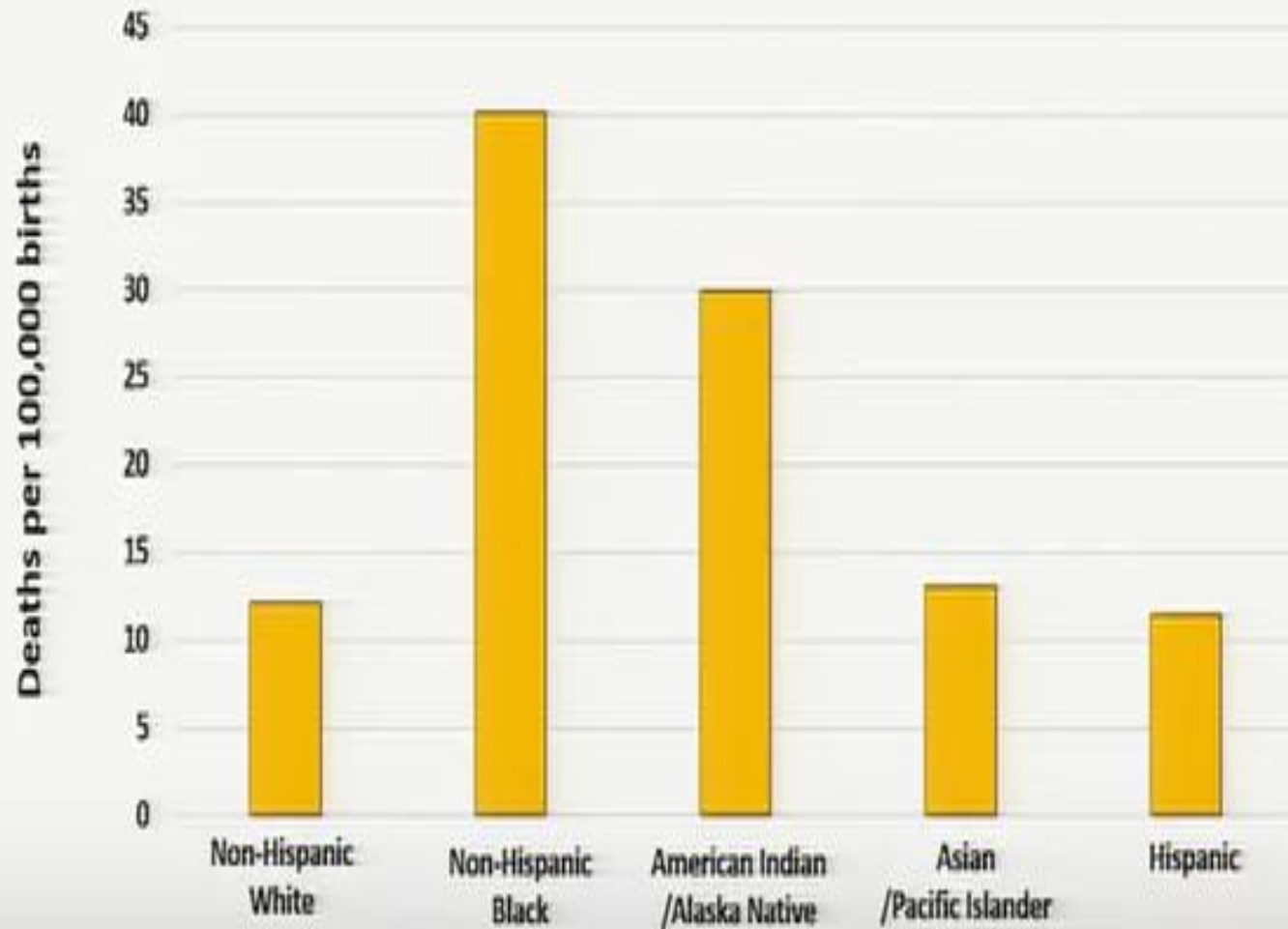
Maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States of America

- Maternal mortality ratio in 1990
12/100,000
- Maternal mortality ratio in 2013
28/100,000
- Approximately half of maternal deaths are preventable

Maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States of America

- **1200 fatal complications of pregnancy yearly**
- **60,000 near fatal complications of pregnancy yearly**

PREGNANCY RELATED MORTALITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY 2006-2013



Data from the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System

During 2011-2013 the pregnancy-related maternal mortality ratio was:

- 12.7 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women
- **43.5 deaths per 100,000 live births for black women**
- 14.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for women of other races



