

Spring 5-3-2020

## Does the US Have the Worst Maternal Mortality Rate?

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### Recommended Citation

Ellis, Elizabeth Adale, "Does the US Have the Worst Maternal Mortality Rate?" (2020). *2020 Symposium Posters*. 3.

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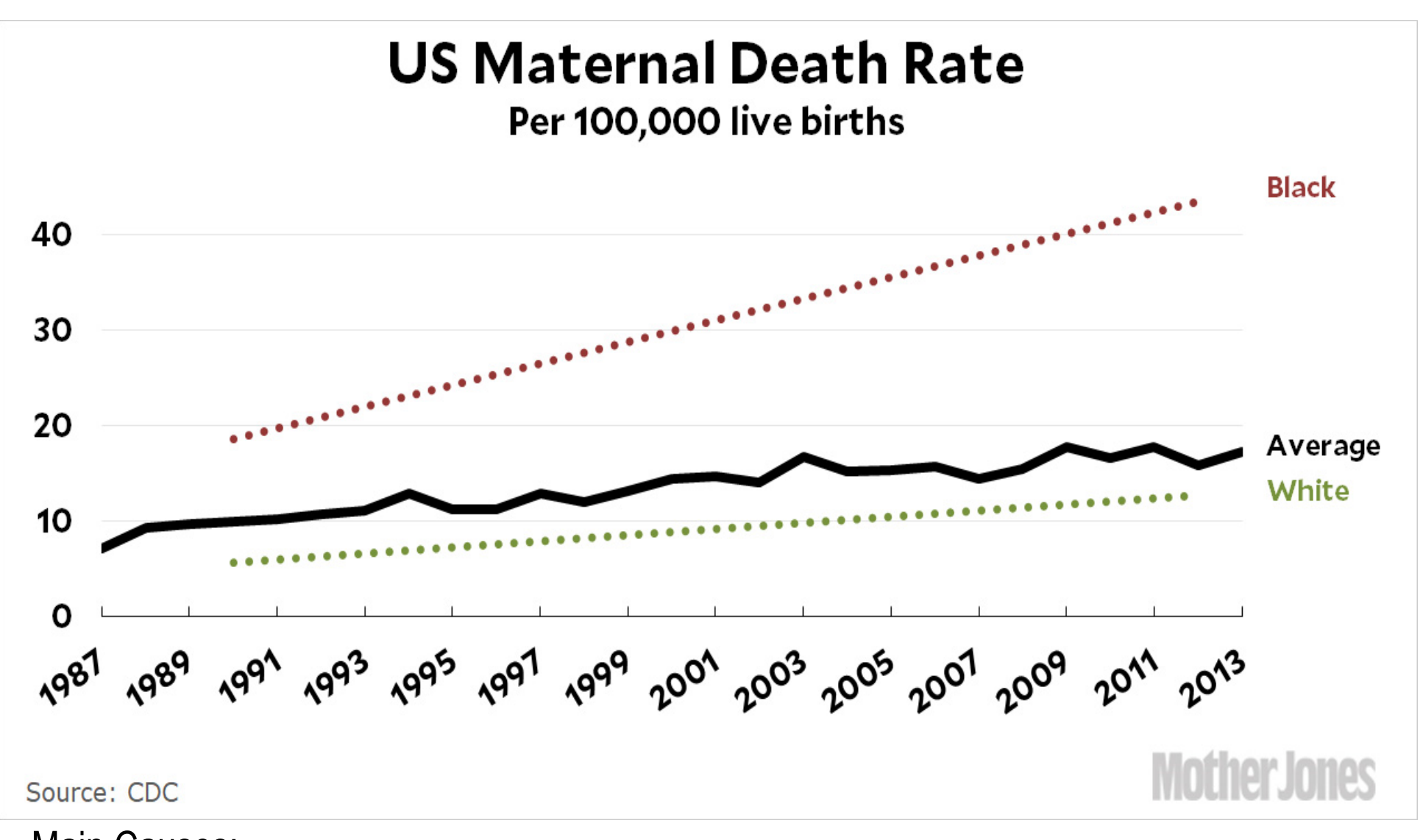


# Does the US Have The Worst Maternal Mortality Rate?

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## Background

- In America the maternal mortality rate is 16.9 deaths for every 100,000 live births.
- America ranks 138 out of 184 worldwide when compared globally.
- America has the highest maternal mortality rate out of all the developed nations.
- About 700 women die in America every year due to pregnancy related issues. Three in five of these deaths could be prevented.
- One in three pregnancy related deaths occur one week to one year after delivery.
- Thirty one percent of maternal deaths happen during pregnancy.
- Thirty six percent of maternal deaths happen at delivery or one week after.
- Thirty three percent of maternal deaths happen one week to one year postpartum.
- Native American and black women are three times as likely to die due to a pregnancy related issue as white women.

