Midwifery: An Evidence-Based Solution for Disrespect, Racism, and Other Challenges in Maternity Care



Ebony Marcelle
CNM, MS, FACNM
Director of
Midwifery at
Community of
Hope



Holly Powell Kennedy
PhD, CNM, FACNM,
FAAN, midwifery
researcher and
Varney Professor of
Midwifery at Yale
School of Nursing



Eugene R. Declercq
PhD, MBA, Professor of
Community Health
Sciences, Boston
University School of
Public Health

Gene's Slides April 29, 2021







4 Points to Consider Concerning Inequities and Poor Outcomes in U.S. Perinatal Health

1. These problems date back as long as we've measured perinatal outcomes

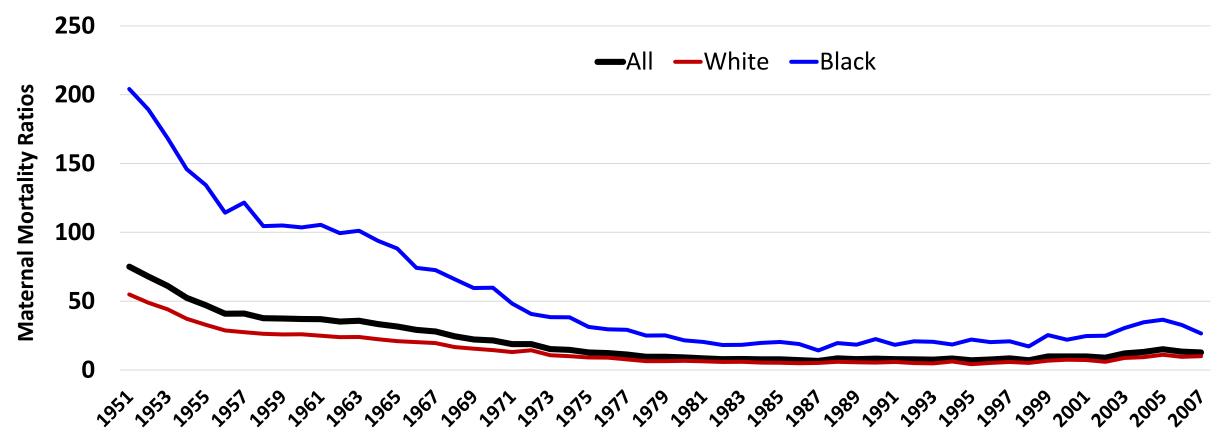
2. It's about more than maternal mortality

3. It is about racism

4. What role can midwives play in solving these problems?

(1) The Problems are Not New

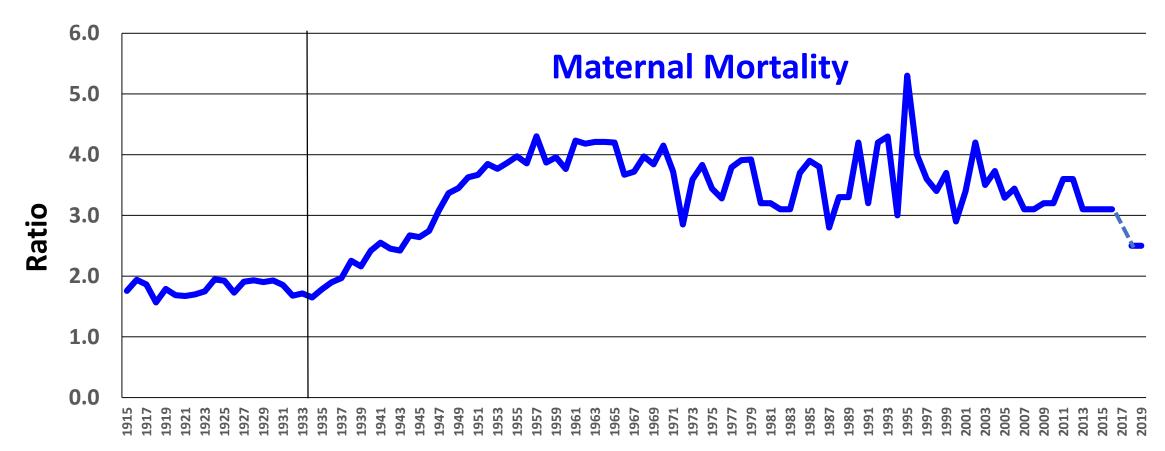
U.S. Maternal Mortality (per 100,000 live births), 1951-2007 by Race



