

# Implementing the AIM Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle: The Why and the How

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# Objectives and Disclosures

## Objectives:

- Identify key elements that make a State Perinatal Quality Collaborative successful
- List the barriers for rapid treatment of severe range hypertension
- Describe actions to take to reduce racial disparities in hypertensive disorders

## Disclosures

- Dr. Main has no conflicts or disclosures to report

In the last 15 years,  
US has seen rises in:

Maternal Mortality:

Up 50-70%

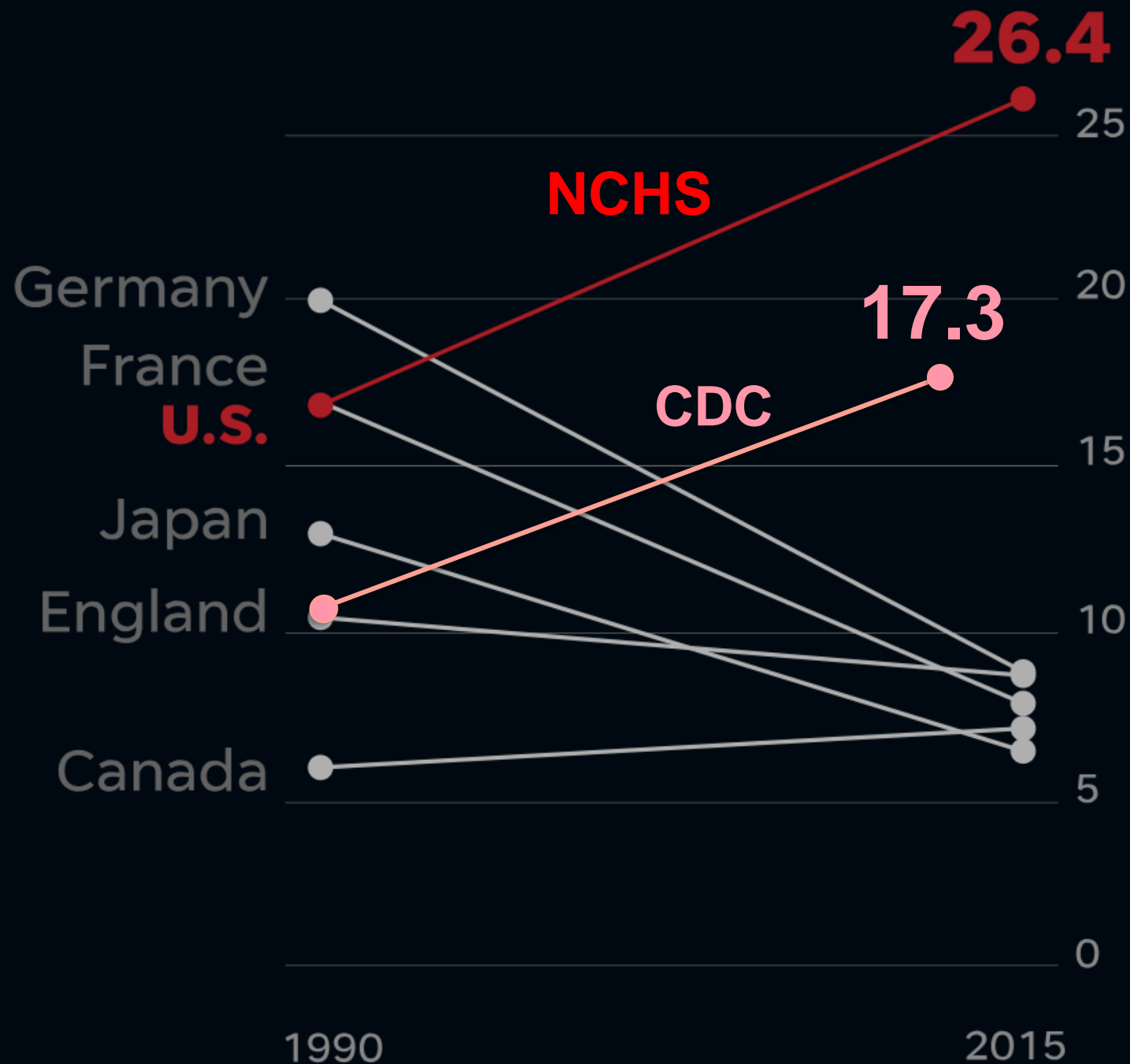
Severe Maternal

Morbidity:

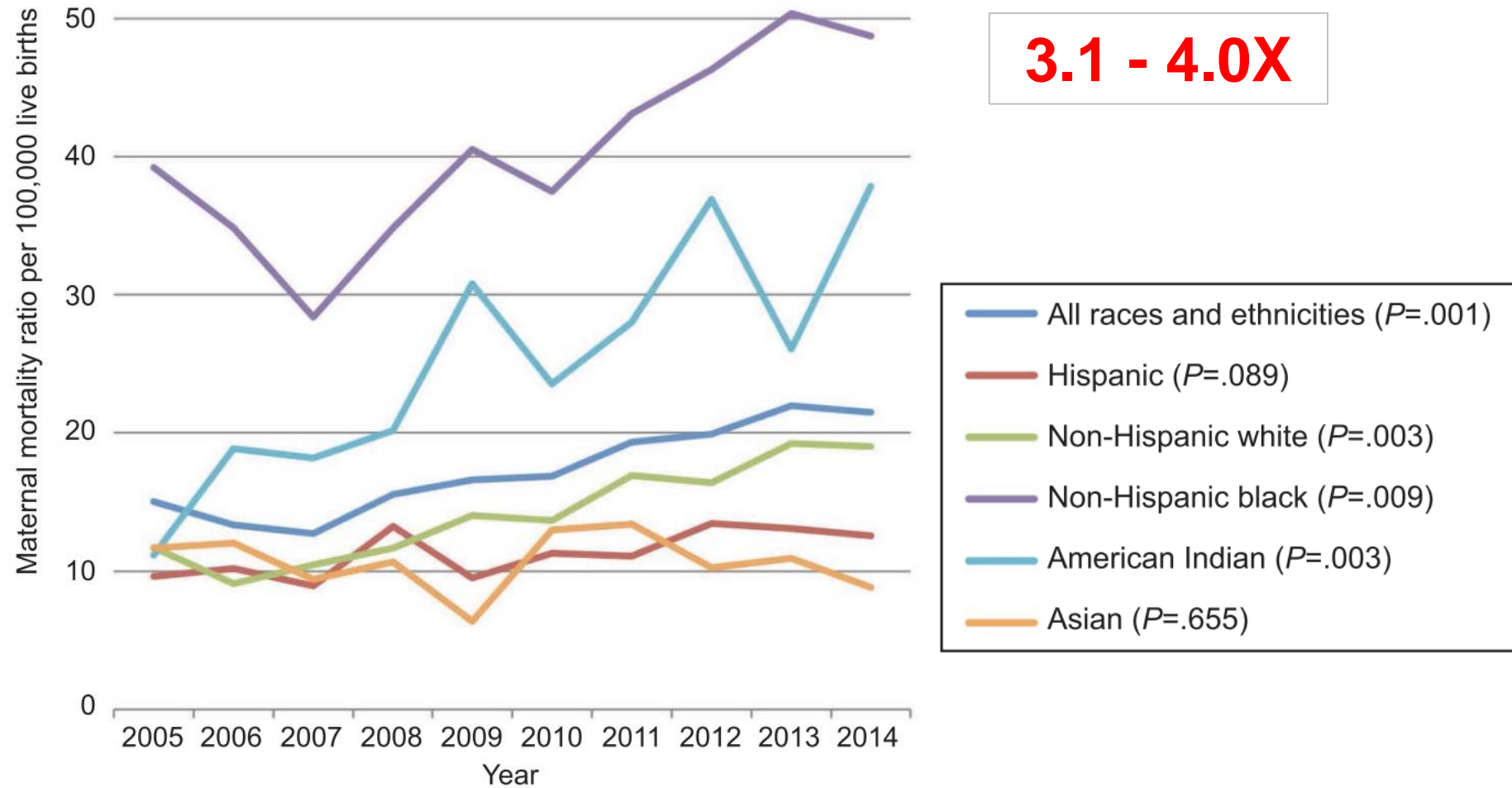
Up 100 %

Cesarean Births:

Up 50%



## Trends in US Maternal Mortality by Race



Moaddab A, et al. Health Care Disparity and Pregnancy-Related Mortality in the United States, 2005-2014. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2018 04;131(4):707-712.

## The Last Person You'd Expect to Die in Childbirth

ProPublica, May 16, 2017



Like 33



The death of a neonatal nurse in the hospital where she worked illustrates a profound disparity: The healthcare system focuses on babies but often ignores their mothers.

## Lost Mothers Series

Rene Martin,  
ProPublica  
Renee Montagne,  
NPR News

Winner of the  
**George Polk**  
Award in  
Journalism  
(2018)



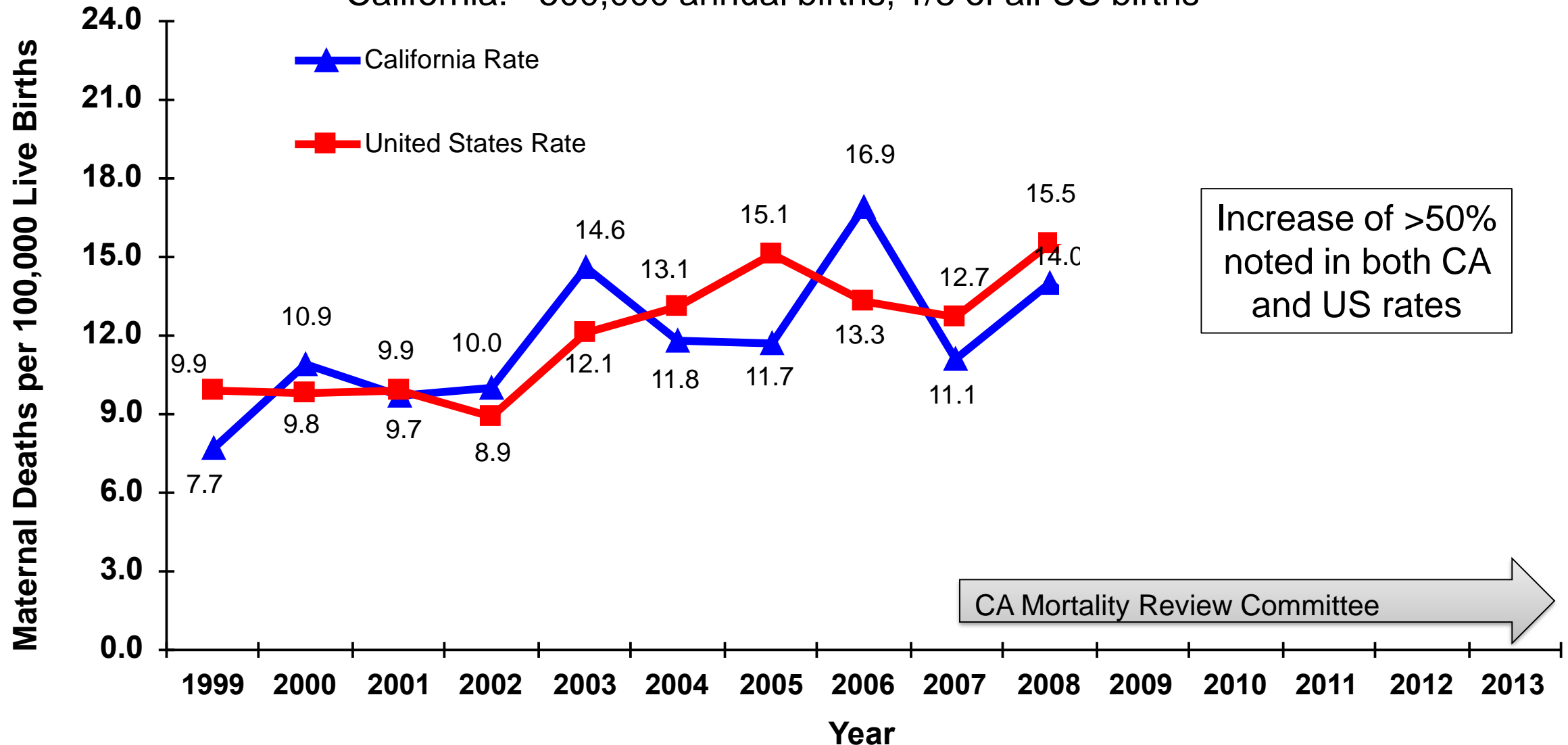


# What states aren't doing to save new mothers' lives

The U.S. maternal death rate is among the highest in the developed world. Eighteen states haven't studied these deaths and others tend to blame moms.