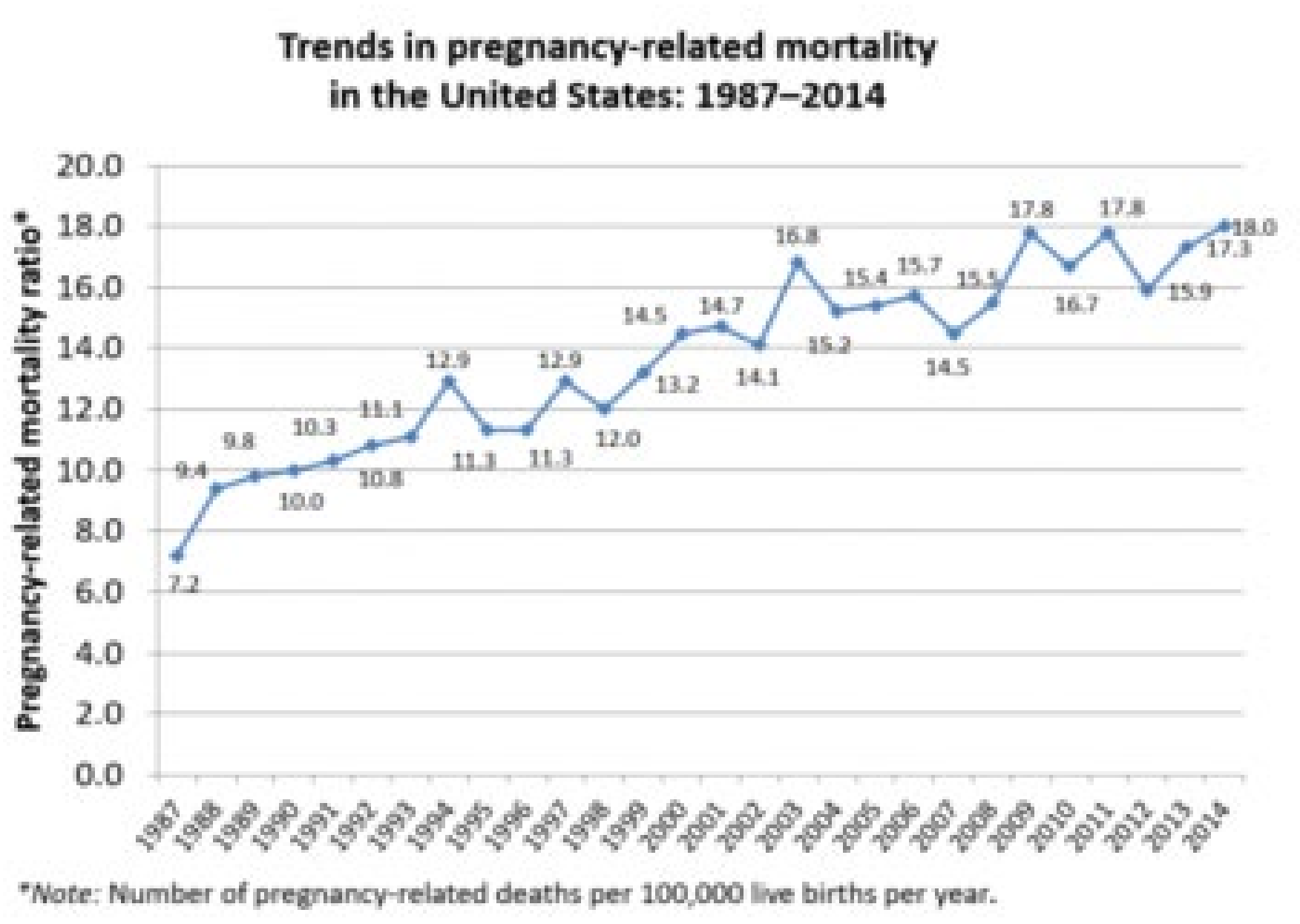
