

Friday, November 4, 2016

12:30 p.m. Eastern

Dial In: 888.863.0985

Conference ID: 49389917

# Safety Action Series

## Reduction of Peripartum Racial/Ethnic Disparities Patient Safety Bundle



# Speakers



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# Disclosures

- Elizabeth A. Howell, MD, MPP has no real or perceived conflicts of interest.
- William Grobman, MD, MBA has no real or perceived conflicts of interest.

# Objectives

- Provide an overview of racial and ethnic disparities in pregnancy care and outcomes
- Examine framework for understanding disparities and how this framework informs the development of this bundle
- Provide an in-depth overview of the “Reduction of Peripartum Racial/Ethnic Disparities” Patient Safety Bundle
- Identify resources to customize the bundle for use within your organization

# Obstetric disparities: overview

- Deliveries of minority women represent half of all US births annually
- Racial/ethnic disparities exist in:
  - Obstetric care
  - Maternal morbidity
  - Maternal mortality
- Disparities have been persistent and in some cases increasing

# Obstetric disparities in care

## Associations Between Race/Ethnicity and Types of Obstetric Care

	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black	Hispanic	Asian
<b>Labor induction</b>				
N (%)	16400 (32.1)	6597 (28.3)	6123 (23.0)	1389 (23.7)
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	1.00 (ref)	0.88 (0.84-0.92)	0.67 (0.64-0.70)	0.74 (0.69-0.80)
<b>≥1 hour between complete dilation and initiation of pushing</b>				
N (%)	3111 (11.4)	685 (6.2)	854 (6.5)	476 (14.7)
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	1.00 (ref)	0.85 (0.76-0.94)	0.92 (0.83-1.02)	1.13 (1.00-1.27)
<b>Vaginal delivery<sup>i</sup></b>				
N (%)	35632 (68.5)	16075 (67.3)	19234 (70.5)	3993 (66.6)
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	1.00 (ref)	0.87 (0.83-0.91)	1.06 (1.01-1.12)	0.96 (0.89-1.03)
<b>Episiotomy</b>				
N (%)	4690 (13.6)	767 (4.9)	996 (5.3)	936 (24.0)
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	1.00 (ref)	0.62 (0.56-0.68)	0.63 (0.58-0.70)	1.39 (1.26-1.54)

# Disparities in maternal morbidity

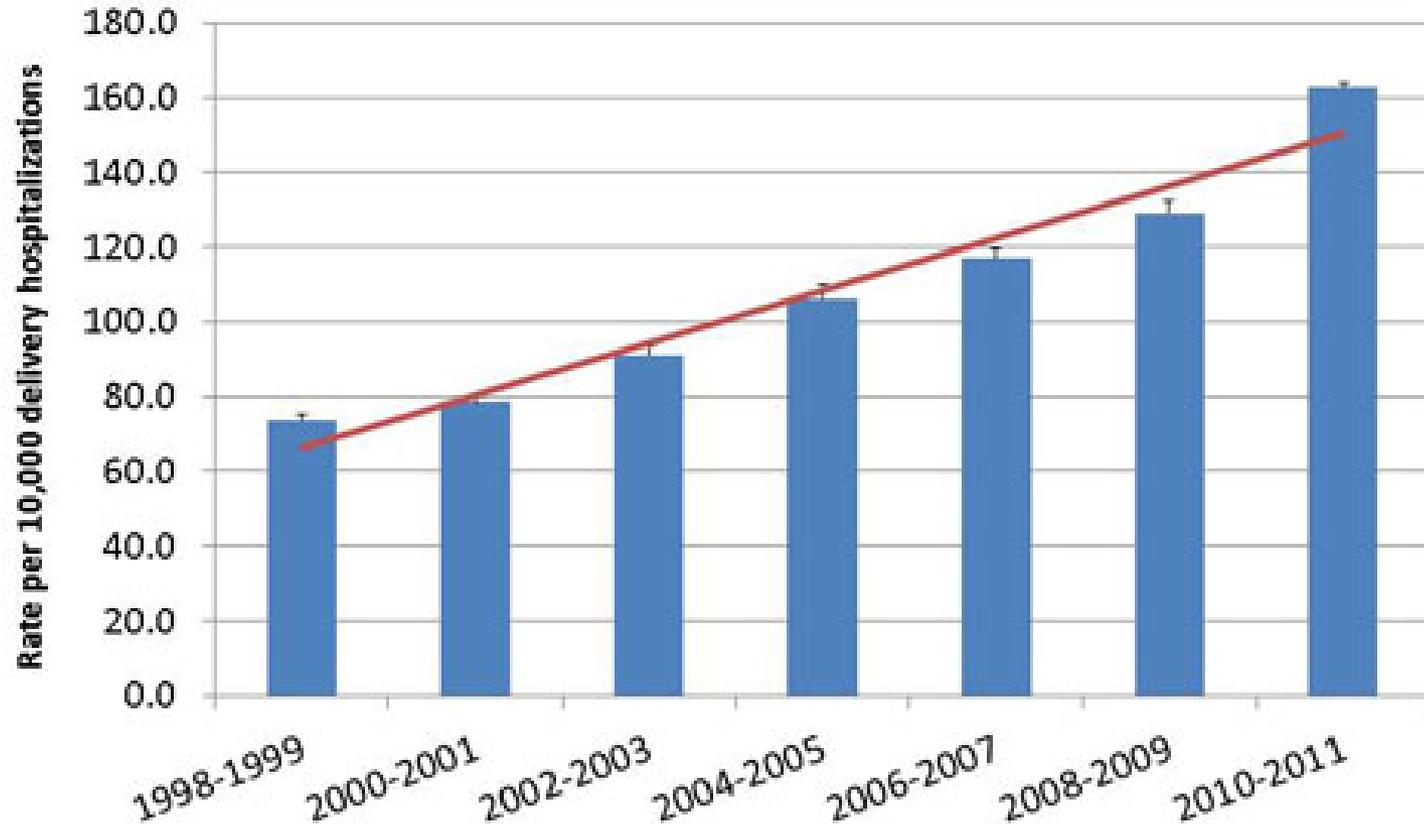
## Associations Between Race/Ethnicity and Adverse Maternal Outcomes