# Maternal Mortality Rate, California and United States; 1999-2013

California: ~500,000 annual births, 1/8 of all US births



## Assessments of Preventability

| Cause of Death     | North Carolina<br>“Preventable” | California<br>“Good or strong<br>chance to alter<br>the outcome” | United Kingdom<br>“Substandard care<br>that had a major<br>contribution” |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Hemorrhage         | 93%                             | 70%  | 44%  |
| Preeclampsia       | 60%                             | 60%  | 64%  |
| Sepsis / Infection | 43%                             | 50%  | 46%  |
| DVT / VTE          | 17%                             | 50%  | 33%  |
| Cardiomyopathy     | 22%                             | 29%  | 25%  |
| AFE                | 0%                              | 0%   | 15%  |



## Key Provider QI Opportunities: Hemorrhage and Preeclampsia

- California Pregnancy Associated Mortality Reviews
  - Missed triggers/risk factors: abnormal vital signs, pain, altered mental status/lack of planning for at risk patients
  - Underutilization of key medications and treatments—did not have a plan!
  - Difficulties getting physician to the bedside
  - “Location of care” issues involving Postpartum, ED and PACU
- University of Illinois Regional Perinatal Network
  - Failure to identify high-risk status
  - Incomplete or inappropriate management

CDPH/CMQCC/PHI. The California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR): Report from 2002 and 2003 Maternal Death Reviews. 2011 (available at: [CMQCC.org](http://CMQCC.org))  
 Geller SE et al. The continuum of maternal morbidity and mortality: Factors associated with severity. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2004; 191: 939-44.

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- Difficulties getting physician to the bedside
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Present in >95% of cases

- University of Illinois Regional Perinatal Network

- Failure to identify
- Incomplete or incorrect

Present in >90% of cases

CDPH/CMQCC/PHI. The California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR): Report from 2002 and 2003 Maternal Death Reviews. 2011 (available at: [CMQCC.org](http://CMQCC.org))  
Geller SE et al. The continuum of maternal morbidity and mortality: Factors associated with severity. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2004; 191: 939-44.

# Maternal Mortality and Severe Morbidity

Approximate distributions, compiled from multiple studies

| Cause           | Mortality<br>(1-2 per<br>10,000) | ICU Admit<br>(1-2 per<br>1,000) | Severe Morbid<br>(1-2 per<br>100) |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Thromboembolism | 10-15%                           | 5%                              | 2%                                |
| Infection       | 10-15%                           | 5%                              | 5%                                |
| Hemorrhage      | 10-15%                           | 30%                             | 45%                               |
| Preeclampsia    | 10-15%                           | 30%                             | 30%                               |
| Cardiac Disease | 25-30%                           | 20%                             | 10%                               |

# Obstetric Hemorrhage and Preeclampsia: Summary

- Most common **preventable** causes of maternal mortality
- Far and away the most common causes of Severe Maternal Morbidity
- High rates of provider “quality improvement opportunities”

# Obstetric Hemorrhage and Preeclampsia: Summary

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- High rates of provider “quality improvement opportunities”

**3 Deadly D's:**

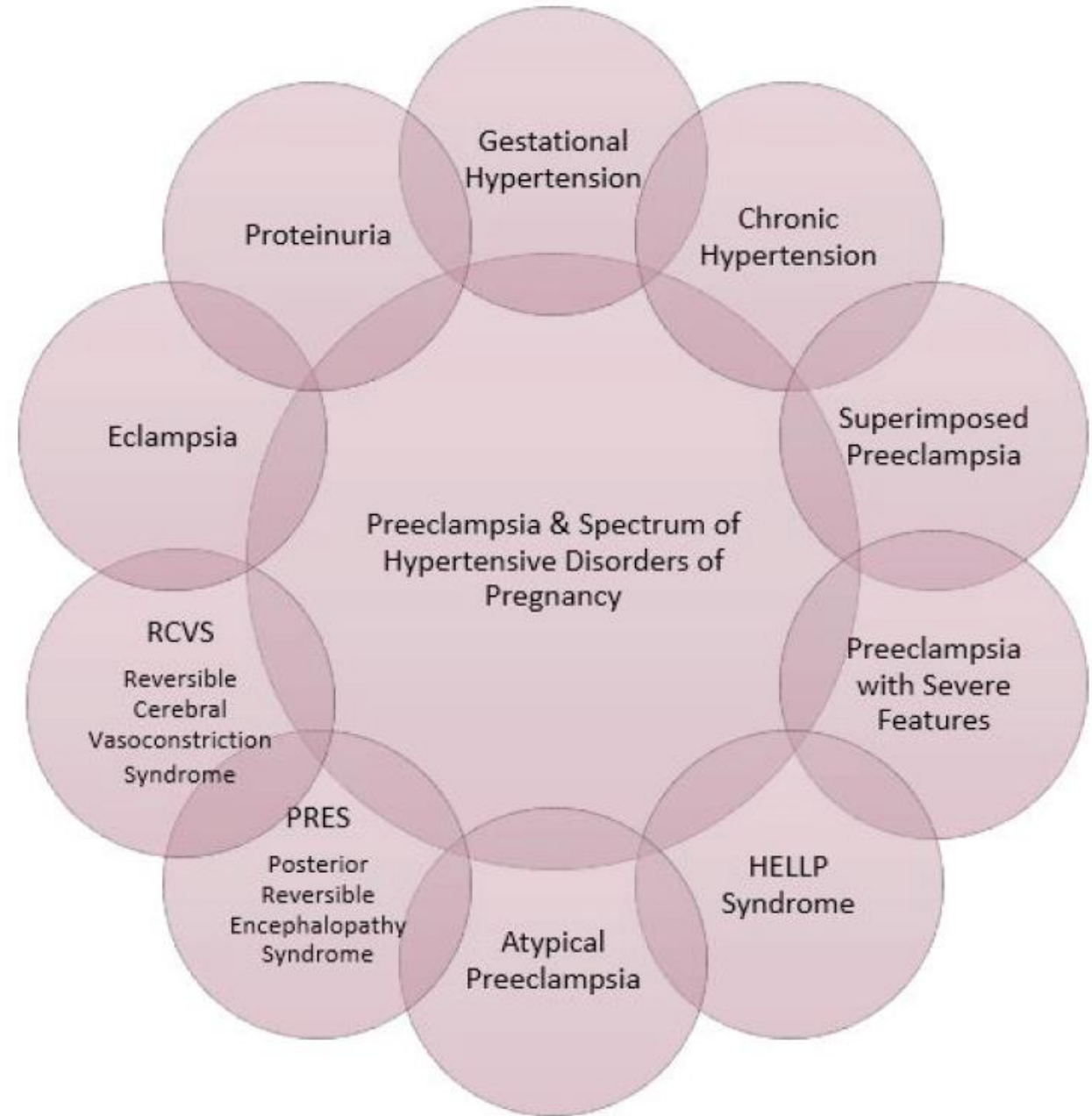
~~Denial~~

~~Delay~~

~~Dismissal~~



# Spectrum of Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy



# What is the Cause of Death for Women with Preeclampsia?



## CA-PAMR Final Cause of Death Among Preeclampsia Cases, 2002-2004 (n=25)

| Final Cause of Death    | Number | %       | Rate/100,000 |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| Stroke                  | 16     | 64.0%   | 1.0          |
| <i>Hemorrhagic</i>      | 14     | (87.5%) |              |
| <i>Thrombotic</i>       | 2      | (12.5%) |              |
| Hepatic (liver) Failure | 4      | 16.0%   | 0.25         |
| Cardiac Failure         | 2      | 8.0%    |              |
| Hemorrhage/DIC          | 1      | 4.0%    |              |
| Multi-organ failure     | 1      | 4.0%    |              |
| ARDS                    | 1      | 4.0%    |              |

# Preventing Stroke from Preeclampsia

## Blood Pressure Comparisons: Baseline and Pre-stroke

| Measure                   | Pregnancy Baseline<br>(mm Hg) | Pre-stroke<br>(mm Hg)  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mean systolic BP          | 110.9 $\pm$ 10.7 (n=25)       | 175.4 $\pm$ 9.7 (n=24) |
| Systolic BP range         | 90-136                        | 159-198                |
| Systolic BP % $\geq$ 160  | 0                             | 95.8 (n=27/28)         |
| Mean diastolic BP         | 67.4 $\pm$ 6.5 (n=25)         | 98.0 $\pm$ 9.0 (n=24)  |
| Diastolic BP range        | 58-80                         | 81-113                 |
| Diastolic BP % $\geq$ 110 | 0                             | 12.5 (n=3)             |
| Diastolic BP $\geq$ 105   | 0                             | 20.8 (n=5)             |

Adapted from Martin JN, Thigpen BD, Moore RC, Rose CH, Cushman J, May. Stroke and Severe Preeclampsia and Eclampsia: A Paradigm Shift Focusing on Systolic Blood Pressure, OG 2005;105-246.

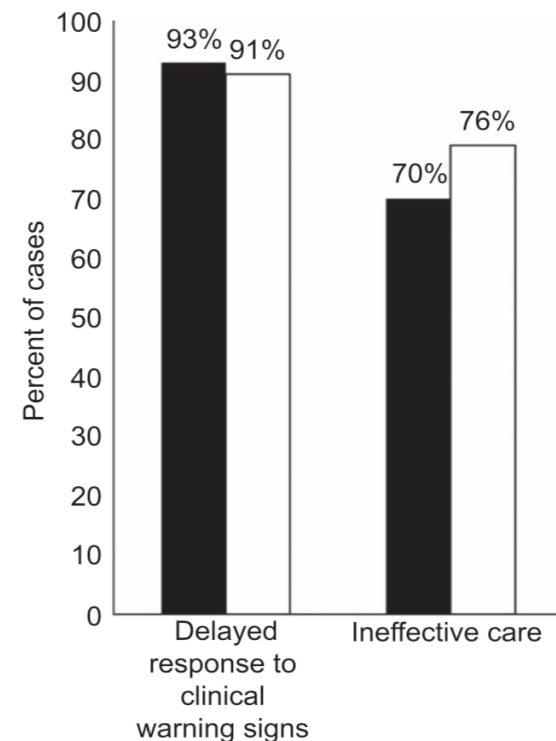


June 2019

# Systolic Hypertension, Preeclampsia-Related Mortality, and Stroke in California

*Amy E. Judy, MD, MPH, Christy L. McCain, MPH, Elizabeth S. Lawton, MHS, Christine H. Morton, PhD, Elliott K. Main, MD, and Maurice L. Druzin, MD*

- CA PAMR: 333 P-R maternal deaths 2002-2007
- 61% of 54 Preeclampsia/Eclampsia deaths were stroke
- 96% had Sys BP>160; only 65% had Dias BP >110
- Only 48% received any antihypertensive meds
- Only 29% received ACOG Standard Treatment



■ Preeclampsia/eclampsia – all (n=54)

□ Preeclampsia/eclampsia – stroke (n=33)





**Hospitals know how  
to protect mothers.  
They just aren't  
doing it.**

Alison Young, USA TODAY  
1:54 p.m. PDT July 27, 2018

# Maternal Safety Bundles

## What are they?

- “Checklist” of items to ensure



**COUNCIL ON PATIENT SAFETY  
IN WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE**  
safe health care for every woman

**READINESS**

*Every patient/family*

- Provide education to promote understanding of opioid use disorder (OUD) as a chronic disease.
  - Emphasize that substance use disorders (SUDs) are chronic medical conditions, treatment is available, family and peer support is necessary and recovery is possible.
  - Emphasize that opioid pharmacotherapy (i.e. methadone, buprenorphine) and behavioral therapy are effective treatments for OUD.
- Provide education regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and newborn care.
  - Awareness of the signs and symptoms of NAS
  - Interventions to decrease NAS severity (e.g. breastfeeding, smoking cessation)
- Engage appropriate partners (i.e. social workers, case managers) to assist patients and families in the development of a “plan of safe care” for mom and baby.

