



Maternal Mortality

Presented by Natshon Spearman

Words You Need to Know!!

Maternal Mortality	The death of a woman who is pregnant or within 42 days after terminating a pregnancy. It can also be defined as a woman who dies during birth and up to one year after giving birth.
Social Justice	Social Justice refers to a fair and equitable division of resources, opportunities, and divisions within society.
Structural Racism	A form of racism that is embedded in laws and regulations within society. It appears as discrimination in our everyday lives. Some examples are education, establishments, criminal justice, etc...
Socioeconomic Status	This is the position of an individual or group. It combines social and economic factors such as, income, residence, education, occupation, and sometimes religion.
Perinatology	This branch of medicine is commonly known as Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and it focuses on health concerns between the mother and the fetus. Fun fact, this is a subspecialty of Obstetrics.
Feminism/Womanist	Feminism is the advocacy, theory, or belief in social, economic, and political rights for women. A womanist is a black feminist who advocates for women and men.

INTRODUCTION

For my Social Justice Reader project, I chose to study African American Maternal Mortality rates within America. I chose this topic because it has the main things that interest me: Feminism, social justice, healthcare, and structural/systemic racism.

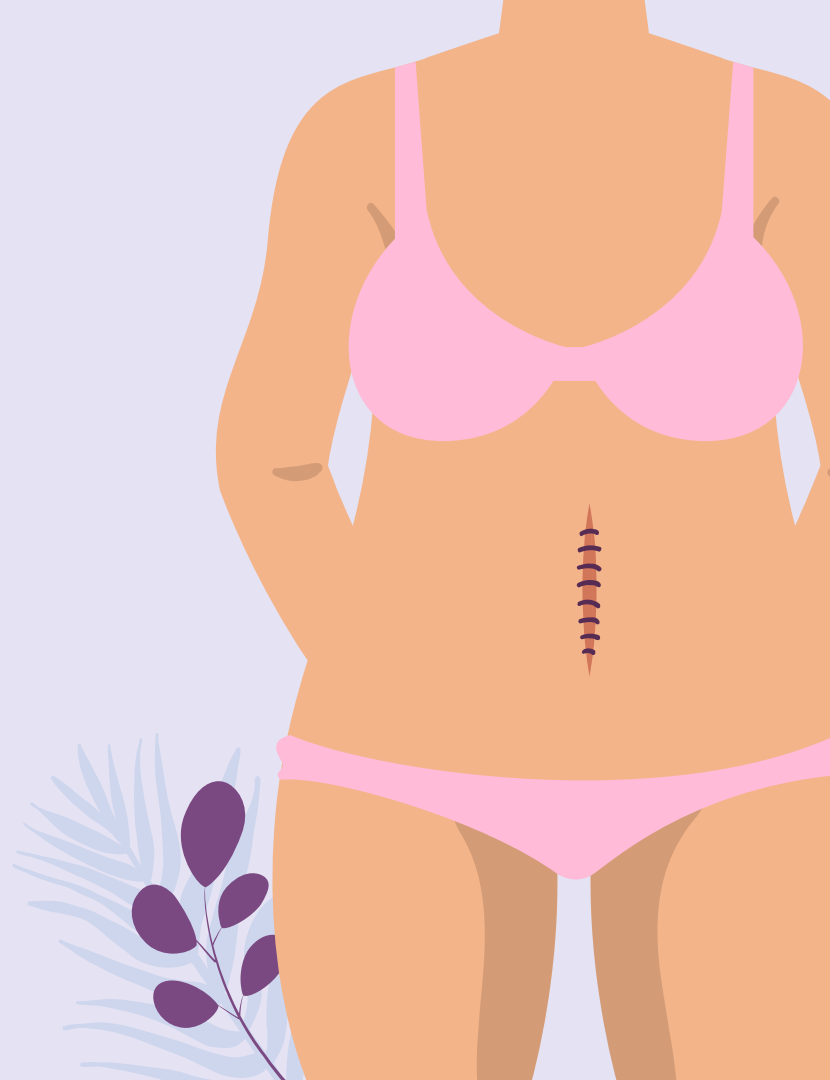


TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Maternal Mortality in The U.S.

02

Maternal Health Procedures

03

Causes of Maternal Mortality



TABLE OF CONTENTS

04

Physicians

05

Shortage

06

Modern Era



01

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE U.S.A.