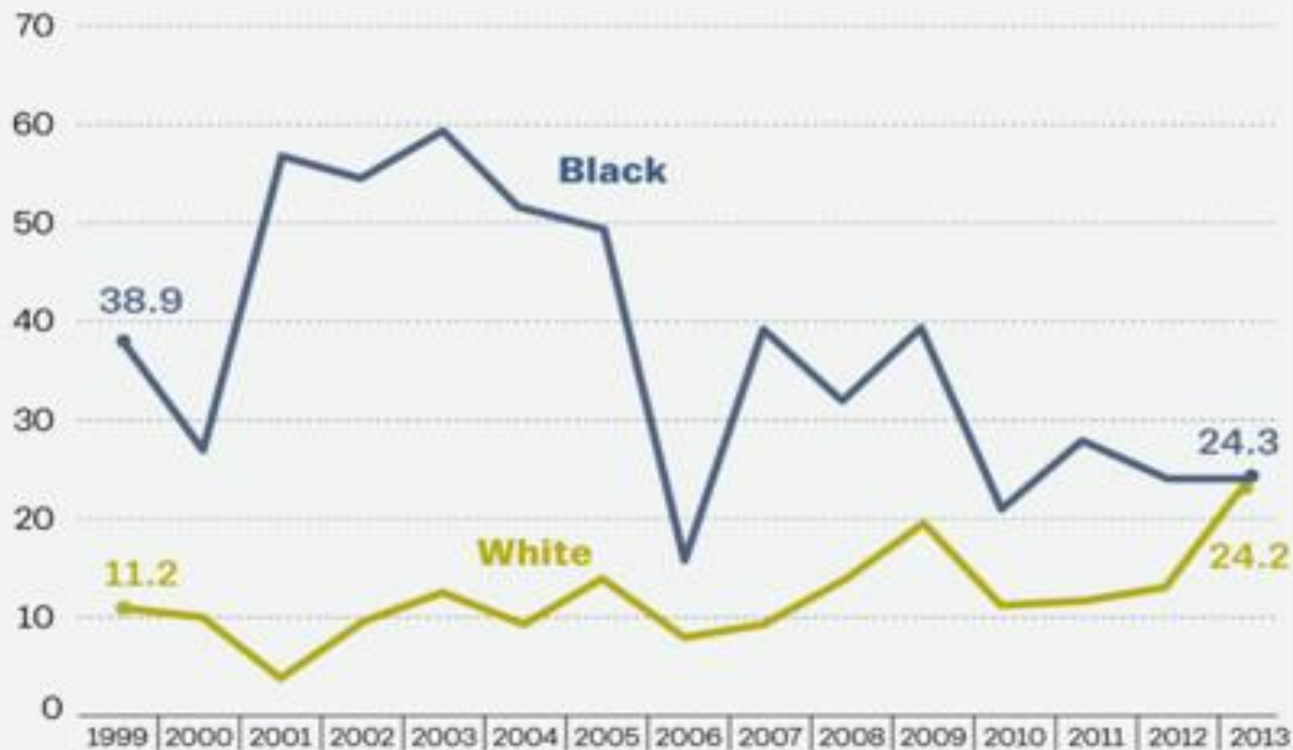
Black moms die in childbirth 3 times as often as white moms. Except in North Carolina.

The state is focused on helping low-income moms, not on race.

By Julia Belluz | @juliaoftoronto | julia.belluz@voxmedia.com | Jul 3, 2017, 12:00pm EDT

North Carolina's black-white maternal mortality gap has closed

Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births



SOURCE: NC DHHS State Center for Health Statistics

Vox

“Alarming, the white maternal mortality rate has risen in North Carolina over the years. Health officials there aren’t sure what’s going on yet, but told me they plan to investigate. And the trend **mirrors a uptick nationwide in white mortality** that’s been linked to opioid abuse, and increases in obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.”

By [Julia Belluz@juliaoftorontojulia.belluz@voxmedia.com](mailto:julia.belluz@voxmedia.com) Jul 3, 2017, 12:00pm EDT

<https://www.vox.com/health-care/2017/7/3/15886892/>

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

The social determinants of health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.

([Social Determinants of Health Key Concepts](#), World Health Organization).