Source: NCHS. Maternal Mortality and Related Concepts. Vital & Health Statistics. Series 33; #3. & annual data reports. 1915-1960 data from NCHS. *Vital Statistics Rates In The United States 1940-1960*. NOTE: Shifts in measurement (e.g. not all states were part of registration system prior to 1933; infant race was based on race of the child until 1980 & then race of the mother post 1980) accounts for some of the variation over time. 2007-2016 based on 2 year estimates of the pregnancy related mortality rate: Petersen E. *MMWR*.9/6/19.

BirthByTheNumbers.org

(1) The Problems Are Not New Black to White Ratios, U.S. Maternal Mortality, 1915-2019

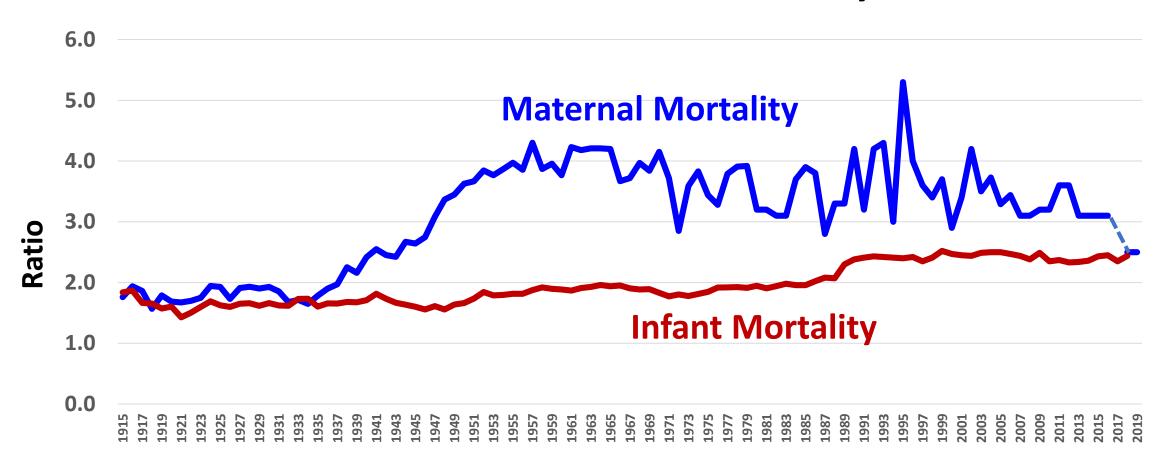


Source: NCHS. Maternal Mortality and Related Concepts. Vital & Health Statistics. Series 33; #3. & annual data reports. 1915-1960 data from NCHS. *Vital Statistics Rates In The United States 1940-1960.* NOTE: Shifts in measurement (e.g. not all states were part of registration system prior to 1933; infant race was based on race of the child until 1980 & then race of the mother post 1980) accounts for some of the variation over time. 2007-2016 based on 2 year estimates of the pregnancy related mortality rate: Petersen E. *MMWR*.9/6/19.

BirthByTheNumbers.org

(2) The Problems Involve More than Maternal Mortality

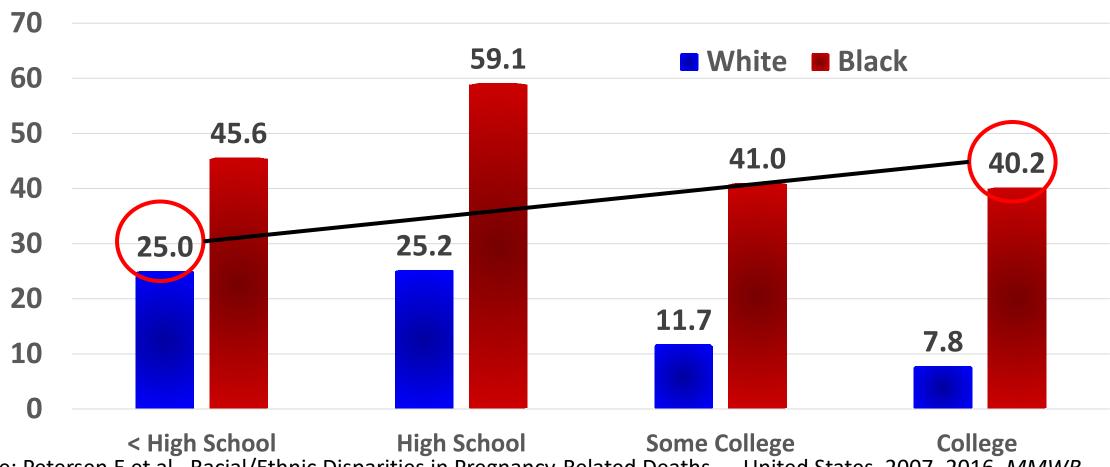
Black to White Ratios, U.S. Maternal Mortality, 1915-2019