	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black	Hispanic	Asian
<b>Postpartum hemorrhage</b>				
N (%)	805 (1.6)	702 (3.0)	827 (3.1)	130 (2.2)
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	1.00 (ref)	1.71 (1.49- 1.96)	1.51 (1.31- 1.74)	1.54 (1.24- 1.91)
<b>Peripartum infection</b>				
N (%)	2119 (4.1)	1169 (4.9)	1744 (6.4)	374 (6.2)
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	1.00 (ref)	1.25 (1.14- 1.38)	1.45 (1.32- 1.59)	1.62 (1.43- 1.84)
<b>Severe perineal laceration at SVD</b>				
N (%)	780 (2.5)	174 (1.2)	256 (1.5)	189 (5.5)
Adjusted OR (95% CI)	1.00 (ref)	0.76 (0.62- 0.93)	0.86 (0.70- 1.05)	2.06 (1.72- 2.47)

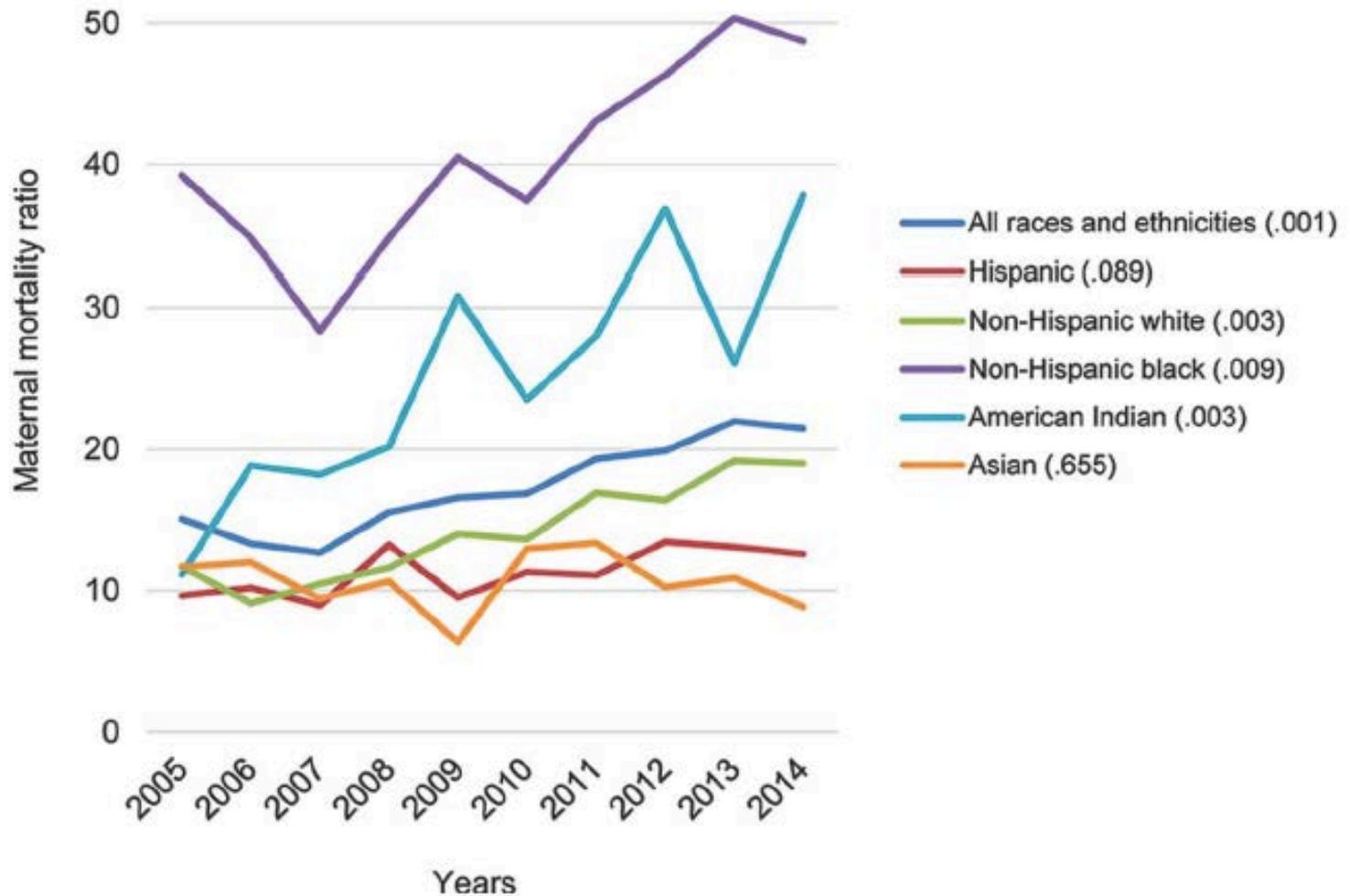
# Severe maternal morbidity

- For every maternal death, approximately 50-100 women experience severe obstetric morbidity
- Rates are rising: nearly doubled over last decade
- Racial/ethnic disparities exist
  - 2-3 fold higher risk among black women

# Severe Maternal Morbidity During Delivery Hospitalizations: United States, 1998-2011



# Maternal mortality (per 100,000)



[Moaddab, et al. Health Care Disparity and State-Specific Pregnancy-Related Mortality in the United States, 2005-2014. Obstet Gynecol. 2016;128:869-75.](#)

# Disparities more pronounced in some regions

- Pregnancy-related mortality in NYC 2006-2010
  - Blacks 12 times more likely to die
    - Widening of gap since 2001-2005