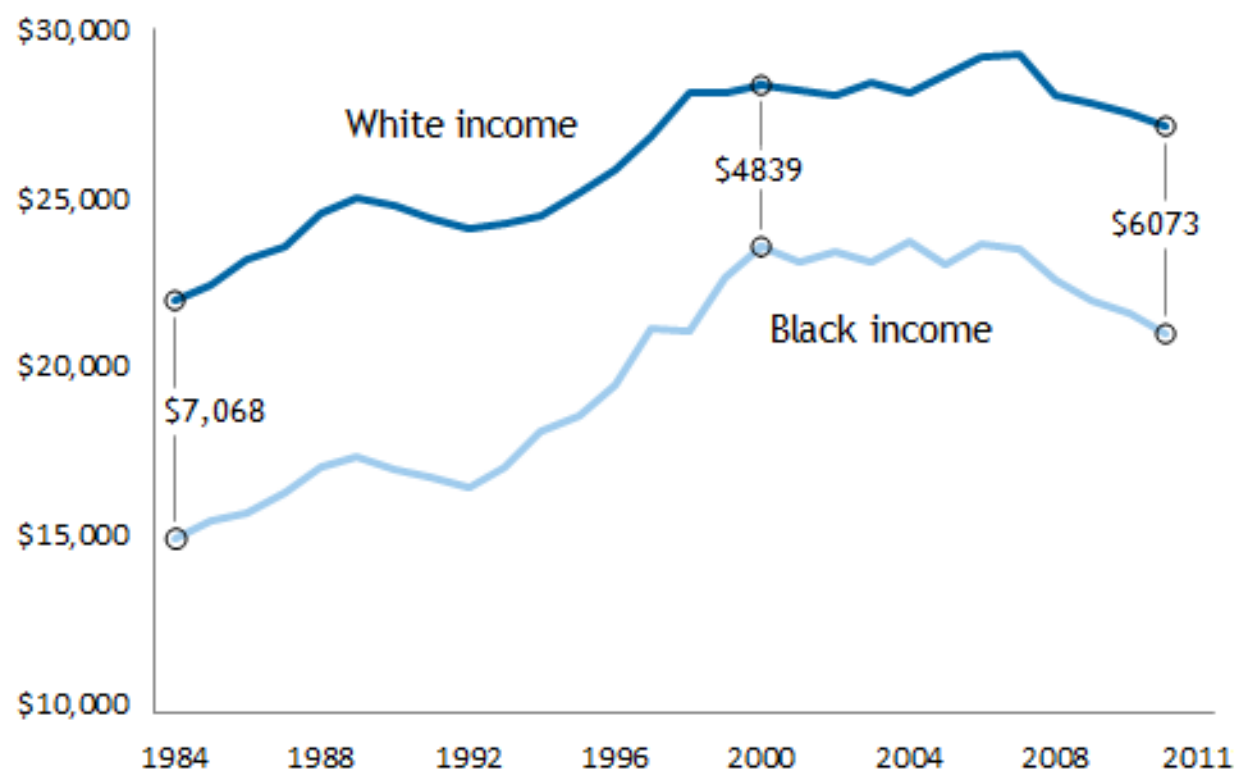
Median Household Income by Race United States-2015

Total	\$56,516
Asian	\$77,166
White	\$62,950
Hispanic	\$45,148
Black	\$36,898

Median Household Income by Race New Jersey-2016

Total	\$76,126
Asian	\$109,058
White	\$86,361
Hispanic	\$52,599
Black	\$47,696

The median income gap between whites and blacks narrowed by nearly a third between 1984 and 2000, but has grown 28% in the years since.



Source: US Census Bureau

FAMILY EARNINGS BY RACE

10th Percentile

YEAR	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	ASIAN
2011	\$9,999	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
2012	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$13,200
2013	\$12,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$19,000

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March ASEC

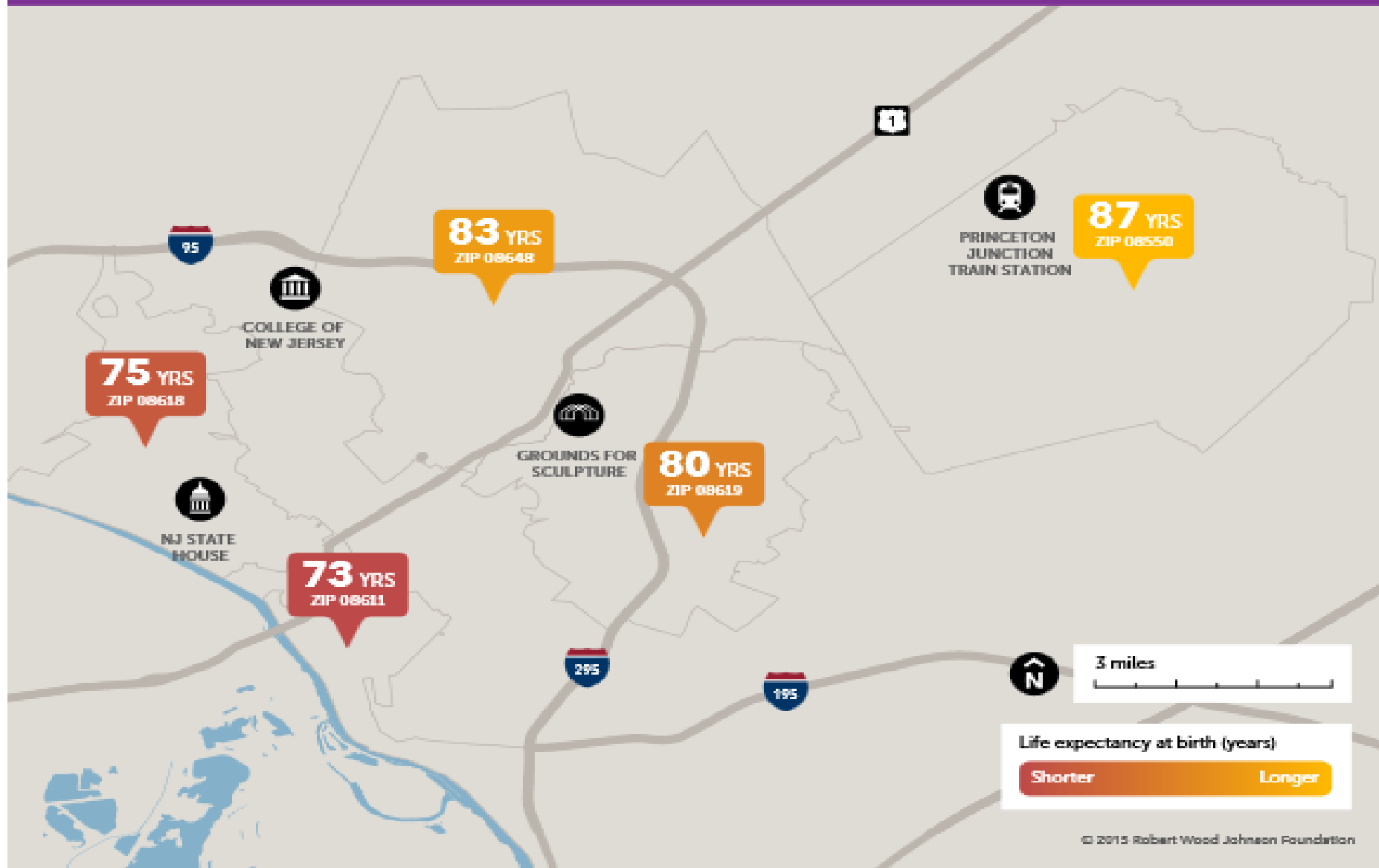
*Notes: Calculations done by Chris Wimer and JaeHyun Nam, Columbia University.
Earnings include salaries, wages, self-employment, and farm income*