Source: NCHS. Maternal Mortality and Related Concepts. Vital & Health Statistics. Series 33; #3. & annual data reports. 1915-1960 data from NCHS. *Vital Statistics Rates In The United States 1940-1960.* NOTE: Shifts in measurement (e.g. not all states were part of registration system prior to 1933; infant race was based on race of the child until 1980 & then race of the mother post 1980) accounts for some of the variation over time. 2007-2016 based on 2 year estimates of the pregnancy related mortality rate: Petersen E. *MMWR*.9/6/19.

BirthByTheNumbers.org

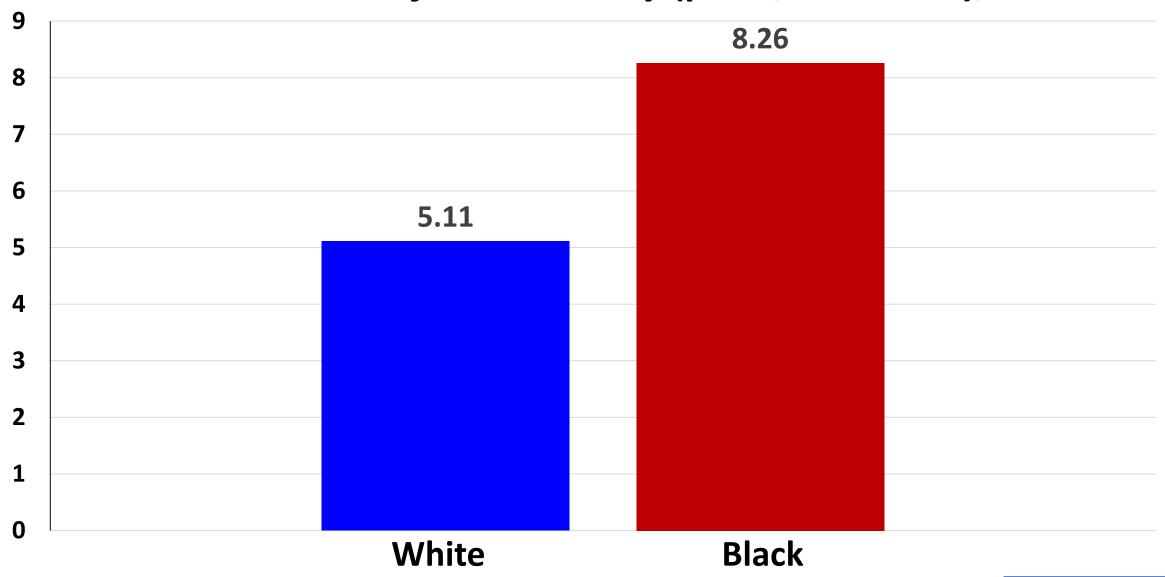
Pregnancy-related mortality ratios (per 100,000 live births) by race/ethnicity, U.S. 2007-16



Source: Petersen E et al. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. MMWR