    - Increased gap driven by 45% decreased mortality among whites
- Asian/Pacific Islanders 4x as likely to die
- Latinas 3x as likely to die

# Preventability

- The majority of severe morbidity and mortality are thought to be preventable through patient, provider, and system factors
- Studies suggest systems-level factors are most frequent contributing factor
- Growing evidence that use of safety protocols, checklists improve outcomes

# Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health: Focus on disparities

- One of the first professional bodies to address disparities
- Unique perspective - addressing disparities under a patient safety umbrella
- Raises awareness among health systems, departments of health, hospitals, and clinicians who care for pregnant and postpartum women

# Reduction of Peripartum Racial Disparities Patient Safety Bundle Development

## Multidisciplinary Team

- William Grobman, MD, FACOG
- Elizabeth Howell, MD, MPP, FACOG
- Haywood Brown, MD
- Jessica Brumley, PhD, CNM
- Allison Bryant, MD, MPH
- Aaron Caughey, MD, PhD
- Andria Cornell, MSPH
- Jacqueline Grant, MD, MPH, MPA
- Kimberly Gregory, MD, MPH
- Sue Gullo, RN, BSN, MS
- Pandora Hardtman, CNM
- Jill Mhyre, MD
- Katy Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA
- Jill Mhyre, MD
- Geeta Sehgal, DO
- Paloma Toledo, MD, MPH
- Robyn D’Oria, MA, RNC, APN

