



A Grave Injustice

The Rise of Maternal Mortality Among Minority Women in New York City



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INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of this proposal is to discuss the rise of maternal mortality of minority women in New York City. The target population is minority women because of the lack of resources and education
- The research question is, **how is maternal mortality prevented within minority women?**



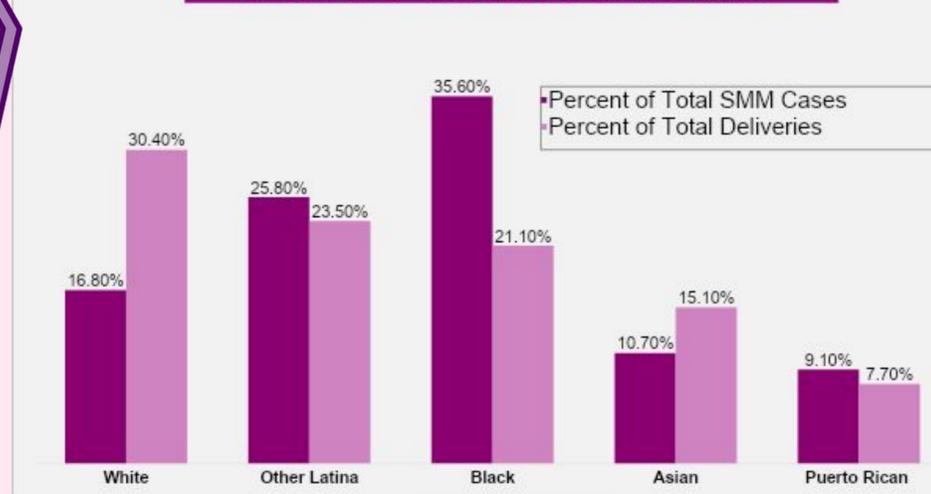
COMMUNITY ASSESMENT

- New York City is known to be one of the most diverse cities in the United States, ranking fourth in the country based on 2010 census data.⁷
- Poverty and unemployment** are an issue for the community of New York. In recent years, the number of affordable rental apartments in New York City has declined and more households are devoting at least 30 percent of their income toward rent.
- Individuals living below the federal poverty level is 21% and unemployment is 11%.²
- Of the people who live in the community of New York, 15% are current smokers, 27% of adults report drinking one or more 12 ounce sugar beverages, 77% of adults report not getting any physical activity in the last 30 days, 24% of adults who are obese, 10% report having diabetes, 907 of drug-related hospitalizations per 100,000 adults.²
- New York legislation has been created in efforts to **combat the disparity in social classes**, more specifically housing which is directly correlated with health.
- It is reported that **20% of adults report not having health insurance and 7.4% receiving late prenatal care or no prenatal care.**
- Currently the community is **not handling the problem well.**

“We must **RE-ENVISION** postpartum care for women as an on-going process rather than a few single-encounters”

Distribution of Live Births and Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) Cases in NYC (2008-2012)

N of SMM Cases = 13,505/ N of Total Deliveries = 588,232



PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITY

- The **lack of proper health care** among minority women is the primary reason why the maternal mortality rate in the United States is higher compared to other countries around the world.
- Studies have shown that **women of minority are less likely to be offered proper medical services and treatment.**
- In 2012, an analysis of 20 years of published research in the United States found that African American patients reporting pain were **22% less likely than white patients to get pain medication from their doctors.**⁵
- According to the Center for Disease Control³ **black women are 12 times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth than white women,** and are three times more likely to suffer from life threatening complications.



PROPOSED SOLUTION

ENHANCE EDUCATION

- Create a shift in focus by fostering individualized, woman-centered care.
- Use resources to support women of diverse backgrounds.
- Routine racial bias training to end unconscious bias.

INCREASE MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Better serve the high volume of minority women in NYC.
- Offer a variety of health services.
- Improve connections between patients and providers.

ESTABLISH STANDARDIZED GUIDELINES

- Create a diverse board of healthcare professionals to establish a set standard.
- Educate clients on potentially fatal complications such as maternal hemorrhage and embolism.

DIVERSIFY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Provide leadership opportunities for women of all backgrounds.
- Create scholarships and educational opportunities to under-represented individuals who meet scholastic criteria.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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According to the New York State (NYS) Department of Health, the rate of maternal mortality in New York City had risen from 18.7 per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 31 per 100,000 live births in 2015⁴