U.S. MATERNAL MORTALITY

- Surprisingly, one of the most developed nations has the highest maternal mortality. Can you guess which one? You've guessed it, America.
- The maternal mortality rate in general fluctuates between the years.
- Ob/Gyn wasn't a field that was desired by many general physicians, in fact it was frowned upon.
- Individuals with a reproductive system that have a uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries can thank African American women for all of the procedures that is known today.



WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE THE HIGHEST MORTALITY RATE?

6.5

United Kingdom

8.6

Canada

8.7

France

23.8

America

represents per 100,000 deaths
33 per 100,000



02

Procedures

Cesarean Sections & Abortions

01

In 2021, 32.1% of children being birthed were done through cesarean section (c-section.) Black women are two times more likely to have a c-section than a white women is. A surgery that was intended to help women who can't give birth naturally is now a health equity issue. C-sections cost 50% more than vaginal birth as well.

02

Once abortion was banned in states, the maternal mortality rate rose by 25%. For Black women it increased by 39%. Once legislators took away the option to terminate pregnancy, the maternal health crisis nearly doubles. They shouldn't be able to take away an essential human right.

BIRTH RISKS



Stillbirth



Higher Rates of endometritis

Endometriosis is a condition in which cells similar to the lining of the uterus, or endometrium, grow outside the uterus.



Respiratory
Issues



1,174,545

Amount of total c-sections



900

Preventable amount of deaths



36%

Rate of Black women getting a c-section



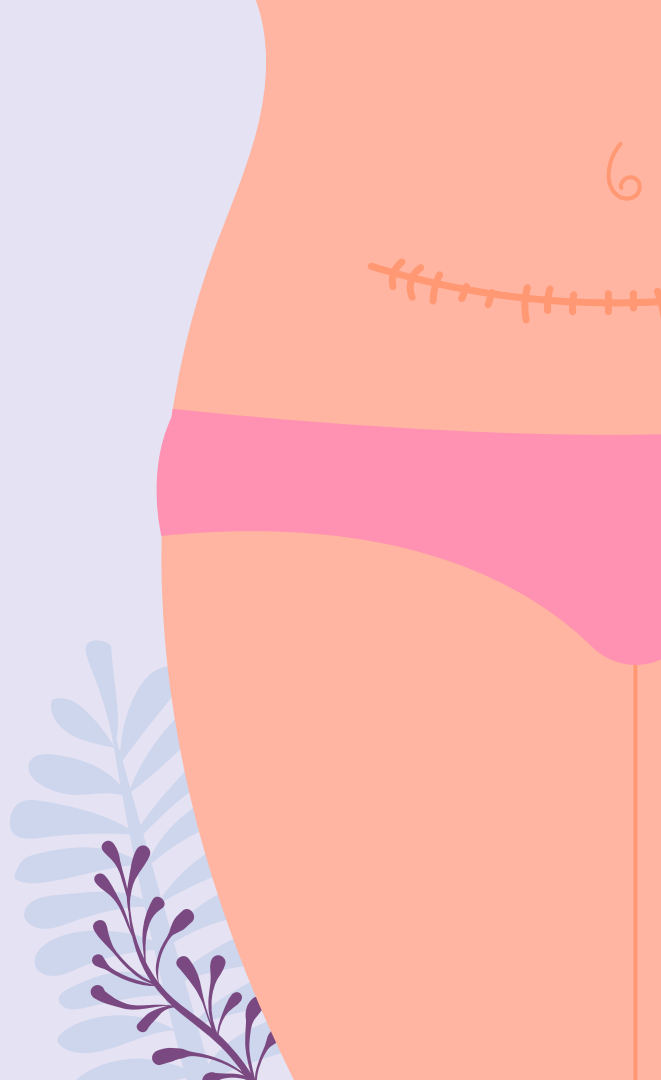
Quote

“Maternal health remains a staggering challenge, particularly in the developing world. Globally, a woman dies from complications in childbirth every minute.” -Jessica Capshaw



03

CAUSES OF MATERNAL MORTALITY



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

1

Cardiovascular Diseases

2

Infection/Sepsis

3

Hemorrhage

4

Cardiomyopathy

5

Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism

6

Toxemia (Pre-eclampsia)



GROUP DISCUSSION

Pessimist :(

I feel that we don't have the potential to prevent or slow the effects of maternal mortality

Optimist :)

I feel that we have the potential to prevent or slow the effects of maternal mortality