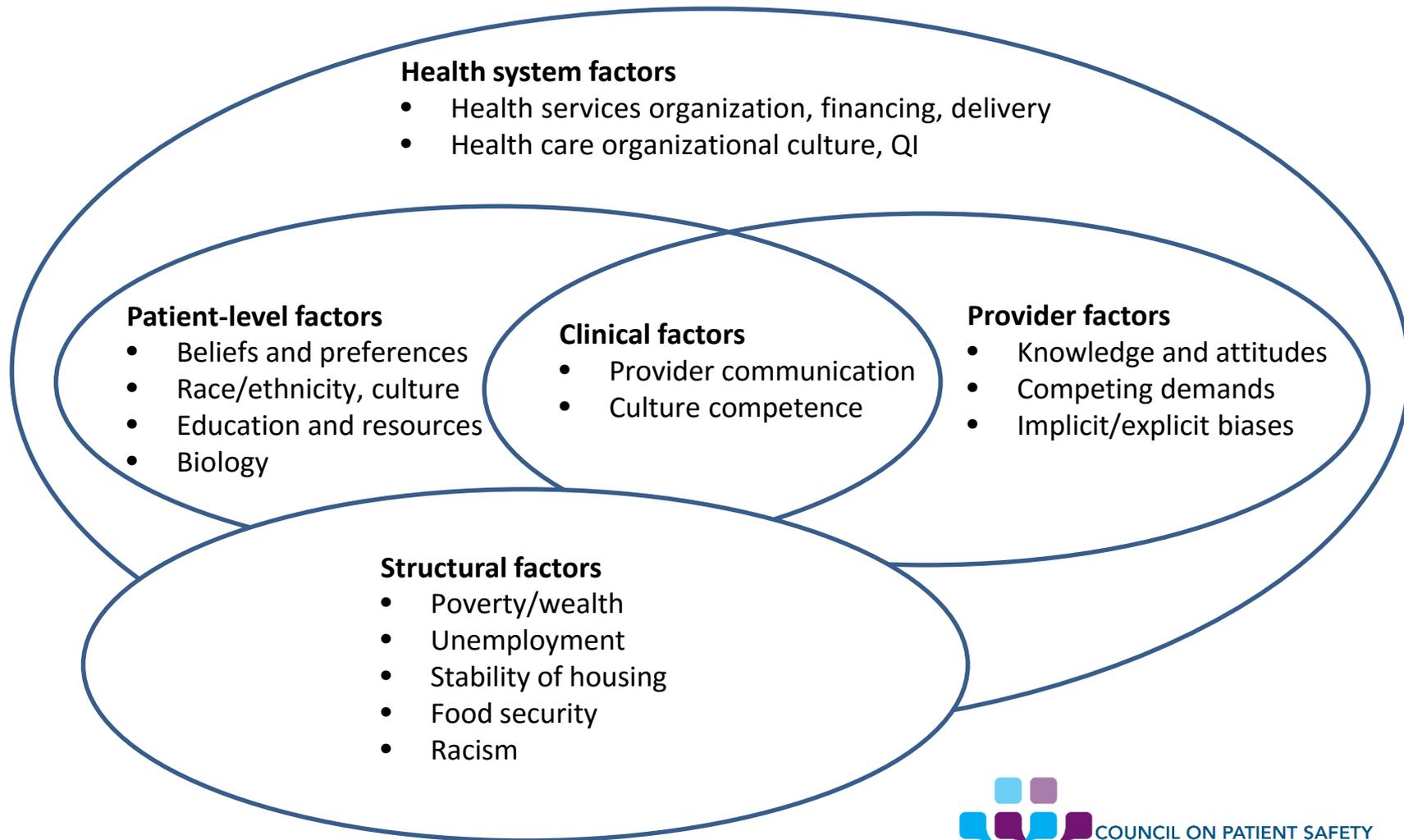
# Guiding principles

- Consider racial/ethnic disparities broadly
  - Not limited to black versus white
- Acknowledge complex causes
  - Focus on factors modifiable within healthcare system
- Important attributes of our bundle
  - Actionable
  - Evidence-based
  - Feasible
  - Impactful