*Every clinical setting/health system*

- Provide staff-wide (clinical and non-clinical staff) education on SUDs.
  - Emphasize that SUDs are chronic medical conditions that can be treated.
  - Emphasize that stigma, bias and discrimination negatively impact pregnant women with OUD and their ability to receive high quality care.
  - Provide training regarding trauma-informed care.
- Establish specific prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum clinical pathways for women with OUD that incorporate care coordination among multiple providers.
- Develop pain control protocols that account for increased pain sensitivity and avoidance of mixed agonist-antagonist opioid analgesics.
- Know state reporting guidelines regarding the use of opioid pharmacotherapy and identification of illicit substance use during pregnancy.

PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLE

**Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder**

PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLE

**Reduction of Peripartum Racial/Ethnic Disparities**

PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLE

**Safe Reduction of Primary Cesarean Births**

PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLE

**Maternal Venous Thromboembolism Prevention**

PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLE

**Hypertension**

PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLE

**Obstetric Hemorrhage**


(resource links) at:

[safehealthcareforeverywoman.org](https://safehealthcareforeverywoman.org)

# AIM Safety Bundle for Hypertension

## Key Points

- Use standard language and definitions for preeclampsia (e.g. with severe features)
- Standardize the measurement of blood pressure!
- Use ACOG protocols for treatment of severe range BP within 60 min
- Standard protocols for the use of MagSO4
- Early Postpartum follow-up



COUNCIL ON PATIENT SAFETY  
IN WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE  
safe health care for every woman

PATIENT  
SAFETY  
BUNDLE

READINESS

Hypertension

*Every Unit*

- Standards for early warning signs, diagnostic criteria, monitoring and treatment of severe preeclampsia/eclampsia (include order sets and algorithms)
- Unit education on protocols, unit-based drills (with post-drill debriefs)
- Process for timely triage and evaluation of pregnant and postpartum women with hypertension including ED and outpatient areas
- Rapid access to medications used for severe hypertension/eclampsia: Medications should be stocked and immediately available on L&D and in other areas where patients may be treated. Include brief guide for administration and dosage.
- System plan for escalation, obtaining appropriate consultation, and maternal transport, as needed

RECOGNITION & PREVENTION

*Every Patient*

- Standard protocol for measurement and assessment of BP and urine protein for all pregnant and postpartum women
- Standard response to maternal early warning signs including listening to and investigating patient symptoms and assessment of labs (e.g. CBC with platelets, AST and ALT)
- Facility-wide standards for educating prenatal and postpartum women on signs and symptoms of hypertension and preeclampsia

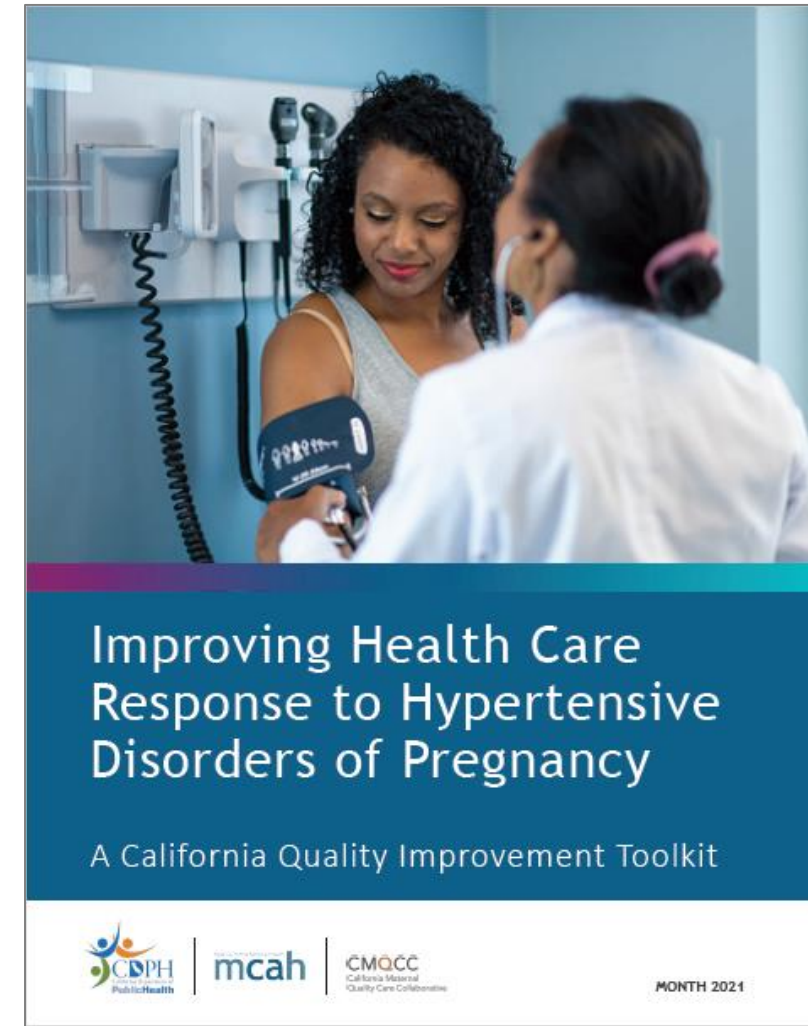
May 2015

# “Toolkits” Provide Background Detail and Implementation Guidance for the Safety Bundles



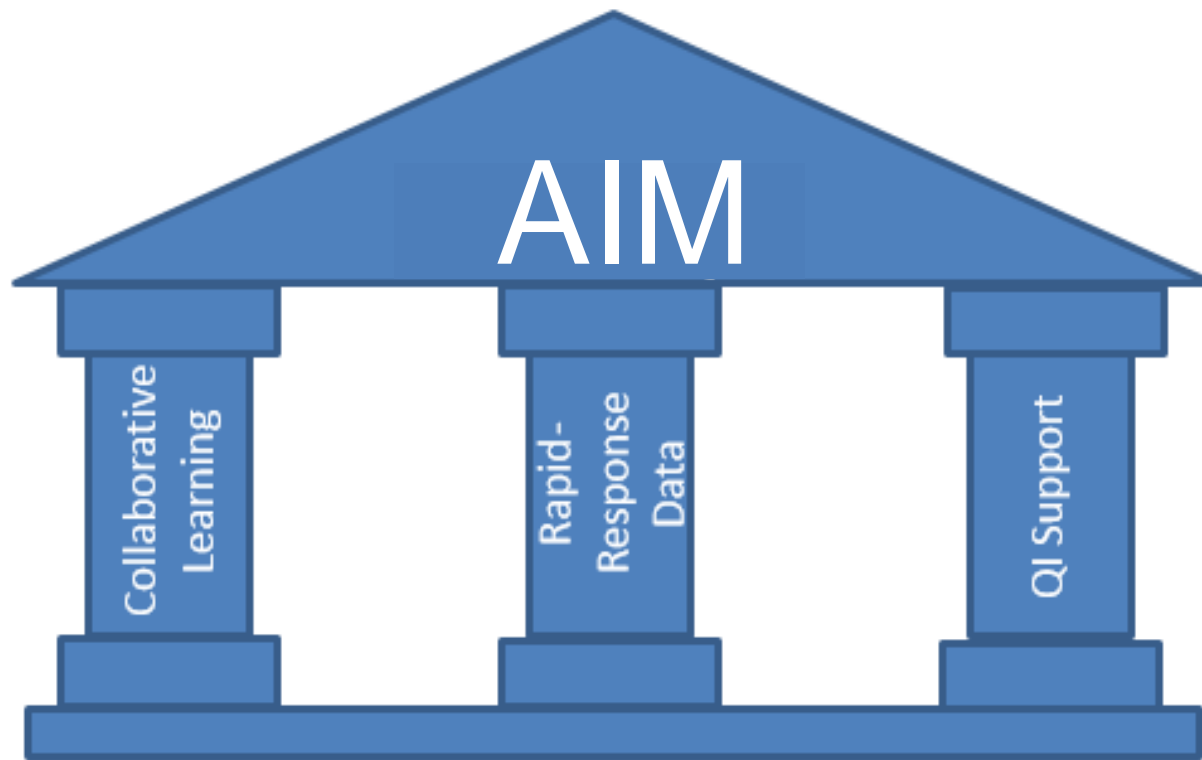
Released 2014  
>12,000 downloads

Available at [www.CMQCC.org](http://www.CMQCC.org)  
Updated version under review:  
early 2021 release



# How does a state Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PQC) Improve Care and Outcomes?

- Not just by convening a group of interested stakeholders
- Not just by establishing a system of outreach education



## Success for AIM:

- Focus on Building State Capacity to Drive Systems & Culture Change
- Focus on building bridges with Public Health and Communities

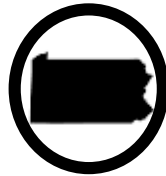


# AIM Works at National, State, Facility and Community Levels for Implementation



## **National Pub Health Community, and Prof Organizations**

- Engage/coordinate national partners
- Develop and share resources
- Promote Inter-state relations/sharing
- Support multi-state data platform



## **Perinatal Collaborative: State DPH, Prof Groups Hospital Associations**

- Support/coordinate/share hospital QI efforts
- Mobilize state-level resources and partners
- Use state data for outcome metrics



## **Hospitals, Providers, Nurses, Offices, and Patients**

- Create QI Team to implement safety bundles
- Engage wide-range of partners
- Review progress through AIM Data Portal



## **Community Maternal Health Service Providers and MCH Organizations**

- Engagement of public health community programs
- Increase access to care through promotion of collaborative care
- Engage public voices

## ***“Treat the Damn Blood Pressure!”***

Controlling blood pressure  
is the key intervention  
to prevent deaths due to stroke  
in women with preeclampsia.

Over the last decade, the UK has focused QI efforts on aggressive treatment of both systolic and diastolic blood pressure and has demonstrated a reduction in deaths.

