

Maternal Mortality for African American Women in the U.S.



Does systemic racism against African American women in the U.S. impact the effectiveness of perinatal care and lead to higher mortality rates?

Overview

01

Contextualization
of Our Issue

02

Paid Medical Leave

03

Insured Doula &
Mental Health
Support Programs

04

Final Solution

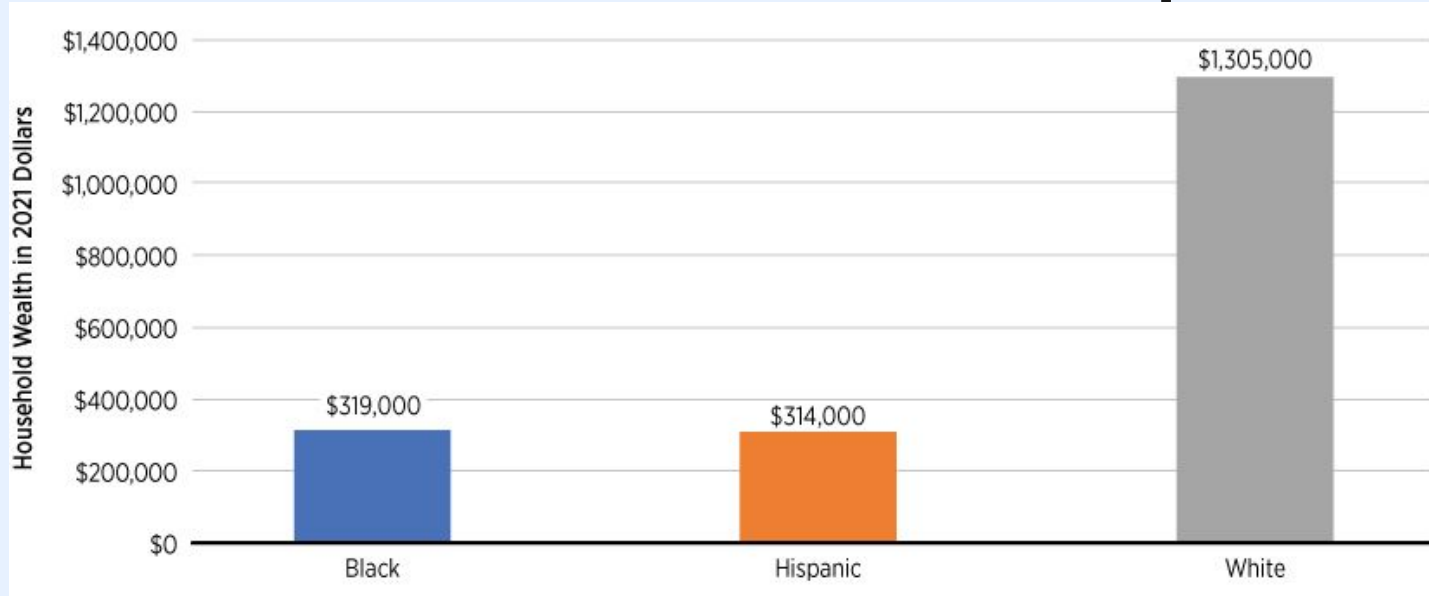
05

Limitations

Contextualization

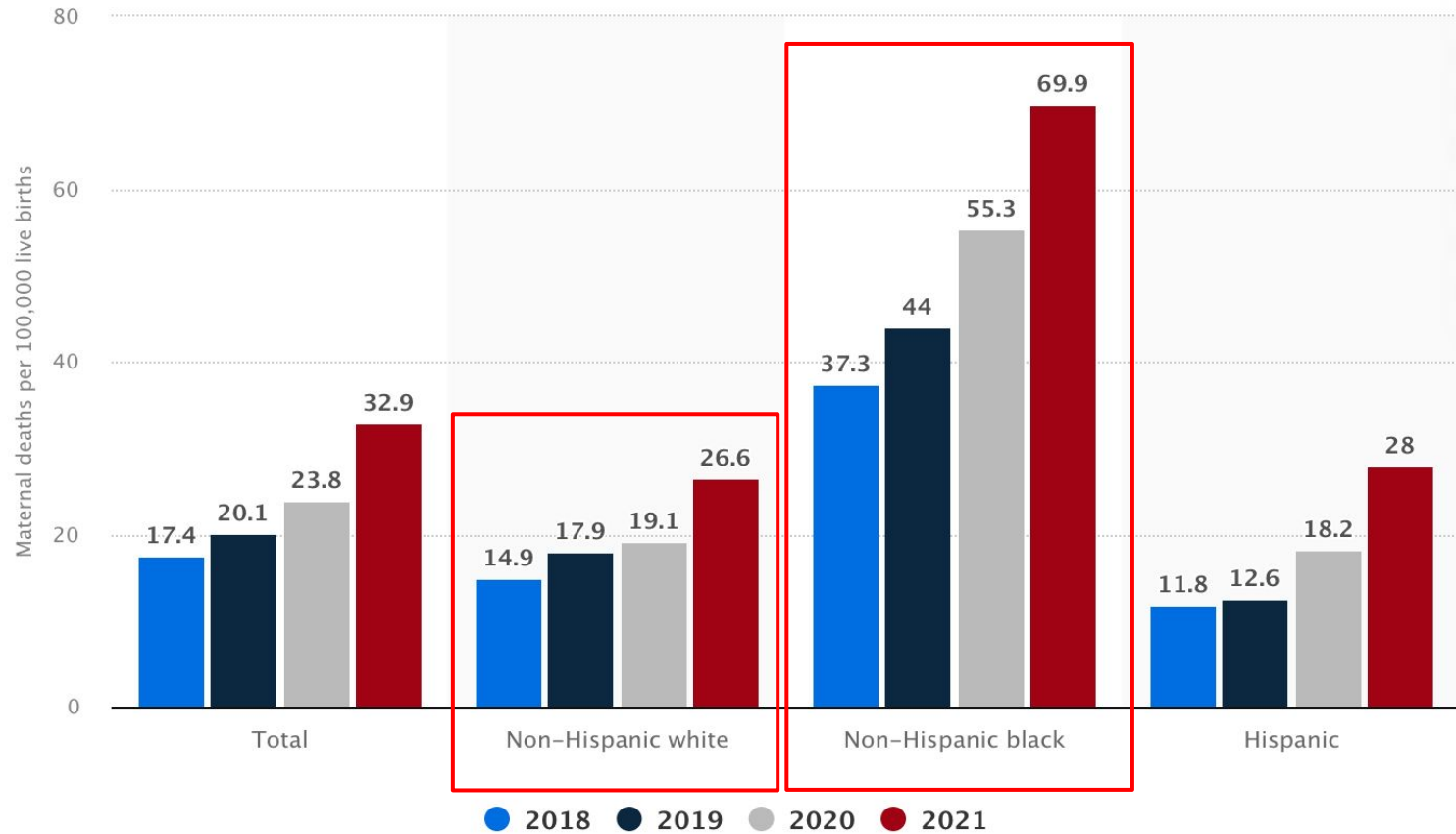
- Economic disadvantages