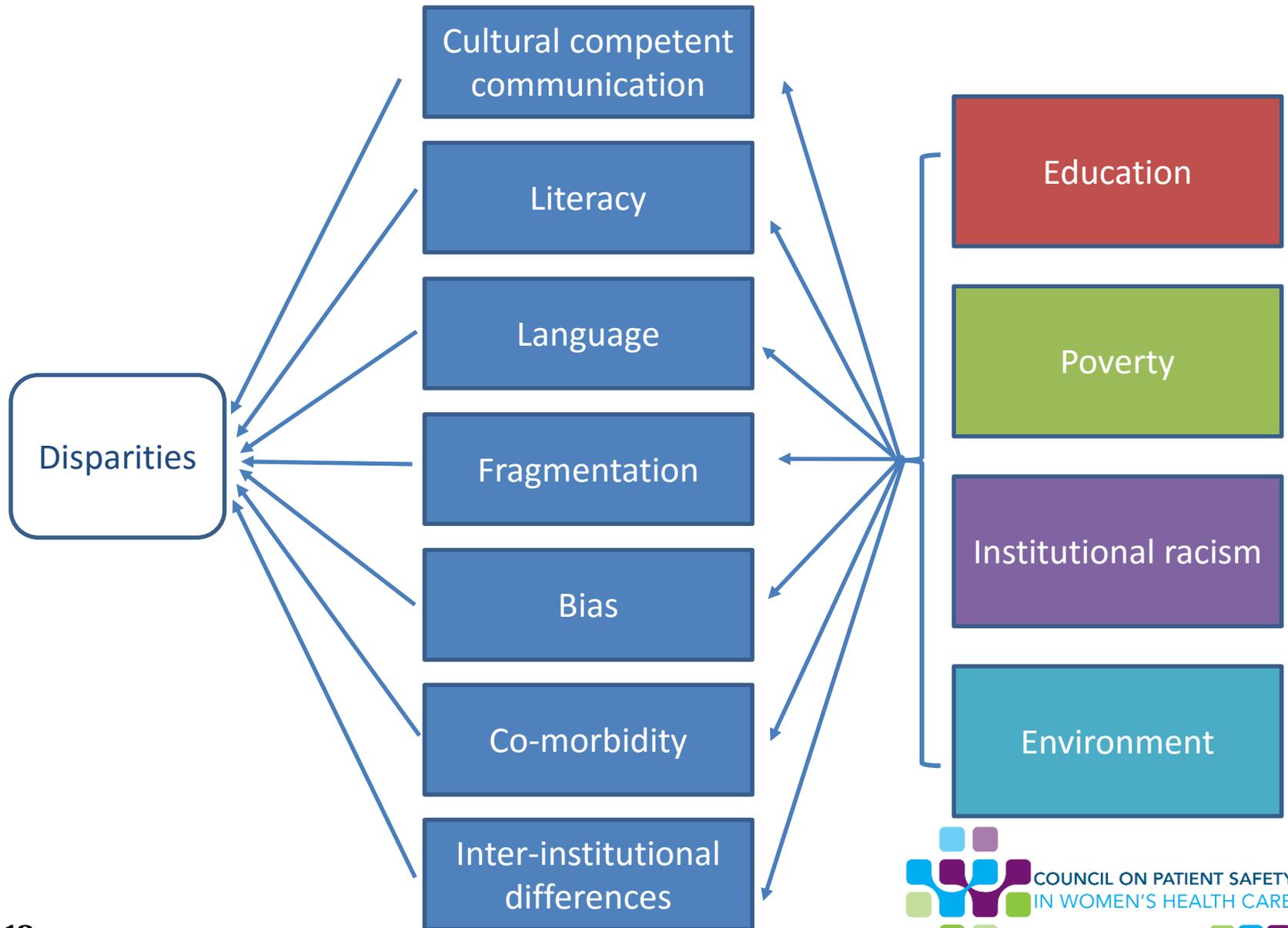
# Bundle development

- Review of literature
  - Disparities frameworks
  - Drivers of disparities and relative contributions
    - Examples from all of medicine
  - Effective interventions to reduce disparities

# Contributors to health and health care disparities



# Disparities Bundle Framework



# Disparities bundle themes

- Care fragmentation
  - Importance throughout reproductive life
- Communication
  - Patient education (culturally competent)
  - Shared decision-making
- Systemic racism
  - Implicit bias
- Lack of measurement and benchmarking
  - Disparity dashboard
  - Inter-hospital differences

# Four domains of patient safety bundles

- **Readiness**
- **Recognition**
- **Response**
- **Reporting/Systems Learning**

## READINESS

### *Every health system*

- Establish systems to accurately document self-identified race, ethnicity, and primary language.
  - Provide system-wide staff education and training on how to ask demographic intake questions.
  - Ensure that patients understand why race, ethnicity, and language data are being collected.
  - Ensure that race, ethnicity, and language data are accessible in the electronic medical record.
  - Evaluate non-English language proficiency (e.g. Spanish proficiency) for providers who communicate with patients in languages other than English.
  - Educate all staff (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, community-based) on interpreter services available within the healthcare system.
- Provide staff-wide education on:
  - Peripartum racial and ethnic disparities and their root causes.
  - Best practices for shared decision making.
- Engage diverse patient, family, and community advocates who can represent important community partnerships on quality and safety leadership teams.