# Medication Protocols: First Line Agents in Preeclampsia

| Medication Agents                     | Labetalol IV   | Hydralazine IV   | Nifedipine (Immediate release)   |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Route                                 | IV   | IV   | PO   |
| Initial therapy                       | 20 mg  | 5-10 mg  | 10 mg  |
| Onset                                 | 2-5 minutes  | 5-20 minutes   | 5-20 minutes   |
| Peak                                  | 5 minutes  | 15-30 minutes  | 30-60 minutes  |
| Max dose<br>(Before switching agents) | 140 mg   | 20 mg  | 50 mg  |
| Mechanism of action                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined <math>\alpha</math> and <math>\beta</math>-blocking agent</li> <li>• Arteriolar dilator</li> <li>• Decreases heart rate</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arteriolar dilator</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calcium channel blocker</li> <li>• Arterial smooth muscle dilator</li> </ul>                                |
| Side effects                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use with caution in patients with known asthma.</li> <li>• Flushing, light headedness, palpitations and scalp tingling</li> <li>• Safe for use after cocaine and amphetamine use (including methamphetamine)<sup>6</sup></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tachycardia, headache</li> <li>• Upper abdominal pain (rare)</li> <li>• Flushing</li> <li>• Nausea</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflex tachycardia</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Flushing</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> </ul> |

# LABETALOL

IF SEVERE BP ELEVATIONS PERSIST FOR 15 MINUTES OR MORE, ADMINISTER  
**LABETALOL 20 MG IV** FOR >2 MINUTES



AFTER 10 MINUTES, IF EITHER BP THRESHOLD IS STILL EXCEEDED, ADMINISTER  
**LABETALOL 40 MG IV** FOR >2 MINUTES



AFTER 10 MINUTES, IF EITHER BP THRESHOLD IS STILL EXCEEDED, ADMINISTER  
**LABETALOL 80 MG IV** FOR >2 MINUTES



AFTER 10 MINUTES, IF EITHER BP THRESHOLD IS STILL EXCEEDED, ADMINISTER  
**HYDRALAZINE 10 MG IV** FOR >2 MINUTES

## ACOG Protocol for Treatment of Severe HTN in Pregnancy

sBP≥160 or dBP≥110,  
(persisting 15min)

ACOG Committee Opinion  
767, **Feb 2019**: Interim  
Update: Emergent  
Therapy for Acute-Onset  
Severe Hypertension  
During Pregnancy and the  
Postpartum Period

# AIM Structure Measures: Hypertension

- Hypertension/Preeclampsia Policy/Protocol that covers measurement of BP, treatment of severe HTN, administration of Magnesium and treatment of Mag overdose
- Drills at least annually
- Multidisciplinary case reviews
- Debriefs after case with complications
- Staff Education



## New Standards for Perinatal Safety

• Issued August 21, 2019

### PC.06.03.01

Reduce the likelihood of harm related to maternal severe hypertension/preeclampsia.

#### Element(s) of Performance for PC.06.03.01

1. Develop written evidence-based procedures for measuring and remeasuring blood pressure. These procedures include criteria that identify patients with severely elevated blood pressure.
2. Develop written evidenced-based procedures for managing pregnant and postpartum patients with severe hypertension/preeclampsia that includes the following:
  - The use of an evidence-based set of emergency response medications that are stocked and immediately available on the obstetric unit
  - The use of seizure prophylaxis
  - Guidance on when to consult additional experts and consider transfer to a higher level of care
  - Guidance on when to use continuous fetal monitoring
  - Guidance on when to consider emergent delivery
  - Criteria for when a team debrief is required

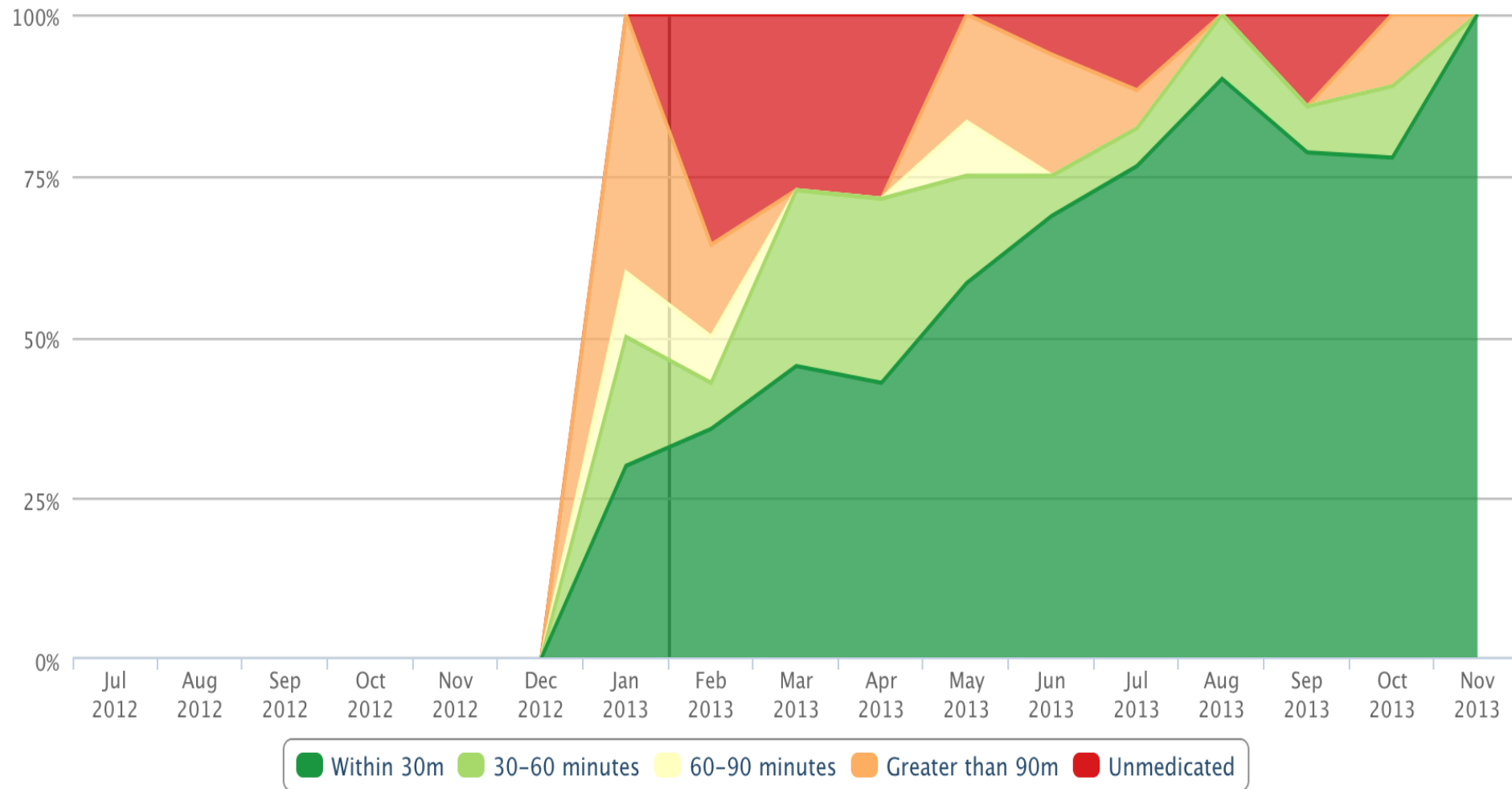
Note: The written procedures should be developed by a multidisciplinary team that includes representation from obstetrics, emergency department, anesthesiology, nursing, laboratory, and pharmacy.
3. Provide role-specific education to all staff and providers who treat pregnant/postpartum patients about the hospital's evidence-based severe hypertension/preeclampsia procedure. At a minimum, education occurs at orientation, whenever changes to the procedure occur, or every two years.
 

Note: The emergency department is often where patients with symptoms or signs of severe hypertension present for care after delivery. For this reason, education should be provided to staff and providers in emergency departments regardless of the hospital's ability to provide labor and delivery services.
4. Conduct drills at least annually to determine system issues as part of ongoing quality improvement efforts. Severe hypertension/preeclampsia drills include a team debrief.

Continued...



## Timing for Treatment of Gravidas with sBP $\geq$ 160 or dBP $\geq$ 110



Sample hospital from CMQCC Preeclampsia Collaborative

# Barrier Analysis for Delays in Treating Severe Hypertension

- BP stabilized before meds given
- No knowledge of BP parameters
- Competing priorities
- Unable to rapidly access meds
- RN reluctant to give IV push
- Magnesium SO4 given instead
- MD not available
- Fear of hypotension



# Conquering “Fear of Hypotension”

As part of the CMQCC Maternal Hypertension collaborative:

- Hypotension defined as  $\geq 30\%$  reduction in Systolic BP
- IV Labetalol: 69 women—10% hypotension
- IV Hydralazine: 31 women—11% hypotension
- No change in fetal heart rate category
- No women required emergent delivery for fetal indication

Sharma KJ, Rodriguez M, Kilpatrick SJ, et al. Risks of parenteral antihypertensive therapy for the treatment of severe maternal hypertension are low. *Hypertens Pregnancy*. 2016;35(1):123-8.

## OBSTETRICS

# Early standardized treatment of critical blood pressure elevations is associated with a reduction in eclampsia and severe maternal morbidity



Laurence E. Shields, MD; Suzanne Wiesner, RN, MBA; Catherine Klein, RN, CNM; Barbara Pelletreau, RN, MPH; Herman L. Hedriana, MD



- 23 Community hospitals in Dignity Health (CA, NV, AZ)
- Introduction of standardized approach for HTN disorders (CMQCC)
- Comparison of 3 time periods:
  - Baseline: initial 6 months (Jan-Jun 2015)
  - Monitoring 1: next 6 months
  - Monitoring 2: next 6 months

## HTN Bundle elements and criteria:

1. **Magnesium SO4:** all women with preeclampsia with severe features, and all women with BP $\geq$ 160 sys or  $\geq$ 110 dias (regardless of HTN type)
2. **Acute BP Treatment:** all women with BP $\geq$ 160 sys or  $\geq$ 110 dias had successful reduction of BP within 1 hour
3. **Early PP follow-up:**  $\leq$ 2wks for all HTN disorders;  $\leq$ 1 week if received HTN medication during admission

TABLE

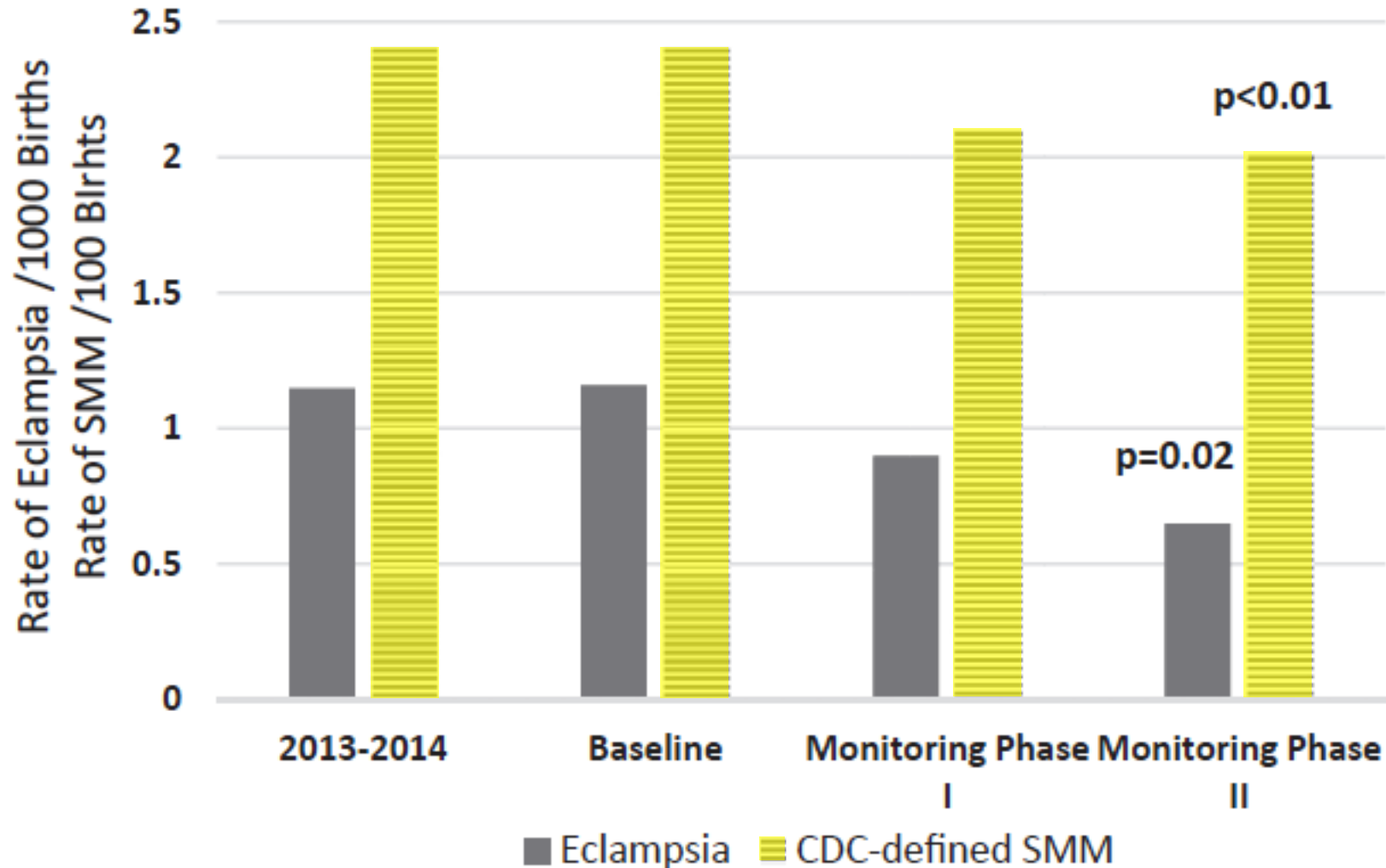
Population characteristics and outcome data