 - Wealth and income gap
- Healthcare:
 - Racist descriptions
 - Unfair treatment

Wealth and Income Gap



African American Median Income: \$52,860

Total Median Income for All Races: \$74,580

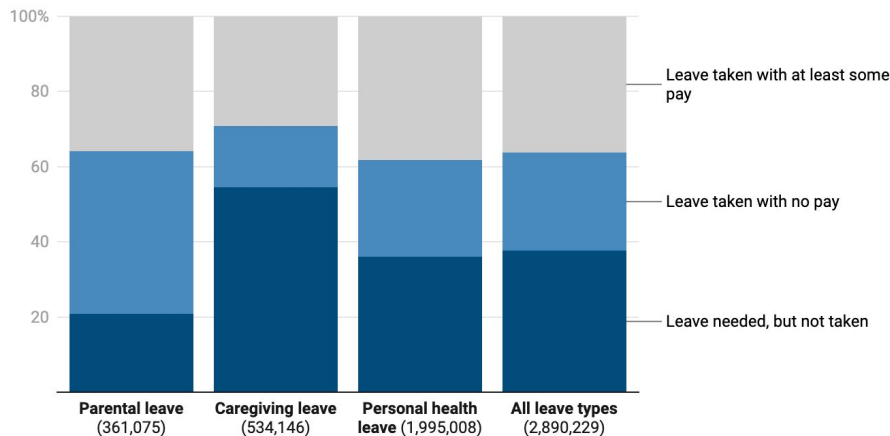


Paid maternal leave - problem with FMLA



More than 6 in 10 leaves needed by Black women are not taken or taken without pay

Distribution of Black women who needed leave in 2018 by leave type, whether leave was taken, and whether pay was received