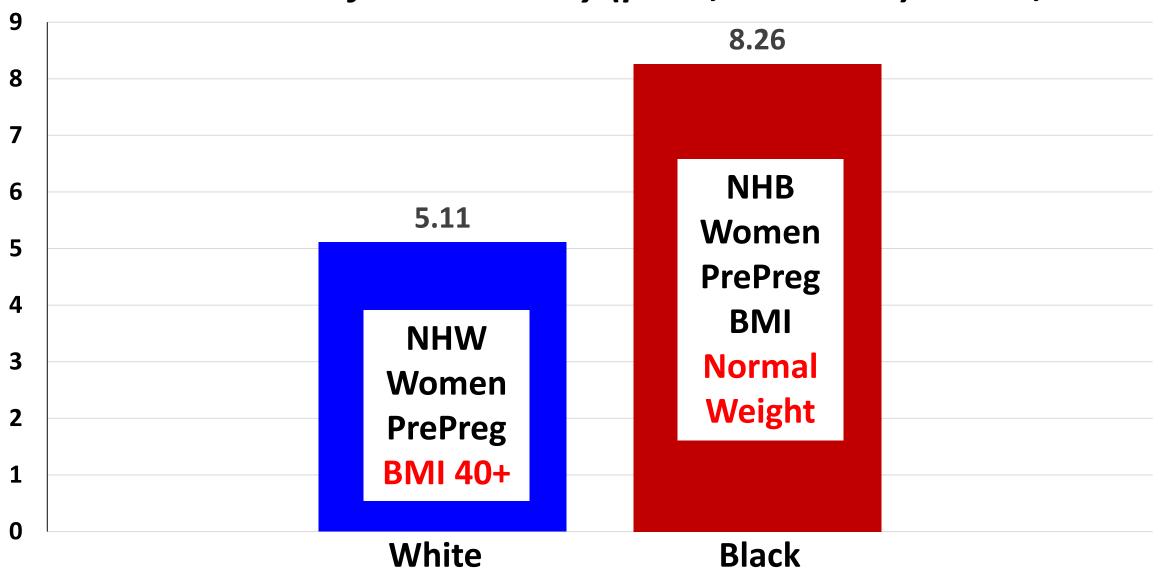
2/7/19; 68 (35): 762-765.

Black and White Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births), 2018



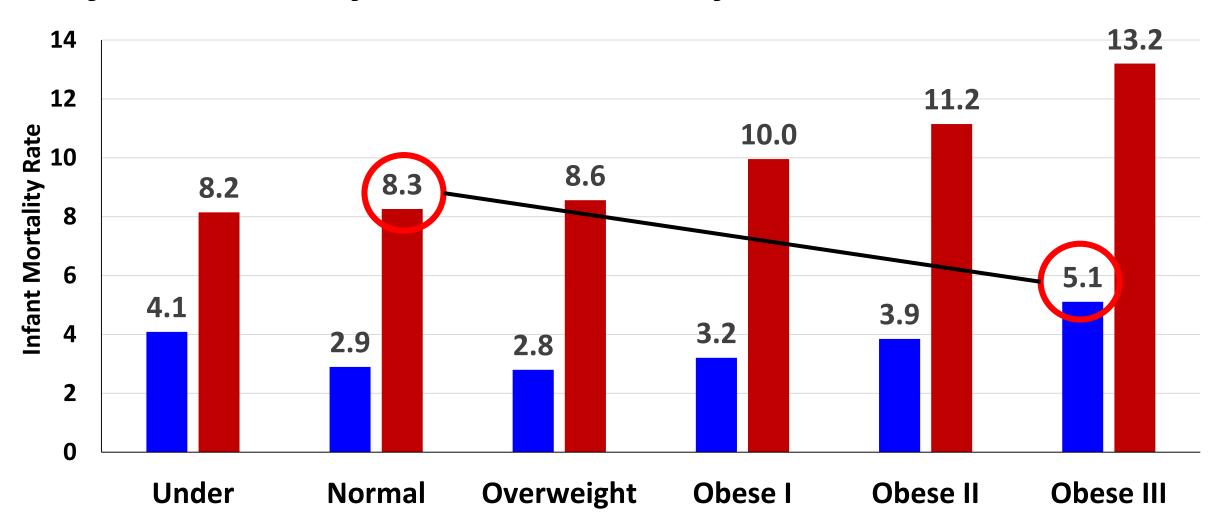
Source: NCHS CDC Wonder Online Database

Black and White Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births) & BMI, 2018