|  | Baseline    | Monitoring phase I | Monitoring phase II | N           |
|--|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Deliveries   | 22,506      | 24,409             | 22,534              | 69,449      |
| Met criteria for treatment with magnesium sulfate  | 589 (2.6%)  | 646 (2.6%)         | 799 (3.5%)          | 2034 (2.9%) |
| Appropriately treated with magnesium sulfate       | 503 (85.4%) | 597 (92.0%)        | 769 (96.2%)         | $P < .01$   |
| Met criteria for acute blood pressure treatment    | 504 (2.2%)  | 490 (2.0%)         | 526 (2.3%)          | $P = .5$    |
| Appropriately treated with hypertensive medication | 287 (56.9%) | 388 (79.2%)        | 474 (90.1%)         | $P < .01$   |

Overall 3-element bundle compliance      50.5%      88.5%       $P < .01$

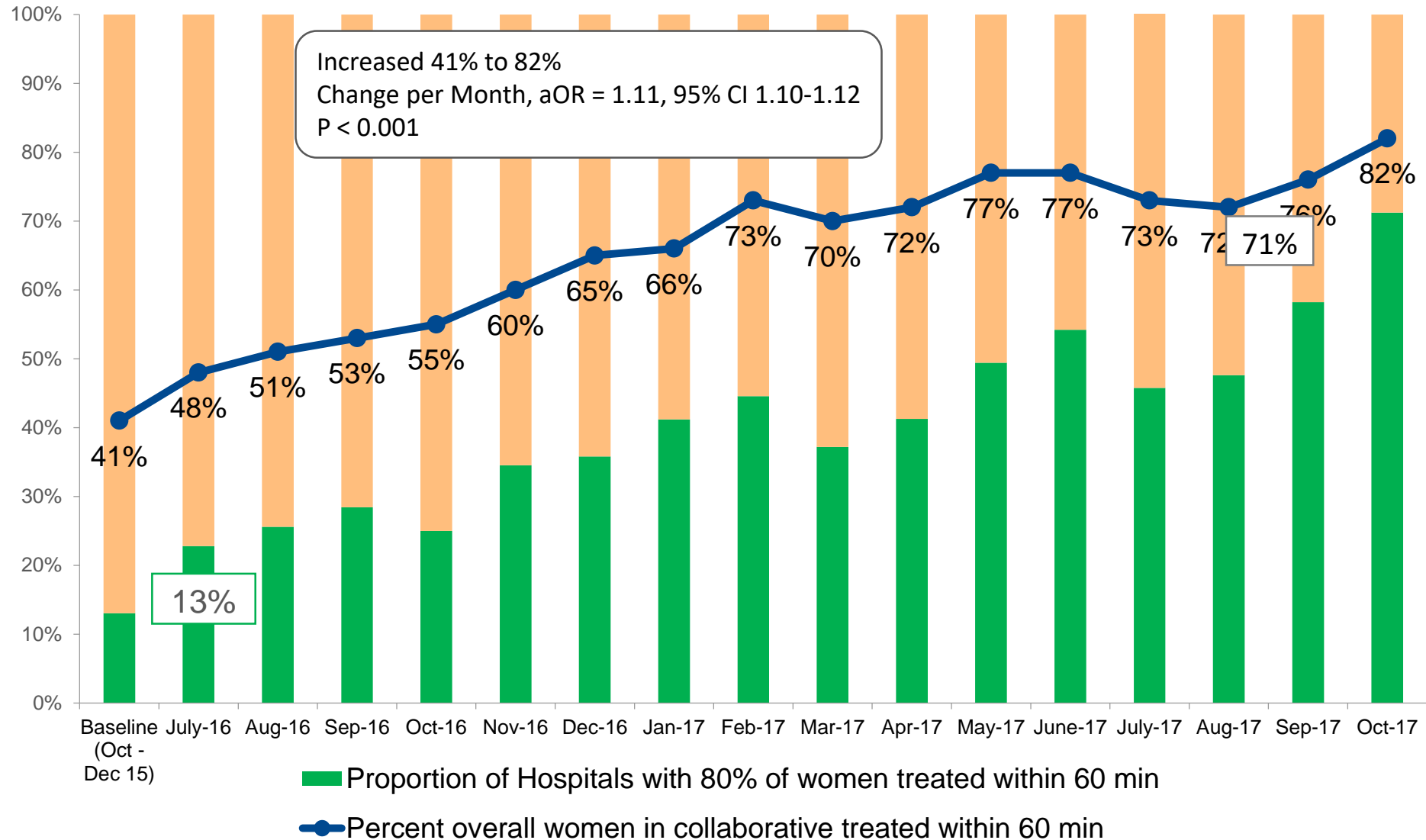
**FIGURE**

**Rate of eclampsia and severe maternal morbidity Among ALL gravidas**



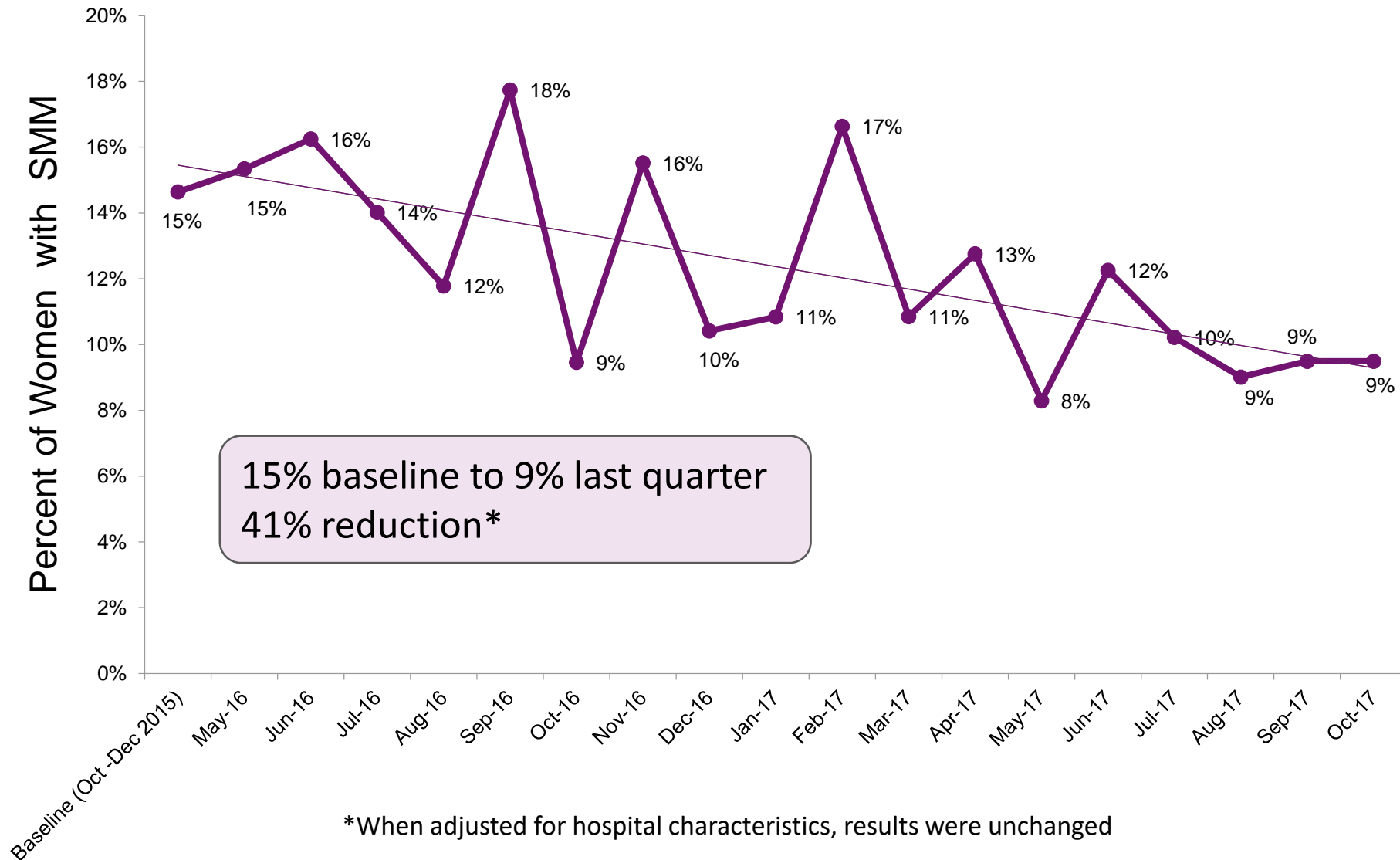
# Severe Maternal Hypertension Treated Within 60 Minutes

Goal: 80% of  
women treated  
<60 min





# Severe Maternal Hypertension with Severe Maternal Morbidity Reported



# Key Postpartum Follow-up is Critical

- Early post-discharge follow-up recommended for **all patients** diagnosed with preeclampsia/eclampsia
- Recommend post-discharge follow-up:
  - within 3-7 days if medication was used during labor and delivery OR postpartum
  - within 7-14 days if no medication was used
- **Postpartum** patients presenting to the ED with hypertension, preeclampsia or eclampsia should either be **assessed by or admitted to an obstetrical service**
- **Watch for:** Worsening preeclampsia and heart failure (cardiomyopathy)

# New Postpartum Approaches for Hypertension

- In a prospective study using BP self-monitoring after discharge
  - Over half required extra treatment for exacerbations in BP, of which 16% were severe. Women who were Black or BMI>35 experienced longer time to HTN resolution
- In a RCT that compared office-based follow-up with text-based remote monitoring for management of PP hypertension
  - No hospital readmissions were noted, and 85% had BP's obtained at least twice in the first 7 days. Furthermore, racial disparities in postpartum BP monitoring and outcomes were eliminated

Hirshberg A, Downes K, Srinivas S. Comparing standard office-based follow-up with text-based remote monitoring in the management of postpartum hypertension: a randomized clinical trial. *British Medical Journal of Quality and Safety*. 2018;27(11):871-877.

Hirshberg A, Sammel MD, Srinivas SK Text message remote monitoring reduced racial disparities in postpartum blood pressure ascertainment. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2019; **221**(3): 283-285.