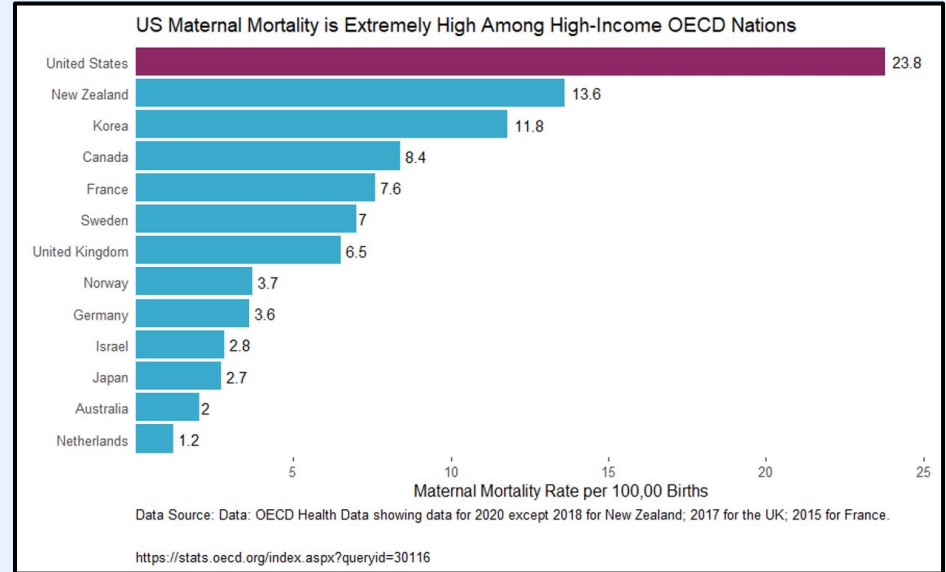


- FMLA provides unpaid job-protected medical leave
- **28%** of African American women worked for companies with over 500 employees
- 2.9 million medical leaves required by African Americans - **only 38% taken**

Paid maternal leave - Solution

- 28 out of 38 OECD countries provide job-protected paid medical leave
- Implementing universal paid medical leave will:
 - Reduce financial stress
 - Increase maternal leave compliance
 - Lead to less infant and maternal mortality

Limitations: will require a major national policy change - subject to political pushback



Doulas & Mental Health Support Programs

Doulas

- Trained professionals
- Voice against bias
- Extra support during perinatal care
- Shown to lower stress

Mental Health Programs

- Groups of peers
- Techniques to manage depression and anxiety
- Multiple studies and pilot groups prove effectiveness

Doula Insurance

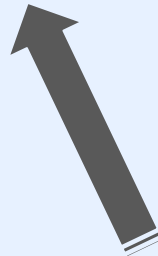
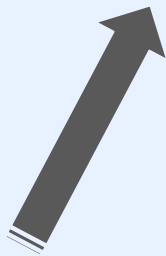
“Both private and public medical insurance generally do not cover doula services”



Limitations to Doula & Mental Health Support Programs

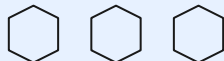


Final Solution



**Insured Doulas &
Mental Health
Support Programs**

**Paid Medical
Leave**



Limitations of Solution

- Requires major policy change
- Paid leave still won't cover all of the costs
- Will exceed national debt limit

USDOT VSL is \$9.2 million compared to projected \$1.78 million for paid medical leave

Conclusion

- Combination of paid medical leave and insurance-covered doulas can:
 - Reduce infant and maternal mortality
 - Reduce financial stress
 - Improve overall maternal care

Citations

"118th Congress House Lineup." U.S. House of Representatives Press Gallery.

Kent, Ana Hernández, and Lowell R. Ricketts. "The State of U.S. Wealth Inequality." Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 31 July 2023, www.stlouisfed.org/institute-for-economic-equity/the-state-of-us-wealth-inequality.

Knocke, Kathleen, et al. "Doula Care and Maternal Health: An Evidence Review." ASPE, 13 December 2022.

"Many Women Report Mistreatment During Pregnancy and Delivery. CDC Vitalsigns, 16 Sept. 2023. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

"Maternal mortality rates in the United States from 2018 to 2021, by race/ethnicity." NVSS, 14 Apr. 2023, Chart.

"Paid Family Leave across OECD Countries." Bipartisan Policy Center.

"Paid Parental Leave: A Detailed Look at Approaches across ... - UCLA World."

"Scanned Document - Department of Transportation."

Glass, Kelly. "Doula Care Saves Lives — So Why Isn't There One in Every Single Delivery Room?" Edited by Rachel Goldstein. What to Expect, 7 July 2022.

Gruber, Kenneth J., et al. "Impact of Doulas on Healthy Birth Outcomes."

The Journal of Perinatal Education, vol. 22, no. 1, winter 2013, pp. 49-58. National Library of Medicine.

Guzman, Gloria, and Melissa Kollar. "Income in the United States: 2022." U.S. Census Bureau, 12 September 2023.

Citations

McMorrow, Shannon, et al. "Community-led Mental Health Promotion for People of Color in the United States."

Nandi, Arijit, et al. "Increased duration of paid maternity leave lowers infant mortality in low-and middle-income countries: a quasi-experimental study." PLoS medicine 13.3 (2016): e1001985.

Patton, Dana, Julia F. Costich, and Niklas Lidströmer. "Paid parental leave policies and infant mortality rates in OECD countries: Policy implications for the United States." World Medical & Health Policy 9.1 (2017): 6-23.

Tikkanen, Roosa, et al. "Maternal mortality and maternity care in the United States compared to 10 other developed countries." The Commonwealth Fund 10 (2020).

Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen Sends Letter to Congressional Leadership on the Debt Limit. U.S. Department of the Treasury, 9 Jan. 2023. U.S. Department of the Treasury.