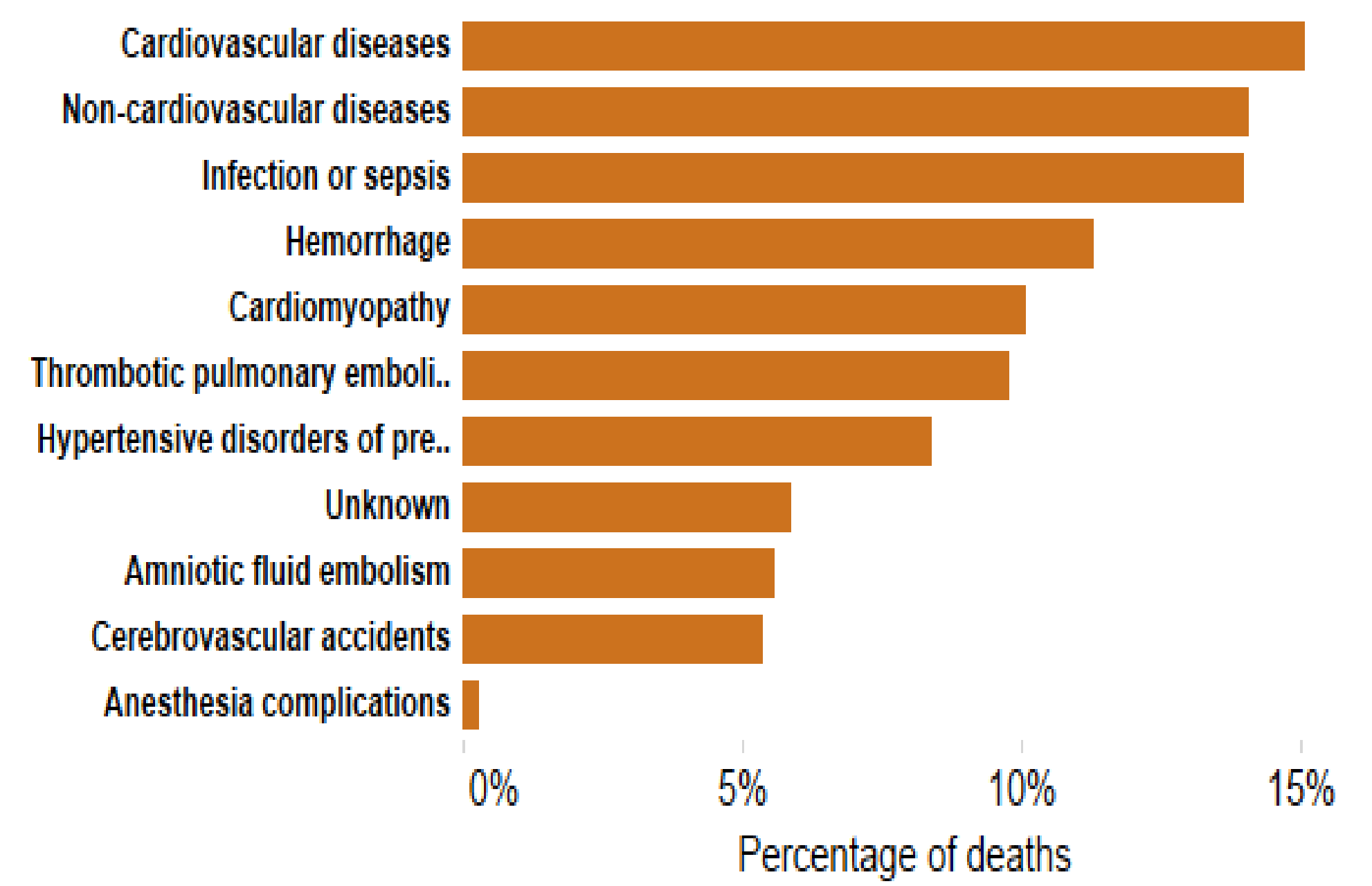