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Follow the discussion

#CloseHealthGaps

Short Distances to Large Gaps in Health





UNEQUAL TREATMENT

CONFRONTING RACIAL AND ETHNIC
DISPARITIES IN HEALTHCARE

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

“Evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare is, with few exceptions, remarkably consistent across a range of illnesses and healthcare services. These disparities are associated with socioeconomic differences and tend to diminish significantly, and in a few cases, disappear altogether when socioeconomic factors are controlled.”

IOM Report - Unequal Treatment (2003)

“The majority of studies, however, find that racial and ethnic disparities remain even after adjustment for socioeconomic differences and other healthcare access related factors.”

IOM Report - Unequal Treatment (2003)

Finding 2-1: Racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare occur in the context of broader historic and contemporary social and economic inequality, and evidence of persistent racial and ethnic discrimination in many sectors of American life.

Understanding the role of unconscious bias and racism

What Is Unconscious Bias?



We all have shortcuts, “schemas” that help us make sense of the world. But our shortcuts sometimes make us misinterpret things. That’s unconscious bias.

Racism
is
Prejudice
Plus
Power

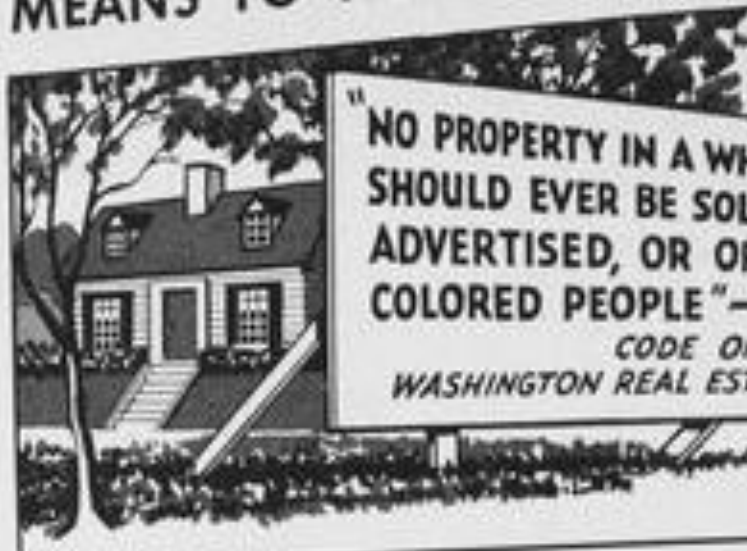




A black and white photograph showing a large, white rectangular sign with bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is positioned in the center of the frame and reads: "WE WANT WHITE TENANTS IN OUR WHITE COMMUNITY". The sign is held up by thin poles or wires. In the background, there are two American flags on poles, one on the left and one on the right, partially obscured by bare trees and utility wires. The ground in the foreground appears to be covered with snow or light-colored debris.

**WE WANT WHITE
TENANTS IN OUR
WHITE COMMUNITY**

WHAT HOUSING SEGREGATION MEANS TO THE CAPITAL'S NEGROES



"NO PROPERTY IN A WHITE SECTION
SHOULD EVER BE SOLD, RENTED,
ADVERTISED, OR OFFERED TO
COLORED PEOPLE" —

*CODE OF ETHICS—
WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE BOARD*

The segregated Negro
has little hope of
leaving his racial en-
closure.





CRYSTAL
BARBER ST.