I Don't Know How to Feel :|

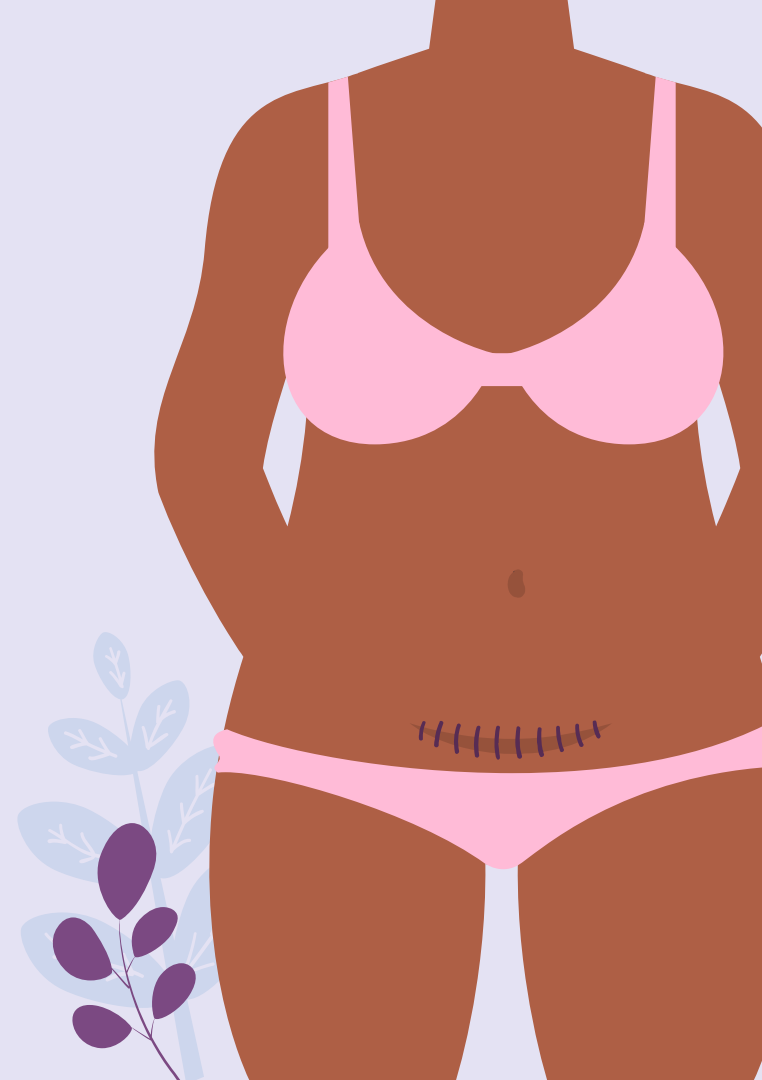
We might have the potential or we might not have the potential.





04

Physicians



RACIAL DISPARITY PERCENTAGES



64

White

20.6

Asian

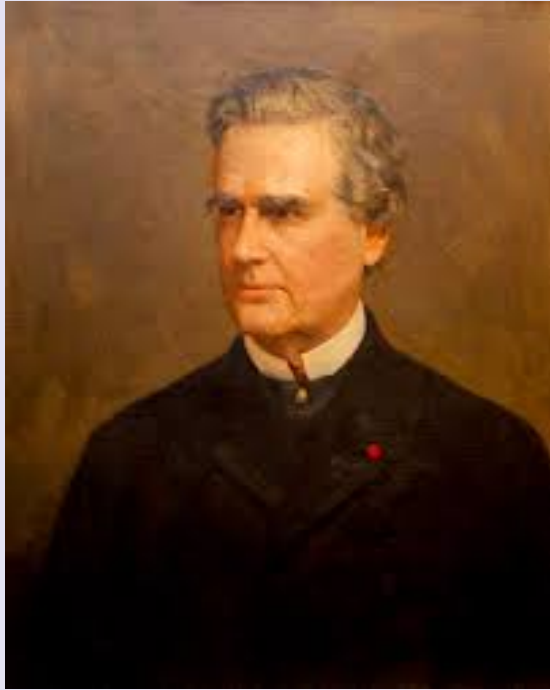
6.9

Hispanic

5.7

Black

PIONEERING PHYSICIANS



Dr. James Marion Sims



Dr. Howard Atwood
Kelly



Dr. Sims Patients

- Dr. James Marion Sims was a horrible and reckless medical provider who changed his specialty on a whim; he switched to dentistry, pediatrics, general surgery, and obstetrics/ gynecology.
- Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsy were all enslaved “patients” of Dr. Sims. They all faced excruciating pain due to the hands of Dr. Sims. Dr. Sims bound the enslaved women to the with chattel slavery, force and opium.
- Dr. Sims attacked the most challenging illnesses which was worse for his “patients”. An example is vesicovaginal fistulas, an abnormal connection, like a tube, between the bladder and bowel; leading to urine and fecal release.