# Readiness: Every Health System

- ***Establish systems to accurately document self-identified race, ethnicity, and primary language.***
  - *Provide system-wide staff education and training on how to ask demographic intake questions.*
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  - *Best practices for shared decision making.*

# Readiness: Every Health System

- ***Engage diverse patient, family, and community who can represent important community partnerships on quality and safety leadership teams.***

## RECOGNITION

*Every patient, family, and staff member*

- Provide staff-wide education on implicit bias.
- Provide convenient access to health records without delay (paper or electronic), at minimal to no fee to the maternal patient, in a clear and simple format that summarizes information most pertinent to perinatal care and wellness.
- Establish a mechanism for patients, families and staff to report inequitable care and episodes of miscommunication or disrespect.

**Reduction of Peripartum  
Racial/Ethnic Disparities**

# Recognition: Every Patient, Family, and Staff Member

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# Recognition: Every Patient, Family, and Staff Member

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# Recognition: Every Patient, Family, and Staff Member

- ***Establish a mechanism for patients, families, and staff to report inequitable care and episodes of miscommunication or disrespect.***

## RESPONSE

### *Every clinical encounter*

- Engage in best practices for shared decision making.
- Ensure a timely and tailored response to each report of inequity or disrespect.
- Address reproductive life plan and contraceptive options not only during or immediately after pregnancy, but at regular intervals throughout a women's reproductive life.
- Establish discharge navigation and coordination systems post childbirth to ensure that women have appropriate follow-up care and understand when it is necessary to return to their health care provider.
  - Provide discharge instructions that include information about what danger or warning signs to look out for, who to call, and where to go if they have a question or concern.
  - Design discharge materials that meet patients' health literacy, language, and cultural needs.

# Response: Every Clinical Encounter

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# Response: Every Clinical Encounter

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## REPORTING & SYSTEMS LEARNING

### *Every clinical unit*

- Build a culture of equity, including systems for reporting, response, and learning similar to ongoing efforts in safety culture.
- Develop a disparities dashboard that monitors process and outcome metrics stratified by race and ethnicity, with regular dissemination of the stratified performance data to staff and leadership.
- Implement quality improvement projects that target disparities in healthcare access, treatment, and outcomes.
- Consider the role of race, ethnicity, language, poverty, literacy, and other social determinants of health, including racism at the interpersonal and system-level when conducting multidisciplinary reviews of severe maternal morbidity, mortality, and other clinically important metrics.
  - Add as a checkbox on the review sheet: Did race/ethnicity (i.e. implicit bias), language barrier, or specific social determinants of health contribute to the morbidity (yes/no/maybe)? And if so, are there system changes that could be implemented that could alter the outcome?

**Reduction of Peripartum  
Racial/Ethnic Disparities**

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# Call to action

- Obstetric disparities are multi-faceted
  - Portion internal to the healthcare system that can be addressed and redressed
- Not all tools and interventions have an evidence base within obstetric care
  - Just culture, safety culture, and health-services principles still relevant
- “Instead of sitting back on the reflexive defense that racial disparities are too complex for us to do anything about, what if we decided to try anyway?”

# Resources

- Barry, M. J., & Edgman-Levitan, S. (2012). Shared decision making – the pinnacle of patient-centered care. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 366, 780-781.
- Harvard University. Project Implicit.
- Massachusetts General Hospital Institute for Health Policy. Improving quality and achieving equity: A guide for hospital leaders.
- The University of Chicago. Finding answers: Solving disparities through payment and delivery system reform.
- View complete resource listing [here](#).

# Q&A Session

Press \*1 to ask a question



You will enter the question queue  
Your line will be unmuted by the operator for your turn

*A recording of this presentation will be made available on our website:*  
[www.safehealthcareforeverywoman.org](http://www.safehealthcareforeverywoman.org)

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