REAL ESTATE
EXPLOITATION
CREATE
GHETTOS

END
EXPLOITATION

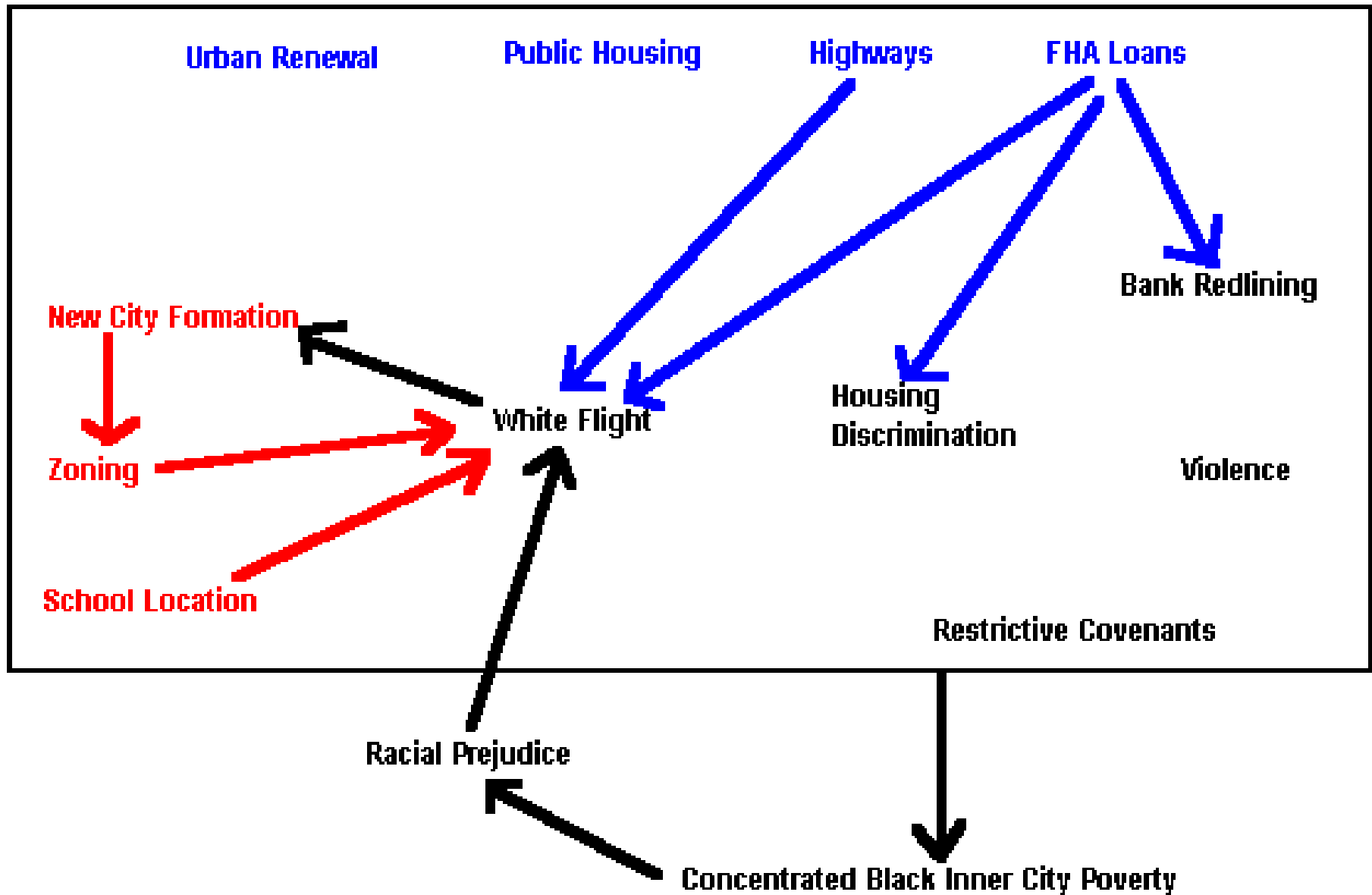
JUSTICE
NO

INSIDE
THE
ALTERNATIVE

RE

REAL ESTATE
EXPLOITATION
PRODUCES
GHETTOS

Causes of Residential Racial Segregation



America: Equity and Equality in Health 3

Structural racism and health inequities in the USA: evidence and interventions

Zinzi D Bailey, Nancy Krieger, Madina Agenor, Jasmine Graves,
Natalia Linos, Mary T. Bassett