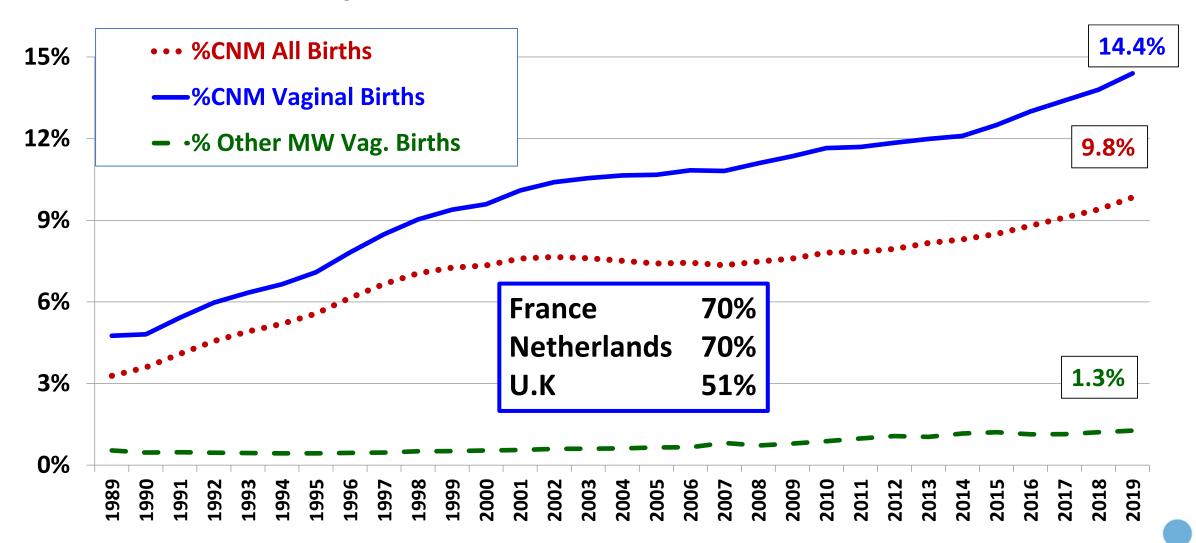
Source: NCHS CDC Wonder Online Database

Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births) by Race & BMI, U.S., 2018



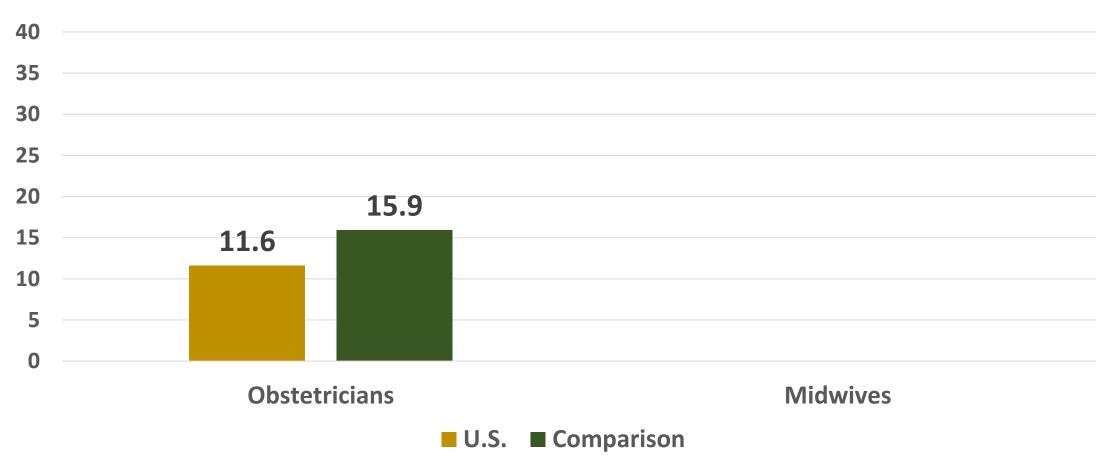
How Can Midwives Help Address Outcomes and Inequities?