# Preeclampsia in the Emergency Department

- Most important first step is to identify whether they are or have been pregnant in the last year
  - If yes → assess immediately
- Emergency and OB clinicians should be notified of the patient's arrival immediately to expedite evaluation and treatment
- The “trigger” BP in pregnancy and postpartum (160/110) is lower than values for hypertensive emergencies in non-OB patients



## Specific S/S that Require Urgent Triage:

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Persistent Headache             | Weakness                  |
| Visual change (floaters, spots) | Severe abdominal pain     |
| History of preeclampsia         | Confusion                 |
| Shortness of breath             | Seizures                  |
| History of high blood pressure  | Seizures                  |
| Chest pain                      | Fevers or chills          |
| Heavy bleeding                  | Swelling in hands or face |

# Patient Education Materials

[www.preeclampsia.org](http://www.preeclampsia.org)

**You are STILL AT RISK *after* your baby is born!**

## Postpartum Preeclampsia

**What is it?**

Postpartum preeclampsia is a serious disease related to high blood pressure. It can happen to any woman who has just had a baby **up to 6 weeks after the baby is born.**

**Risks to You**

- Seizures
- Stroke
- Organ damage
- Death

**Warning Signs**

- Stomach pain
- Severe headaches
- Feeling nauseous or throwing up
- Seeing spots (or other vision changes)
- Swelling in your hands and face
- Shortness of breath

**What can you do?**

- Watch for warning signs. If you notice any, call your doctor. (If you can't reach your doctor, call 911 or go directly to an emergency room and report you have been pregnant.)
- Trust your instincts.
- Ask if you should follow up with your doctor within one week of discharge.
- Keep all follow-up appointments.

For more information, go to [www.stillatrisk.org](http://www.stillatrisk.org)

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**PREECLAMPSIA foundation**

## Take Heart Take Care

Preeclampsia may lead to heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure

**Know the Facts**

**5% to 8%**  
One in Every 12 Pregnancies  
Preeclampsia (including eclampsia and HELLP syndrome) impacts 5% to 8% of all pregnancies

**2x to 4x**  
Know Your High Risks  
Preeclampsia doubles your risk of heart disease and stroke, and quadruples your risk of high blood pressure later in life

**2 out of 3**  
women who experience preeclampsia will die from cardiovascular disease

**At higher risk...**  
If you have had preeclampsia and:  

- ✓ delivered pre-term
- ✓ had low-birth weight babies
- ✓ suffered from severe preeclampsia more than once

**Take Heart Take Care**  
You Can Lower Your Risk

A history of preeclampsia doesn't mean you'll definitely develop cardiovascular problems, especially if you take the higher risk to heart and make changes today for a healthier tomorrow

**Every Year**  
Talk to your healthcare provider within one year after delivery about monitoring your heart health and blood vessels with extra care

Get regularly evaluated and treated for cardiovascular risk factors: high blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol, obesity, and smoking

Get adequate physical activity

Stay at a healthy weight

Talk to your doctor about taking low-dose aspirin

Adopt a heart-healthy lifestyle

Know your numbers for blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol

Know your family health history

Know your numbers for blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol

**Ask Your Doctor or Midwife**

## Preeclampsia

**What Is It?**

Preeclampsia is a serious disease related to high blood pressure. It can happen to any pregnant woman.

**Risks to You**

- Seizures
- Stroke
- Organ damage
- Death

**Risks to Your Baby**

- Premature birth
- Death

**Signs of Preeclampsia**

- Stomach pain
- Headaches
- Feeling nauseous; throwing up
- Seeing spots
- Swelling in your hands and face
- Gaining more than 5 pounds in a week

**What Should You Do?**

Call your doctor right away. Finding preeclampsia early is important for you and your baby.

For more information go to [www.preeclampsia.org](http://www.preeclampsia.org)

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# Hypertension Structure Measures

## Why These Measures?

- Have a recently reviewed and updated severe **hypertension policy or procedure** that provides a standard approach to measuring BP, treating severe HTN and safe use of Magnesium SO4.
- Develop OB-specific resources and protocols to **support patients, families, and staff** through major OB complications.
- Establish a system to perform regular formal **debriefing** discussions after cases with major complications.
- Establish a process to perform **multidisciplinary system-level review** of all severe HTN cases.
- Integrate at least some of the recommended Hypertension bundle processes into the hospital's **electronic health record** system.

WHY? For emergency care, it is critical to have standard approach for all staff that can be taught, drilled, debriefed so that everyone can function as a team.

WHY? Emergent events during childbirth can be traumatizing to women and their families (and providers). The events can often lead to depression, anxiety and PTSD.

WHY? Debriefs are the first step to identify improvement opportunities for complicated cases. They also reinforce a culture of safety on the unit.

WHY? Each case provides multiple learning and improvement opportunities that mostly involve system changes.

WHY? Integration of bundle elements into order sets and on-line resources is one of the most effective steps to reinforce and sustain change.

# Hypertension Process Measures

## Why These Measures?

- Estimated cumulative proportion of OB **physicians and providers** who have completed an education program on **obstetric hemorrhage and bundle elements** and unit-standard protocol in the past 2 years.
- Estimated cumulative proportion of OB **nurses** who have completed an **education program on obstetric hemorrhage and bundle elements** and unit-standard protocol in the past 2 years.
- Number of **OB drills** conducted during the current quarter on any maternal safety topic and topics covered.
- Proportion of patients with persistent new onset **severe hypertension who were treated within 1 hour**.

WHY? Best practices for hemorrhage continue to change; for a successful team response to hemorrhage, all nurses and providers need to be on the same page in the same playbook. DEPT AND NURSING LOG BOOKS

WHY? It is not enough to have a great protocol and equipment; one has to train the team and practice using the protocol and equipment on a regular basis. LOG BOOK

WHY? The single most important step for prevention of maternal deaths from hypertensive disorders is to treat systolic hypertension in an emergent time frame.



## “Failure to Rescue”

- Everything we have talked about today can fall into the category of rapid and appropriate response to problems
- Outcome: “Among women with hypertensive disorders, how many have Severe Maternal Morbidity”
- Secondary prevention: Induction of labor of women with HTN at 37 weeks
- Very little about primary prevention...

Koopmans CM, et al. HYPITAT study group. Induction of labour versus expectant monitoring for gestational hypertension or mild pre-eclampsia after 36 weeks' gestation (HYPITAT): a multicentre, open-label randomised controlled trial. Lancet 2009; 374: 979-988.

# Prevention: Low-Dose Aspirin

- Effective mechanism for prevention of preeclampsia in high-risk patients (mainly those with a history of preeclampsia)
- LDA: anti-inflammatory, anti-angiogenesis, anti-platelet
- 81 mg/day prophylaxis recommended for women at high risk of preeclampsia
  - Should be initiated between 12-28 weeks gestation (optimally before 16 weeks)
  - Should be continued daily until delivery

## Ask About Aspirin

It may delay or prevent the onset of preeclampsia

**If**  
you have any of  
these risk factors

 History of preeclampsia
  Pregnant with more than one baby

 High blood pressure
  Diabetes

 Kidney disease
  Autoimmune disorders

Treatment with low-dose aspirin should not decrease regular monitoring and response by a certified care provider. If you experience signs or symptoms of preeclampsia, notify your care provider immediately.

**Talk**  
to your  
care provider  
about taking  
prenatal  
**aspirin**

Start taking  
**81mg aspirin**



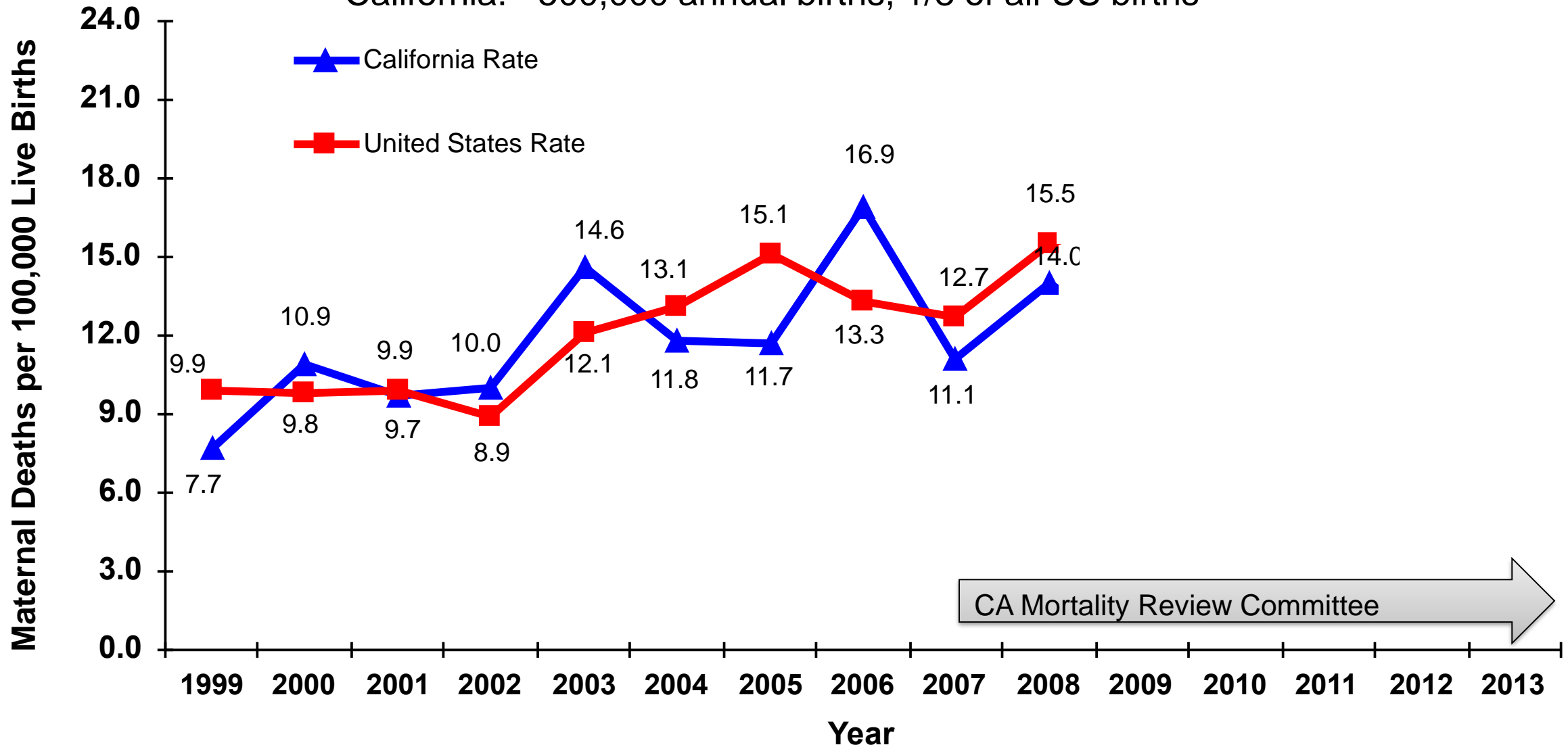
between  
**12-16 weeks**  
of your pregnancy  
daily at bedtime

 PREECLAMPSIA  
foundation
 

To learn more, visit  
[preeclampsia.org/aspirin](http://preeclampsia.org/aspirin)