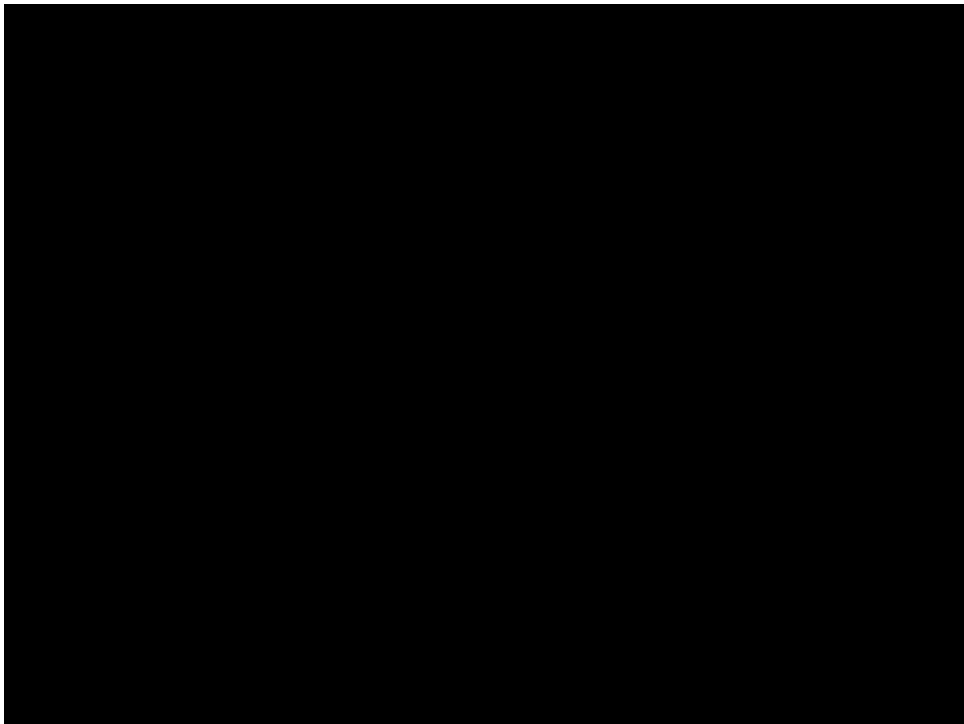
www.thelancet.com Vol 389 April 8, 2017

“...RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES, INCREASED EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTANTS, DECREASED LONGEVITY, INCREASED RISK OF CHRONIC DISEASE AND INCREASED RATES OF HOMICIDE AND OTHER CRIMES”

***“RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION ALSO
SYSTEMATICALLY SHAPES HEALTH-
CARE ACCESS, UTILISATION, AND
QUALITY AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD,
HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM, PROVIDER
AND INDIVIDUAL LEVELS”***









The plague of racism is insidious, entering into our minds as smoothly and quietly and invisibly as floating airborne microbes enter into our bodies to find lifelong purchase in our bloodstreams.

(Maya Angelou)

izquotes.com

What It's Like to Be Black and Pregnant When You Know How Dangerous That Can Be

I knew I had to find a way to have a healthy birth—despite what the statistics were telling me.

By Dani McClain 

**THE
Nation.**

<https://www.thenation.com/article/what-its-like-to-be-black-and-pregnant-when-you-know-how-dangerous-that-can-be/>



<https://www.thenation.com/article/what-its-like-to-be-black-and-pregnant-when-you-know-how-dangerous-that-can-be/>

I sat slack-jawed as I read the work of public-health researcher Arline Geronimus, who has found that the average black woman might be less healthy at 25 than she was at 15, and that African-American women at 35 have the rates of disability of white Americans who are 55. There's something about the American experience that tears away at the black body. I was 38 years old, and so daily slights and structural racism had had plenty of time to take their toll.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/what-its-like-to-be-black-and-pregnant-when-you-know-how-dangerous-that-can-be/>

Thus my decision, made during the long summer of my third trimester, to take a break from the news, which serves as a constant reminder of two disturbing realities: One, that in carrying a black child, I was carrying a potential Sterling or Castile or Rekia Boyd or Tamir Rice. And two, that my health and that of my child-to-be were largely in the hands of people who, like me, have been watching events unfold in Baton Rouge or Dallas or Ferguson or Chicago—but may have a completely different understanding than me of how race works in this country.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/what-its-like-to-be-black-and-pregnant-when-you-know-how-dangerous-that-can-be/>

These concerns may seem far-fetched, but during my pregnancy they were very real to me. A 2016 study by the University of Virginia found that about half of the white medical students and residents surveyed held at least one false belief about biological differences between black and white people: that black people's nerve endings are less sensitive than white people's, for instance. Those implicit biases affected the students' abilities to make appropriate decisions about treating black patients. Dr. Norman

Racial bias in pain assessment and treatment recommendations, and false beliefs about biological differences between blacks and whites

Kelly M. Hoffman, Sophie Trawalter, Jordan R. Axt, and M. Norman Oliver


PNAS April 19, 2016. 113 (16) 4296-4301; published ahead of print April 4, 2016.

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1516047113>

Edited by Susan T. Fiske, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, and approved March 1, 2016 (received for review August 18, 2015)

There's something about the American experience that tears away at the black body.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/what-its-like-to-be-black-and-pregnant-when-you-know-how-dangerous-that-can-be/>



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.

By LINDA VILLAROSA APRIL 11, 2018

“Black infants in America are now more than twice as likely to die as white infants — a racial disparity that is actually wider than in 1850, 15 years before the end of slavery, when most black women were considered chattel.”