(4) How can midwives help? *Midwife Attended Births 1989-2019*



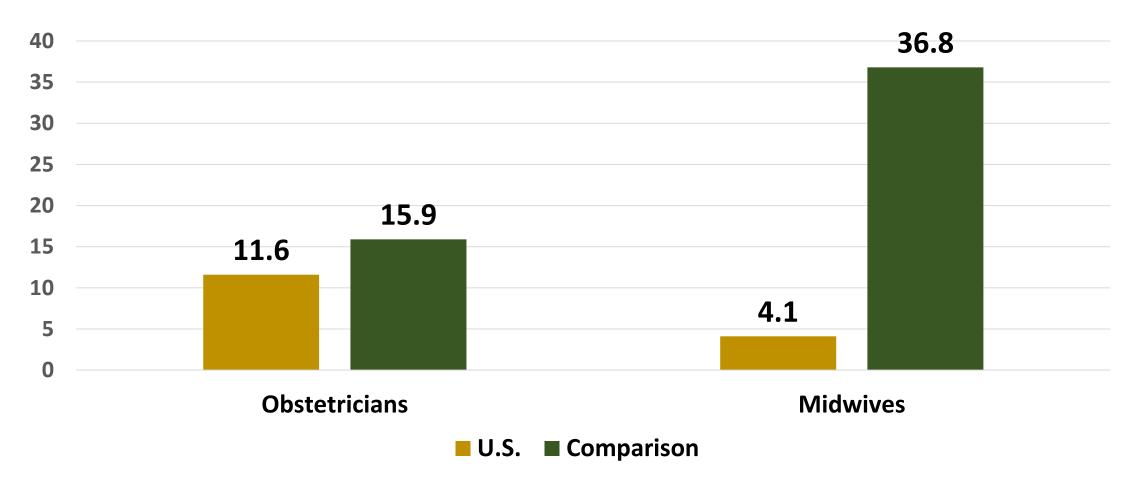


Obstetrician & Midwifery Workforce (per 1,000 births), U.S. & Comparable Countries (2015-2018)



Comparison countries (>300K births): Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom.

Obstetrician & Midwifery Workforce (per 1,000 births), U.S. & Comparable Countries (2015-2018)

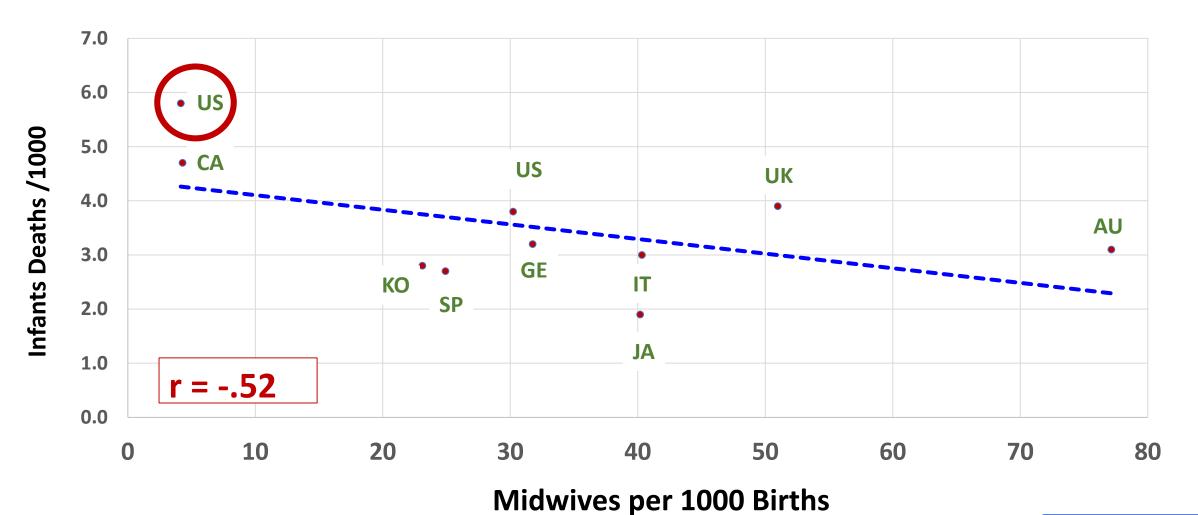


Comparison countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom

Source: OECD Health Data, 2021.