# Maternal Mortality Rate California and United States; 1999-2013

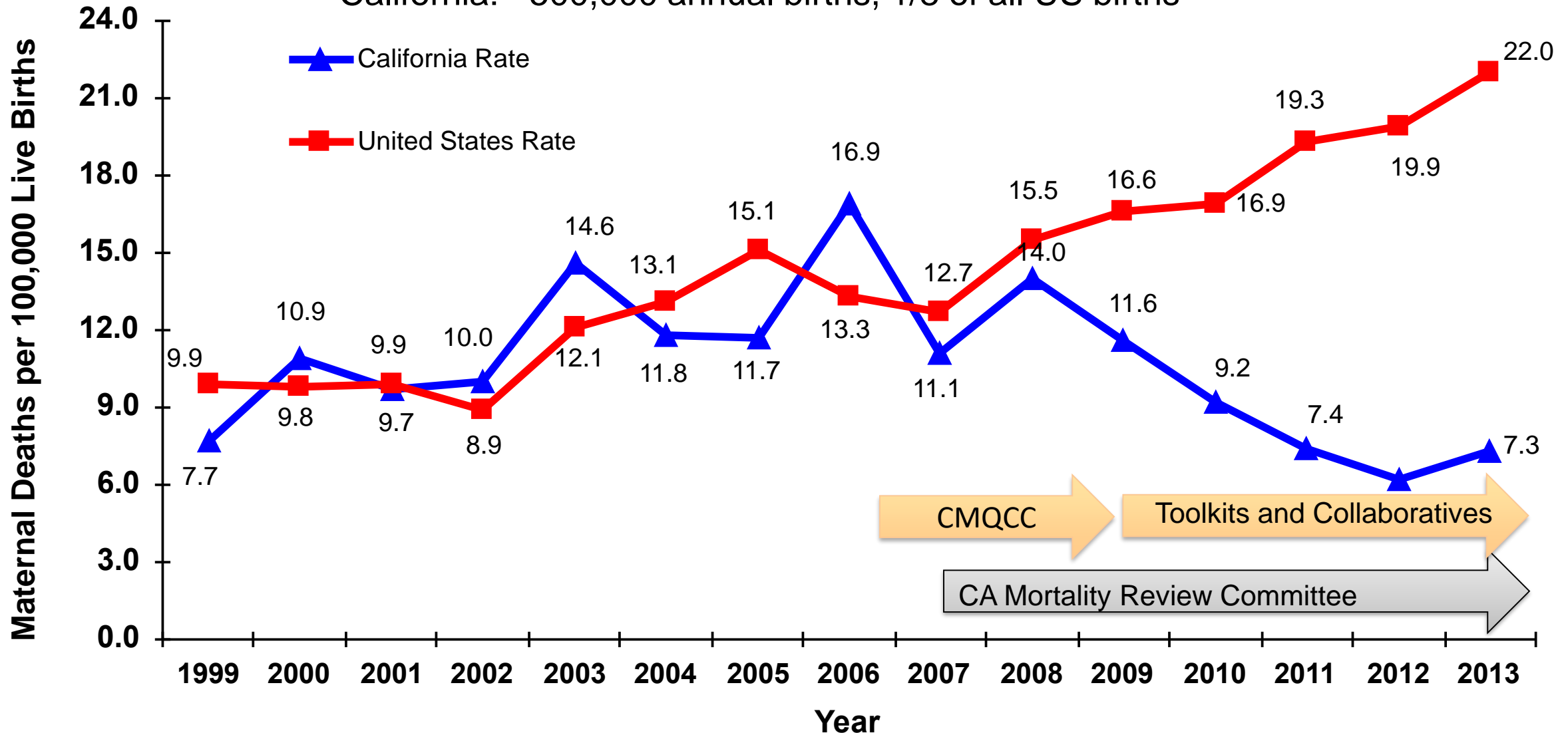
California: ~500,000 annual births, 1/8 of all US births

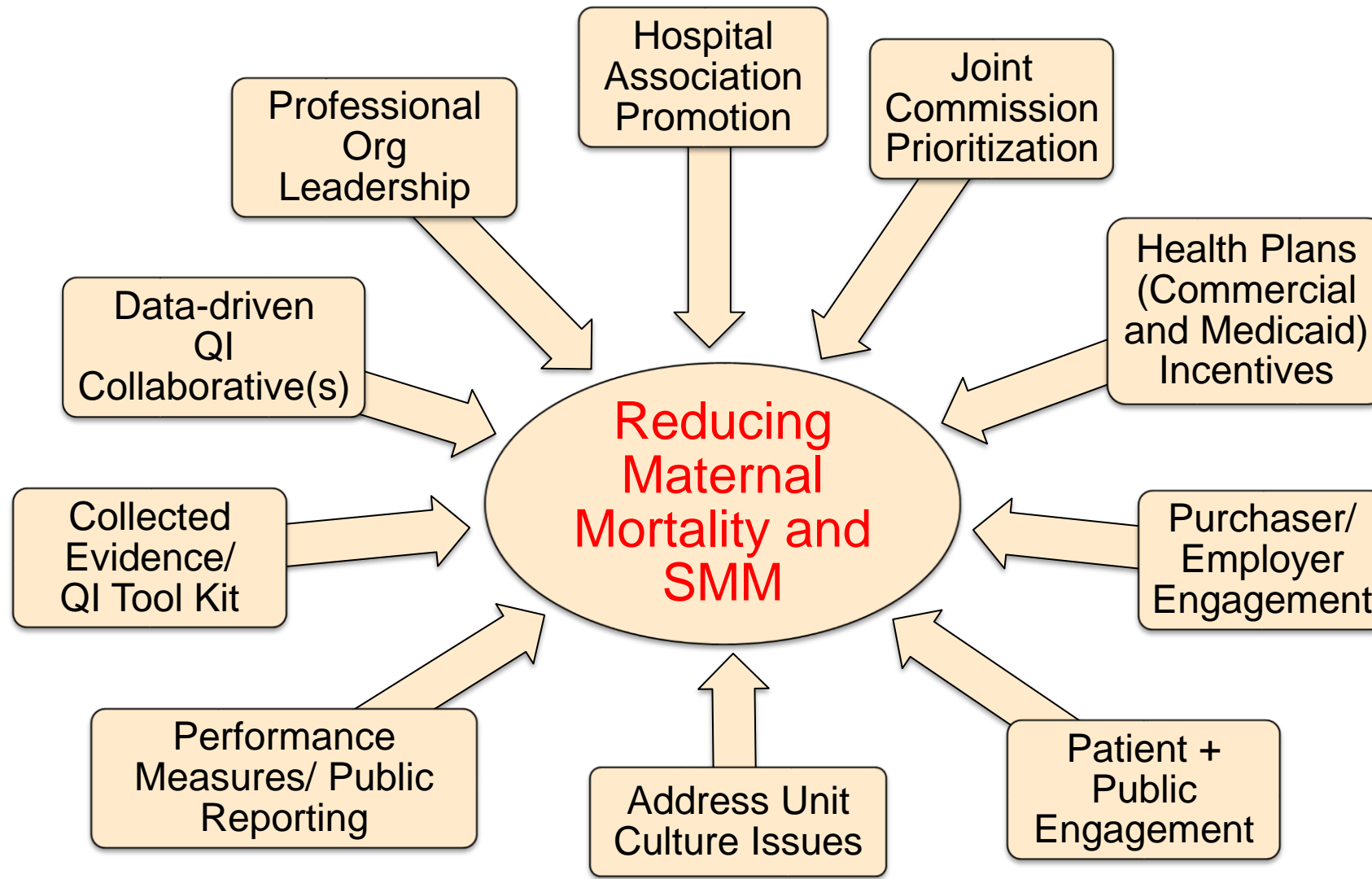


# Maternal Mortality Rate

## California and United States; 1999-2013

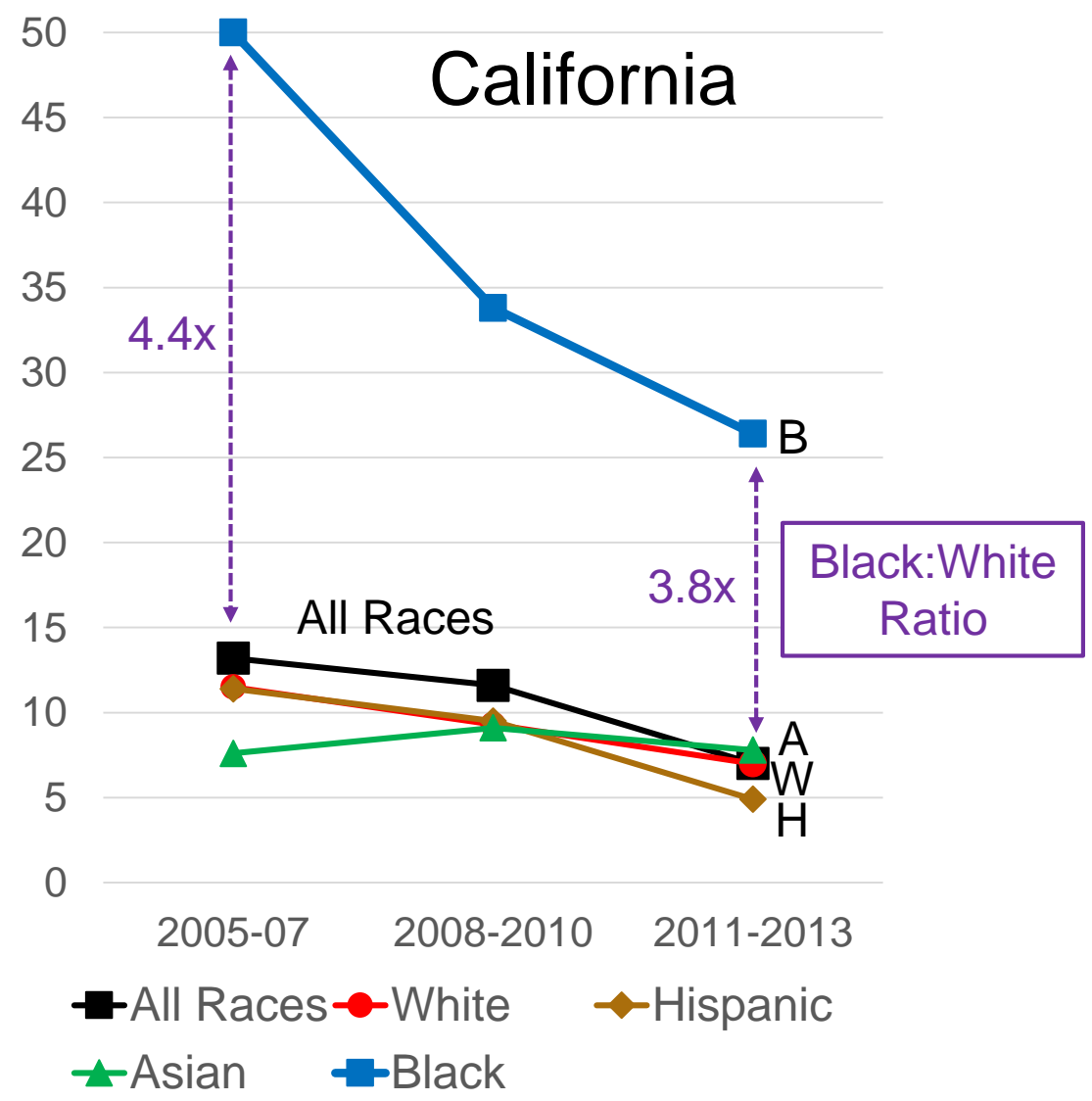
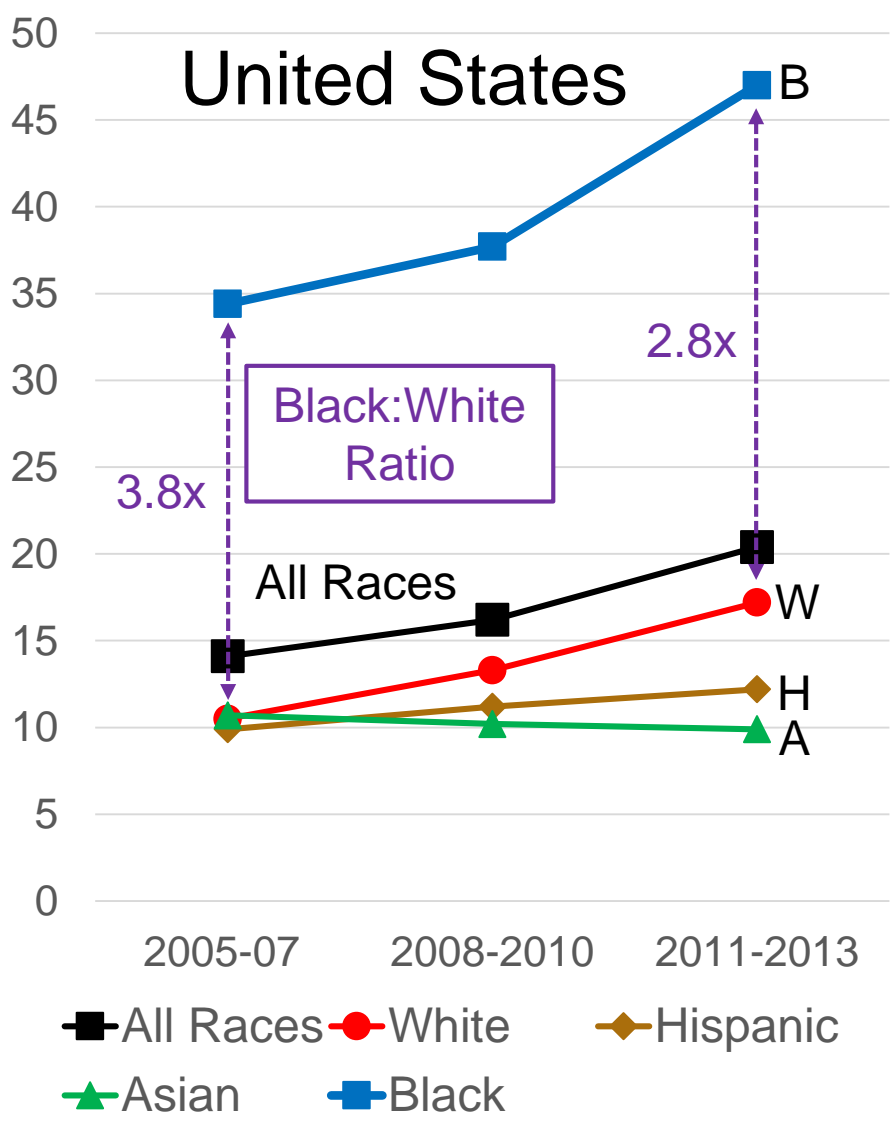
California: ~500,000 annual births, 1/8 of all US births