MIDWIVES

Midwives provided maternal care to all birthing mothers during the 20th century until they were forced out by Public Health Nurses.



05

Shortages



Obstetricians & Gynecologist

There is huge physician shortage
within the United States but this
specialty has a profounder shortage
(10,000 physicians)



MIDWIVES

The World Health Organization estimates that we're globally missing 900,000 midwives





06

Modern-Era

THE MONTH OF APRIL IS...



International Day for Maternal Health & Rights



Black Women's History



Rachel Carson Day



Minority Health Month

SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	30				



FAMOUS PEOPLE



Serena Williams

Suffered from a pulmonary embolism



Beyoncé

Suffered from preeclampsia

FAMOUS PEOPLE

- World champion track & field athlete, three time olympic medalist, and gold medalist at the Rio games died from childbirth complications
- Bowie was 32 years old and 8 months pregnant
- Bowie succumbed to respiratory distress and eclampsia on May 2, 2023



PREVENTING MORTALITY

- Become an Obstetrician/Gynecologist and listen to your patients
- Make contraception available
- Retrain and educate current healthcare providers so they're not adding to the tolls of mortality
- Become involved in organizations that work toward aiding maternal health
- Fight to make healthcare more affordable
- Become a cardiac specialist (Cardiologist)
- Become an Environmental Scientist
- Become an Epidemiologist
- Become a Biostatistician





CHECK IT ONLINE

Are you a feminist or interested in Obstetrics, Gynecology, or Perinatology? Scan the QR code to find out more about the organizations that tenaciously work towards preventing Maternal Mortality.

THANKS!

Do you have any questions? If not, I hope you enjoyed my presentation. Hopefully, I was able to provide new information to you. Also, I hope I haven't deterred you from having children. Do good with the new knowledge that you've attained!!



RESOURCES

- ❑ <https://www.heart.org/en/news/2019/02/20/why-are-black-women-at-such-high-risk-of-dying-from-pregnancy-complications>
- ❑ Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2020 by Donna L. Hoyert, Ph.D., Division of Vital Statistics
- ❑ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0146000511001480>
- ❑ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF02344034>
- ❑ <https://www.prb.org/resources/black-women-over-three-times-more-likely-to-die-in-pregnancy-postpartum-than-white-women-new-research-finds/>
- ❑ <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/preventing-pregnancy-related-deaths.html>
- ❑ <https://www.cureus.com/articles/36063-a-mothers-cry-a-race-to-eliminate-the-influence-of-racial-disparities-on-maternal-morbidity-and-mortality-rates-among-black-women-in-america#!/>
- ❑ <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/worsening-u-s-maternal-health-crisis-three-graphs/>
- ❑ <https://jhpn.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s41043-022-00326-6#:~:text=The%20long%2Dterm%20risk%20includes,18%2C19%2C20%5D.>



RESOURCES

- ❑ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3349953>
- ❑ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4838a2.htm>
- ❑ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6487507/#:~:text=Due%20to%20a%20slower%20decline,higher%20than%20the%20white%20IMR.>
- ❑ <https://www.milbank.org/wp-content/uploads/mq/volume-65/issue-s1/65-S1-History-of-Black-Mortality-and-Health-before-1940.pdf>
- ❑ <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=23>
- ❑ <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/pregnancy-mortality-surveillance-system.htm>
- ❑ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/abortion-bans-will-result-in-more-women-dying/>
- ❑ <https://blackmamasmatter.org/2023-black-maternal-health-week/>
- ❑ https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/60/63/606313ba-556c-485b-bf3f-327cc2d50863/191017-maternal-mortality-fact-sheet-p02.pdf
- ❑ <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/newsroom/news-releases/us-born-black-women-at-higher-risk-of-preeclampsia-than-foreign-born-counterparts-race-alone-does-not-explain-disparity>

RESOURCES

- ❑ <https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/blackness-maternal-mortality-and-prenatal-birth-the-legacy-of-slavery/>
- ❑ <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2021-new-report-sounds-the-alarm-on-global-shortage-of-900-000-midwives>