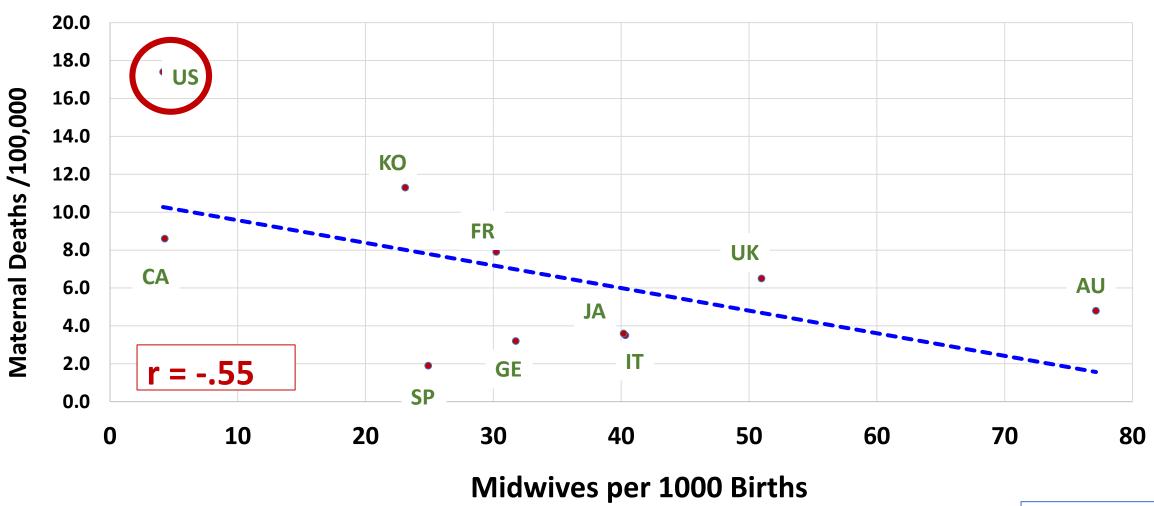
BirthByTheNumbers.org

(4) How can midwives help? Midwifery Workforce Size & Infant Mortality, OECD, 2018