Linda Villarosa – NY Times Magazine 4/11/18

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/magazine/black-mothers-babies-death-maternal-mortality.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

“The reasons for the black-white divide in both infant and maternal mortality have been debated by researchers and doctors for more than two decades. But recently there has been growing acceptance of what has largely been, for the medical establishment, a shocking idea:

Linda Villarosa – NY Times Magazine 4/11/18

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/magazine/black-mothers-babies-death-maternal-mortality.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

For black women in America, an inescapable atmosphere of societal and systemic racism can create a kind of toxic physiological stress, resulting in conditions — including hypertension and pre-eclampsia — that lead directly to higher rates of infant and maternal death”

Linda Villarosa – NY Times Magazine 4/11/18

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/magazine/black-mothers-babies-death-maternal-mortality.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

“And that societal racism is further expressed in a pervasive, longstanding racial bias in health care — including the dismissal of legitimate concerns and symptoms — that can help explain poor birth outcomes even in the case of black women with the most advantages”

Linda Villarosa – NY Times Magazine 4/11/18

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/magazine/black-mothers-babies-death-maternal-mortality.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

Grade Point

A black Yale student fell asleep in her dorm's common room. A white student called police.

By Cleve R. Wootson Jr. May 11  [Email the author](#)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2018/05/10/a-black-yale-student-fell-asleep-in-her-dorms-common-room-a-white-student-called-police/?utm_term=.e2803cb011b1

ESSENCE

HOME • NEWS

Two Black Men Were Arrested For #WaitingWhileBlack At A Philadelphia Starbucks

<https://www.essence.com/news/two-black-men-arrested-starbucks>



Roseanne Barr ✓

@therealroseanne

Replying to @MARS0411 @385parkplace and @SGTreport

muslim brotherhood & planet of the
apes had a baby=vj

“The scars and stains of racism are still deeply embedded in the American society.

John Lewis

“Racism and injustice and violence sweep our world, bringing a tragic harvest of heartache and death.

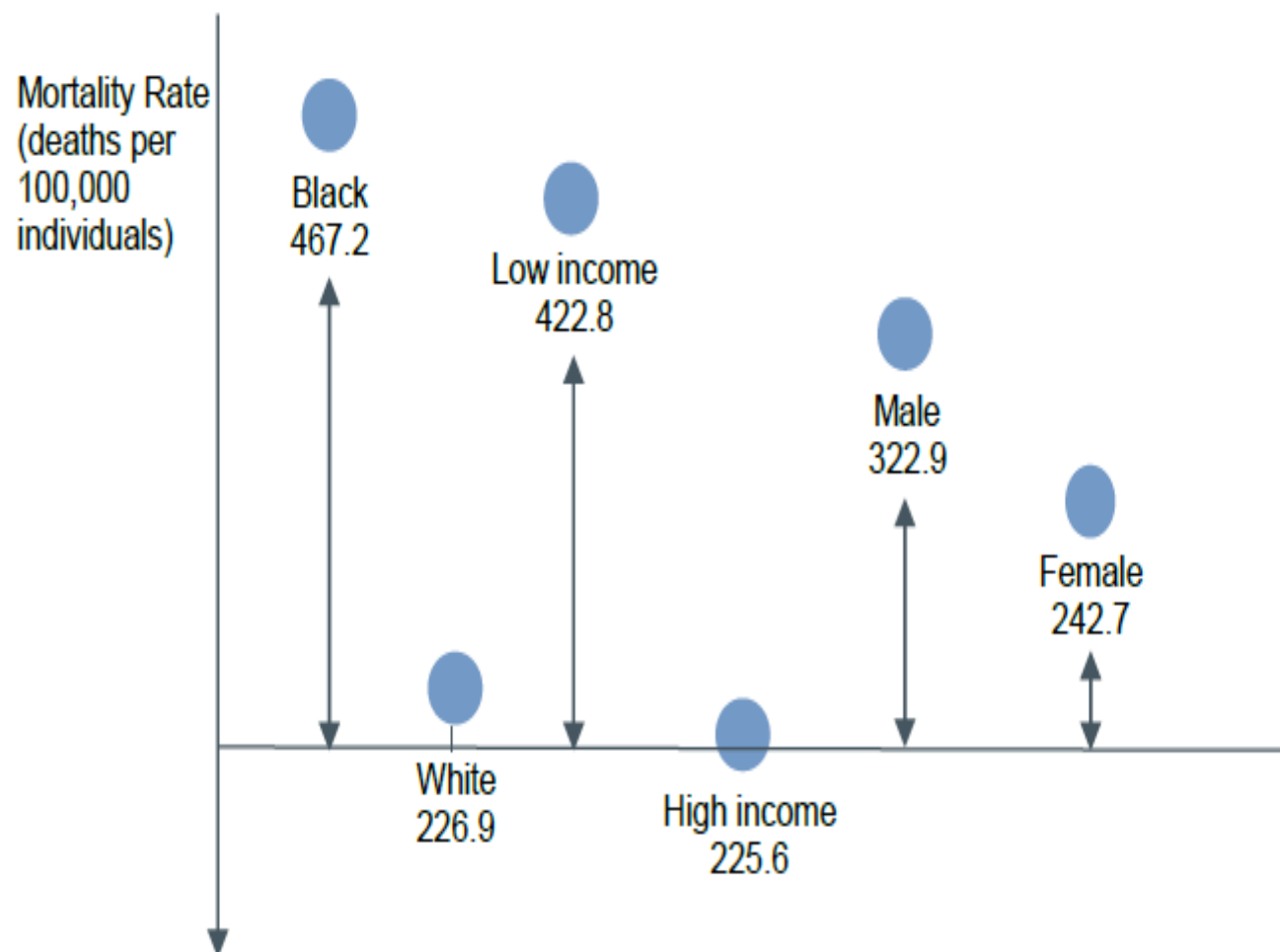
Billy Graham

“People know about the Klan and the overt racism, but the killing of one's soul little by little, day after day, is a lot worse than someone coming in your house and lynching you.