Pull As Many Levers as Possible: Collective Impact

How did we do in California?





LOST MOTHERS

# Nothing Protects Black Women From Dying in Pregnancy and Childbirth

Not education. Not income. Not even being an expert on racial disparities in health care.

by **Nina Martin**, ProPublica, and **Renee Montagne**, NPR News, Dec. 7, 2017, 8 a.m. EST



Soleil Irving "just lights up a room when she smiles," Wanda Irving, her grandmother, says. (Sheila Pree Bright for ProPublica)

Lt. Comdr. Shalon Irving PhD



# **Why do Black Women do so much worse?**

Usual explanation by doctors and nurses is that black women have more obesity, more hypertension, more diabetes, and more social disadvantages...

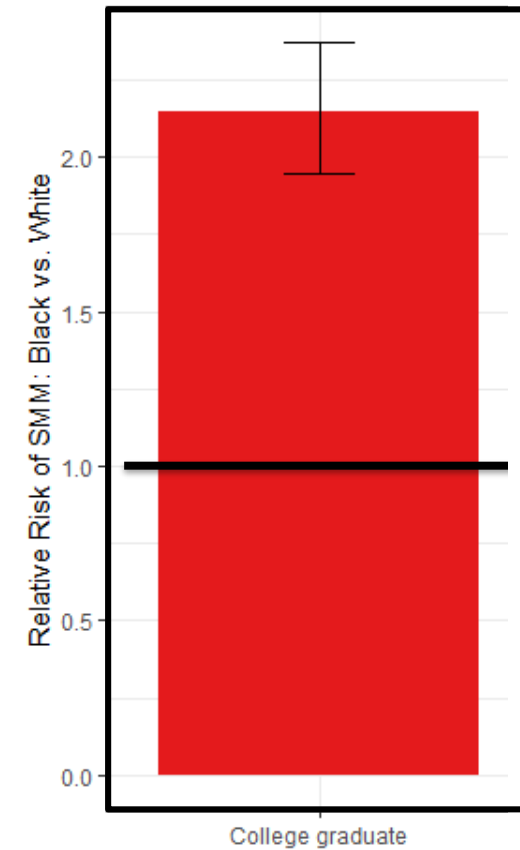
# What If We Looked At B:W Disparity In SMM Only Among College Graduates?

And adjusted for age, BMI and other clinical and demographic risk factors...

# What If We Looked At B:W Disparity In SMM Only Among College Graduates?

And adjusted for age, BMI and other clinical and demographic risk factors...

Black-White disparity in SMM is  
highest among college graduates  
(**2.2x higher than whites**) →



Educational Attainment

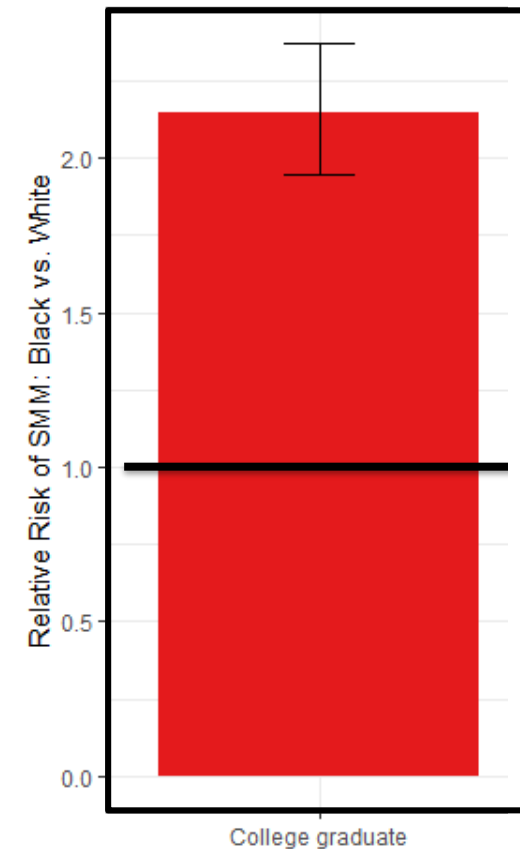
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## Looking At Absolute Rates:

- SMM rate in Black women with college degrees: **2.4%**
- SMM rate in White women without high school diplomas: **1.6%**

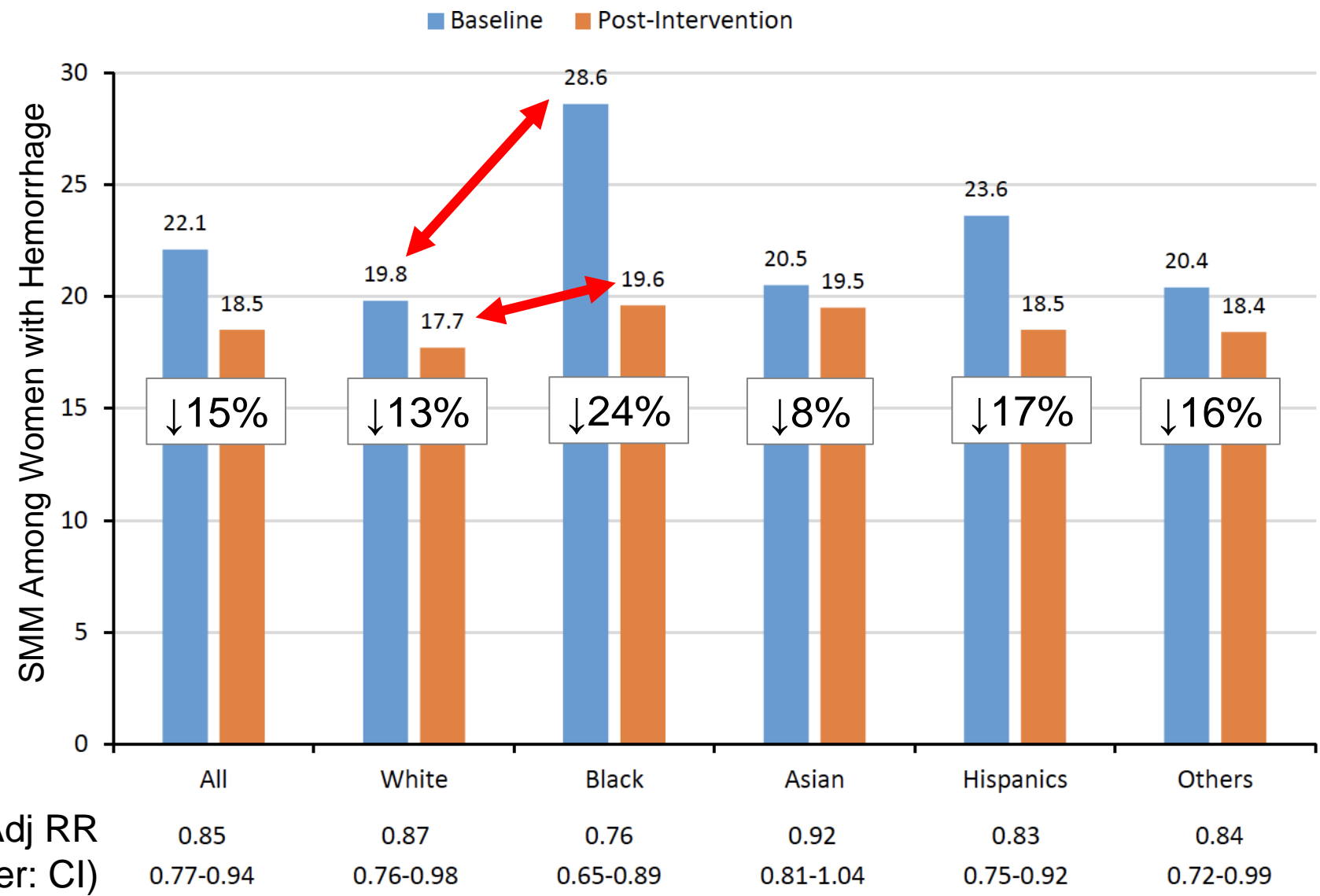


Educational Attainment

CMQCC  
Hemorrhage  
Safety  
Collaborative:  
Effects on  
Severe Maternal  
Morbidity

Do Black women get the greatest benefit from having standardized emergency care?

Adj RR  
(Before-After: CI)





## Advancing Equity / Reducing Inequities

- Combine cause-specific bundles WITH equity work
- Be humble, still lots to learn, be inclusive of many voices
- Disaggregate process and outcome measures by R/E
- Bias training, while important, is only the beginning
  - Web tools: Diversity Science; OMH; MOD; 21-day Challenge
- Actions to promote unit culture change
  - Responding to microaggressions, unit champions, respectful care
- Continuous feedback, particularly from higher risk groups
  - Formal PREM surveys, open comments, support persons

# Final Thoughts

- No Data without Stories / No Stories without Data
- Remember the 3 Deadly D's: Denial, Delay, and Dismissal
- Build everything into daily workflows (harness the EHR!)
- Be acutely aware of equity needs for different populations
- Implementation is hard: share the creative ideas from hospital teams themselves
- If you are going to effect change, there has to be measures
- The HTN Safety Bundles can fit ALL size hospitals

# 'I am one of the 50,000'

Every year, 50,000 women in the U.S. suffer injuries or severe complications related to childbirth. Many are lucky to survive. They want you to hear their stories.

USA TODAY Investigations



**Susan Goodhue,  
Maryland**

Watched



**Rachel Yencha,  
Ohio**

Watched



**Haelie Cobb,  
Texas**

Watched



**Donielle Bell,  
Georgia**

Watched



**Avrial Bates,  
Ohio**

Watched

***“I assumed that all hospitals, if they deliver babies, that they are prepared for things to go wrong.”***

— Rachel Yencha, Ohio



# Thanks to the CMQCC Staff



Visit:  
[CMQCC.org](https://CMQCC.org)

# Bundle Implementation Pearls

- Engagement: Patient Stories
- Early Wins:
  - Carts, medication availability
  - Icons for high risk, Buttons, Be Creative and fun
- Multi-disciplinary team:
  - OB, Anesthesia, Nursing, Blood Bank co-leads
- Celebrate!
  - “We had a hemorrhage today and the team did great”
- Case reviews-share among the team