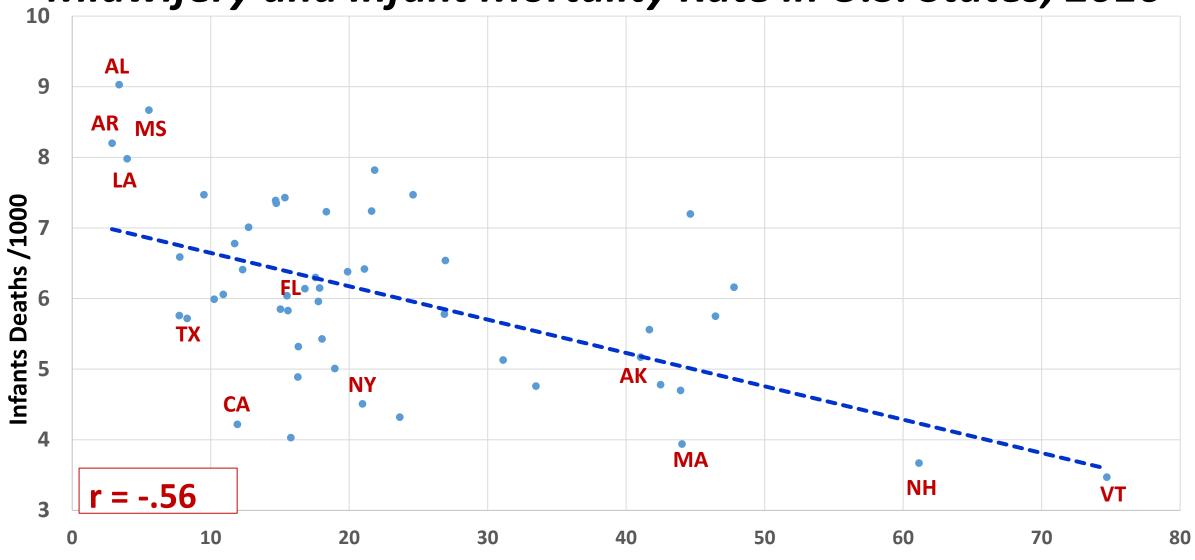


Source: OECD Health Data, 2021

(4) How can midwives help? Maternity Workforce Size & Maternal Mortality, 2018

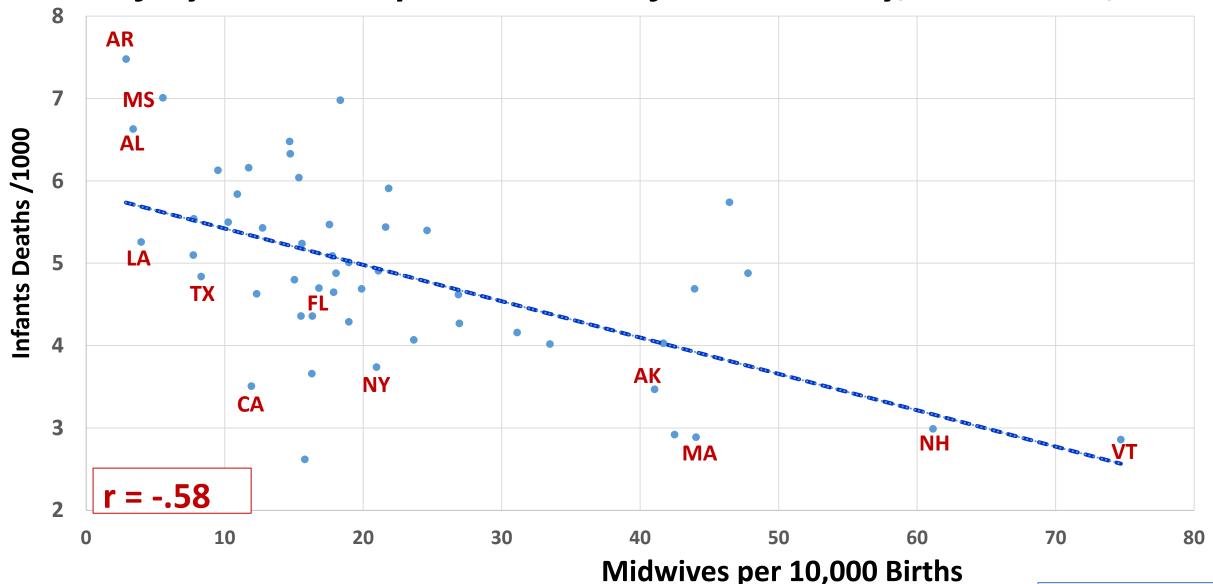


Midwifery and Infant Mortality Rate in U.S. States, 2016



Midwives per 10,000 Births

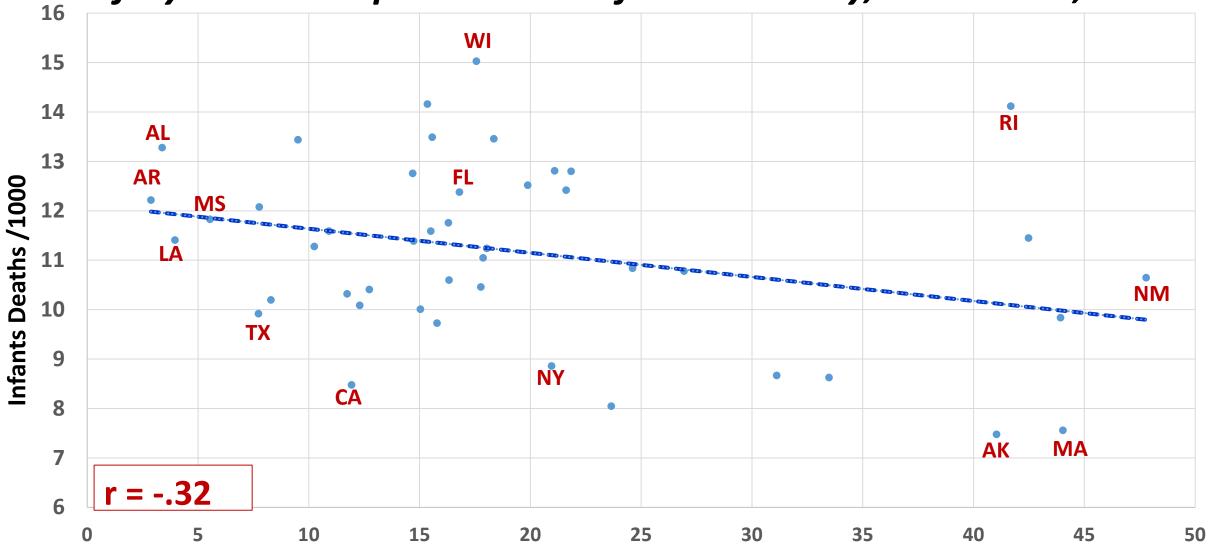
Midwifery & Non-Hispanic White Infant Mortality, U.S. States, 2016



Source: Ranchoff B. Area Resource File & CDC Wonder

BirthByTheNumbers.org

Midwifery & Non-Hispanic Black Infant Mortality, U.S. States, 2015-17



Midwives per 10,000 Births