Main Causes:

Many maternal deaths that have happened at birth in America could have and can be prevented. Some of the more pressing issues is that the fragmented healthcare system in America is very hard on new mothers. Many new mothers begin to build up a very large medical bill, so if there is no health insurance it can lead to many issues. No healthcare can lead to many of these new mothers and not being able to get the essential care they need. One may wait until the health issues has progressed to far to go in and see the doctor, and this is due the fear of how incredible crippling the medical bill can be. Mothers also tend to brush off pregnancy health warning signs due to America having a very warped view of maternal health. Many women are also having children at a much older age then before which can make the threat of issues at birth much higher. There is a much higher prevalence of C-sections that happen in America which leads to more life threatening complications. Mothers of today are not the same as they were 20 years ago, so why are they being treated as such? With outdated views and information on maternal health America is falling behind many other developed nations.

Getting the essential care one needs during pregnancy is extremely important for not only the mother but also the child. Women are dying due to pregnancy and birth complications everyday in America this is a very serious problem. This is a very serious problem that is being ignored in America due to: broken society views, lack of adequate knowledge in healthcare professionals and mothers, and lack of funding for maternal studies and clinics. This issue can be fixed and innocent women do not need to die due to pregnancy.

## Causes for pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S.



## Study Objectives

This research will help to inform the American people a very large issue that lays in our country, and is going unnoticed everyday. It is very critical that the United States changes some of the medical and social practices when it comes to pregnancy. Women are dying that do not need to be. When evaluating the many works on the high maternal mortality rate in the United States they all point towards not only unsafe medical care, but diminishing the social support necessary for women to recognize medical warning signs. Mothers need better care and there needs to be changes in America to lower the maternal mortality rate.

## Results

- This study showcases these results as the main
- American society has normalized many medical warning signs that pertain to pregnancy as "normal pregnancy issues".
  - Mothers do not visit with medical professionals nearly as much as they should during pregnancy and after birth. This can lead to late detection to serious medical problems.
  - Mothers struggle with the many responsibilities, extreme sleep deprivation, worry for infants, hormonal change, and relentless pressure to return to work. This is all happening while the mothers body is healing after birth.
  - Lack of help can lead to mothers feeling isolated, depressed, and disempowered. This can be very dangerous emotional feelings a new mother can feel.
  - Lack of help and pressure to "bounce back" can lead to new mothers ignoring medical warning signs that could be happening.
  - The American maternal healthcare protocols are outdated.
  - The maternal mortality rate will only raise if the issue keeps being ignored.
  - Maternal centers and providers need to be more accessible for all American women, and there needs to be more facilities.

## Conclusion

This research has shown that the maternal mortality rate in America is the highest in the developed worlds. It is also discovered that the maternal mortality rate has only raised over the years. Women in America today have a higher chance of dying then their mothers did. This is a very serious problem in America and it needs to be addressed. We are able to fix this problem seeing as the maternal mortality rates are low in other developed countries it can be done in America. We also have a very big healthcare issue in America seeing as not everyone can afford the care that they need. This research has shown that certain ethnic groups are more highly affected then others when it comes to the maternal mortality rate. This is a huge problem that we can see being ignored in America and it needs to be addressed. American society has a very big problem in the way that we view pregnancy issues as well. Americans normalize issues that happen in pregnancy and ignore potential warning signs as "just normal pregnancy issues". We need to change the narrative to lower this rate and to stop innocent women from dying.