Samuel L. Jackson

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/samuel_l_jackson_425874?src=t_racism

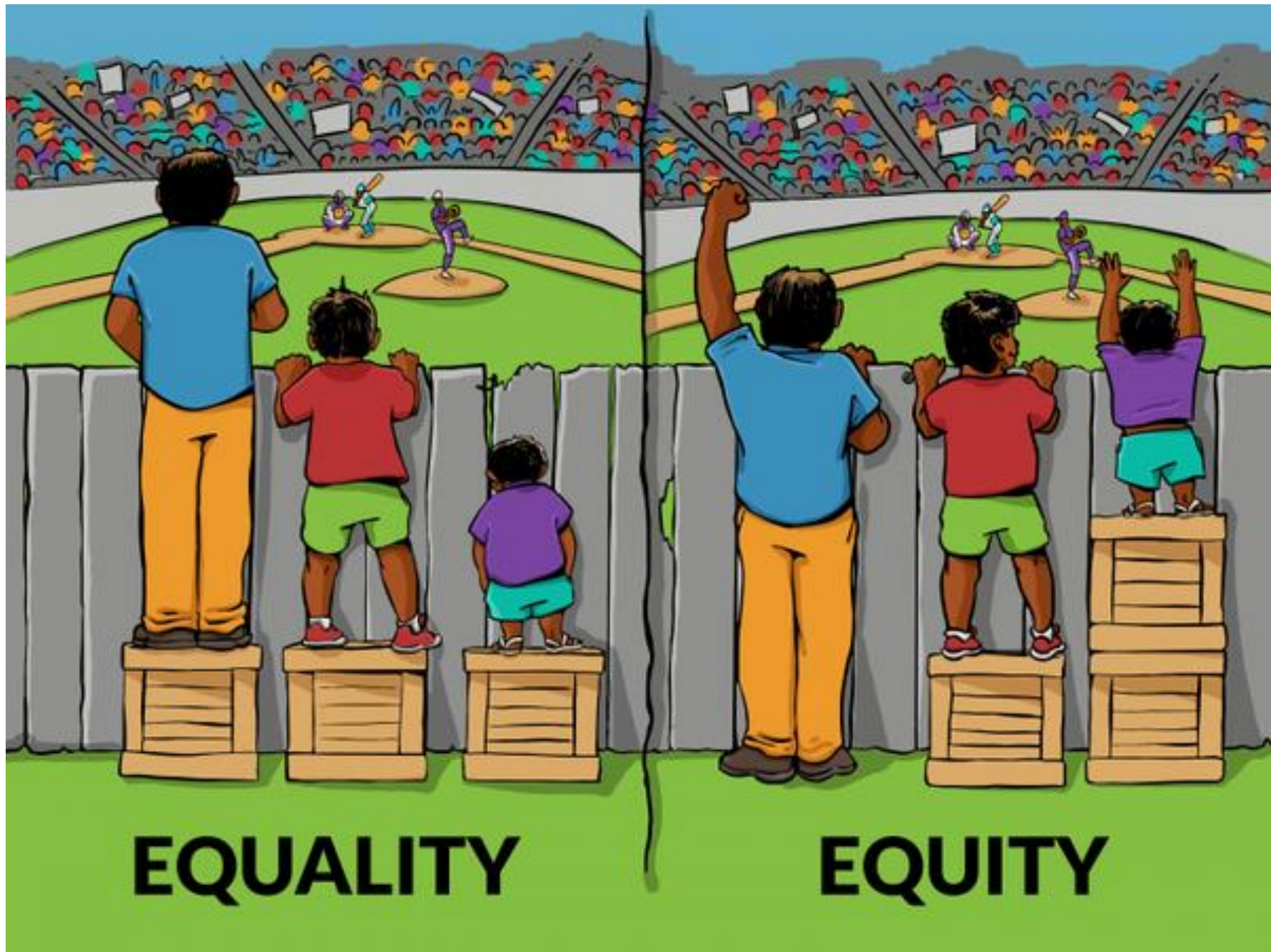
Figure 6. Example Bottom-up Approach Summary Measure Showing Disparities in Mortality Rates



**"THERE IS NOTHING
NEW ABOUT POVERTY.
WHAT IS NEW,
HOWEVER, IS THAT WE
HAVE THE RESOURCES
TO GET RID OF IT"**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

from his 1964 Nobel Prize Address



EQUALITY

EQUITY