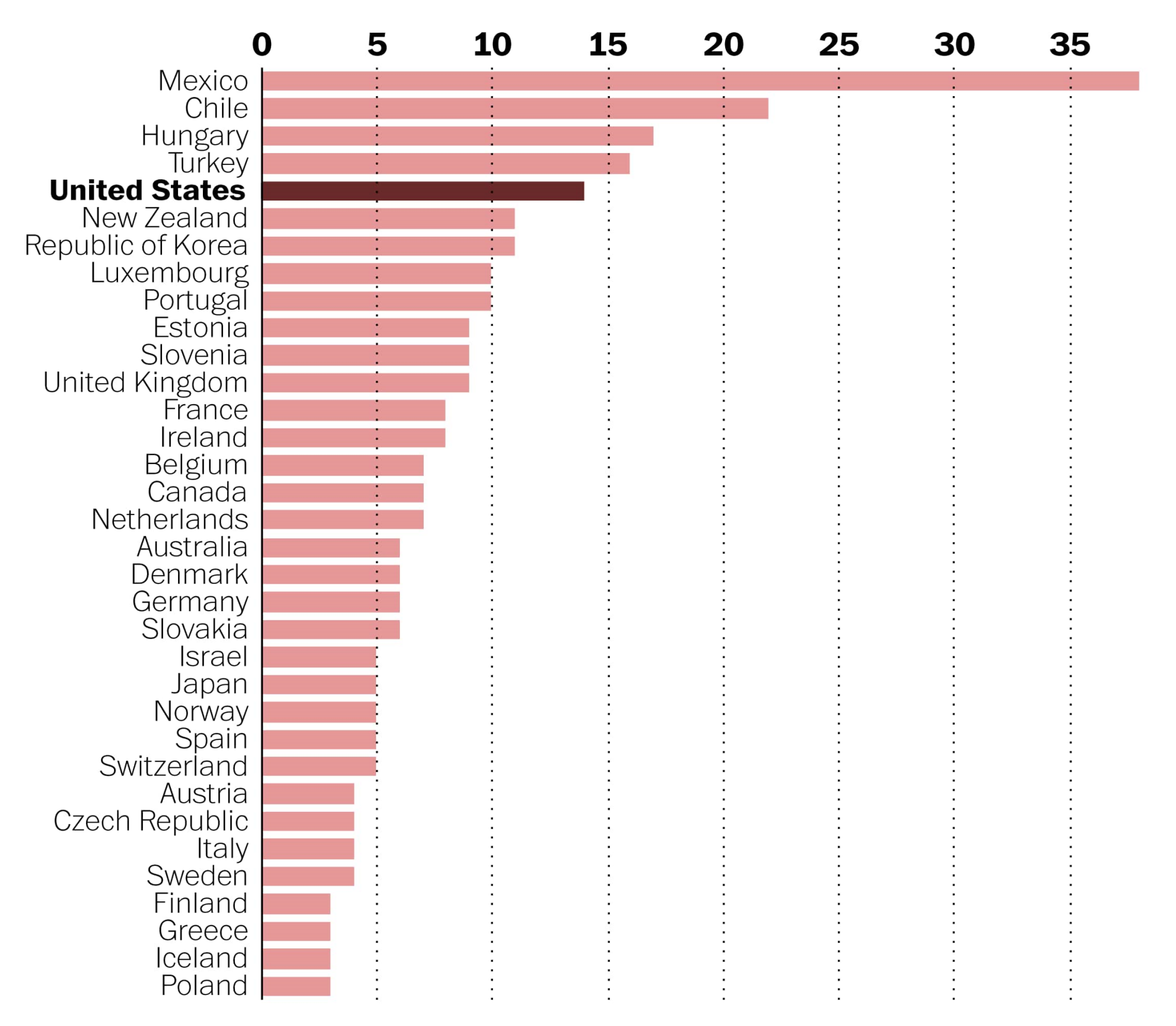
Methods:

America needs to lower the maternal mortality rate and to do that this study points out that America must focus on these points:

- Making healthcare accessible nation wide for all citizens in America.
- Changing society's narrative when it comes to pregnancy health and pregnancy warning signs.
- Maternity care professionals need to look at practices and revise the way they practice caring for today's mothers.
- Improving quality care and improving provider education.
- Improving quality care and information given to new mothers today in America.
- The American government must increase state and federal funding to implement CDC recommendations on lowering the maternal mortality rate.
- More studies on maternal mortality need to be conducted in the United States to see how we can change this narrative.
- The support and increased funding of organizations studying the maternal mortality rate in America are also essential to lowering the curve.
- Reducing the shortage of maternal medical centers.
- The disparity between ethnic groups in American and maternal death must start to close.

## U.S. lags behind other rich nations on maternal mortality

Maternal deaths due to pregnancy or labor complications per 100,000 live births, OECD countries



WAPO.ST/WONKBLOG Source: World Health Organization

## Future Implications

The future implications of the high maternal mortality rate in America include:

- Mothers will remain to pass away and we would likely see the maternal mortality rate raise.
- It can lead to increased forced labor participation, while still trying to recover from birth.
- It could lead to unsafe health or birth conditions leading to more women having a high risk birth.
- Leads to economic burden being a single parent and possible having to pay the medical bills and support a child alone.
- Medical costs will be higher therefore making healthcare even more inaccessible.
- It can lead to poor mental health such as one developing depression for loosing a loved one.
- It can lead to issues within those affected work life negatively.
- Changes in care for ones children and family members could be affected.
- Distrust for doctors could occur, women may stop seeing doctors when they need to.
- Issues in pregnancy's may increase due to lack of knowledge on how to properly care for today's mothers.

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