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### Examining Differences in Maternal Care of Women with Medicaid vs. Private Insurance: Phase 1

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# Differences in Maternal Care of Women under Medicaid vs. Private Insurance in Connecticut: Phase 1



Isabelle Alexandre '20  
Community Partner: YWCA; Faculty Advisor: Dina Anselmi



## BACKGROUND

- The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality compared to other developed countries, with 700 women dying from pregnancy-related complications yearly
- According to Centers for Disease Control, approximately 60 percent of those deaths could have been prevented if mothers had access to better medical care
- Health insurance status affects the care received by women and their newborns
- My community partner is YWCA whom I will be working to research possible discrepancies in maternal care of women of differing insurance types

## CT PLAN TO ADDRESS MATERNAL MORTALITY

- In 1965, Medicaid provided coverage for pregnant women 47% of poverty level
- In 2010, Affordable Care Act created opportunity for expansion to cover pregnant women 133% of poverty level
- Still, women with Medicaid coverage are more likely to have preterm births and low birth-weight infants compared to privately insured women

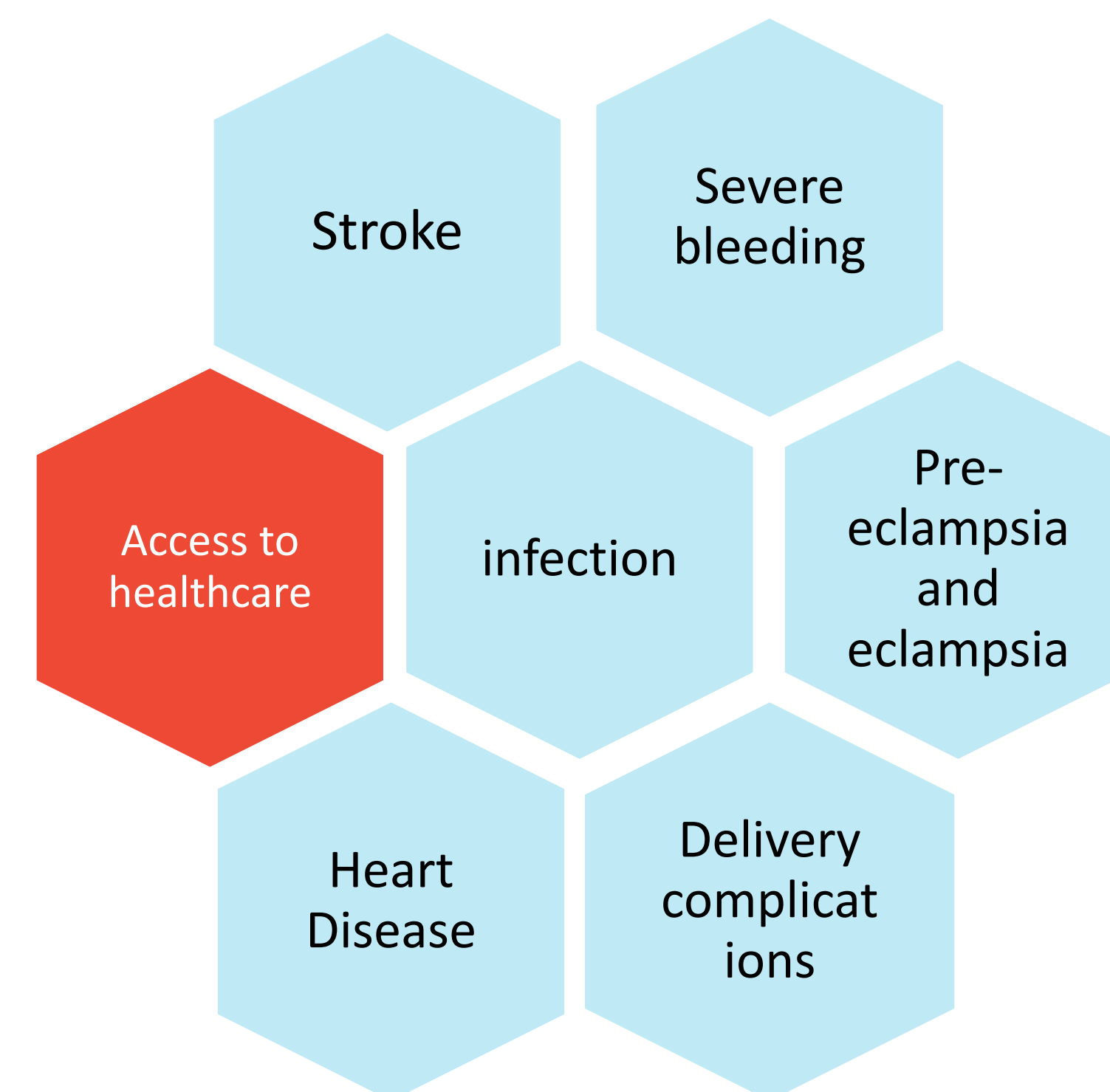
## RESEARCH QUESTION

Are there gaps that exist in maternal care for women under Medicaid versus under private insurance in Connecticut?

## PHASE 1 METHODOLOGY

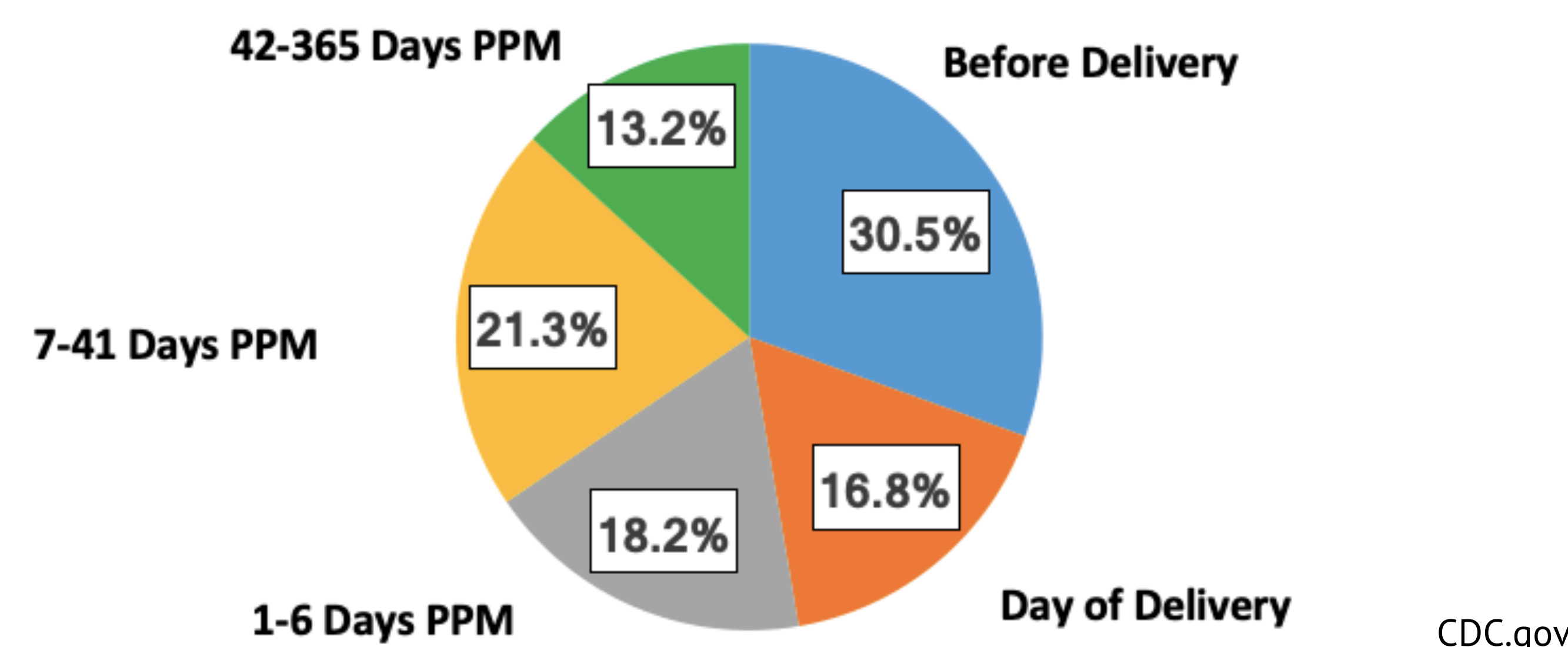
	Researched causes of maternal mortality and prevalence in U.S compared to Connecticut
	Interviewed Family Healthy Initiative YWCA partner (organization working closely with YWCA on events and initiatives)
	Drafted a pre-group questionnaire and focus group manual

## OVERVIEW OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS

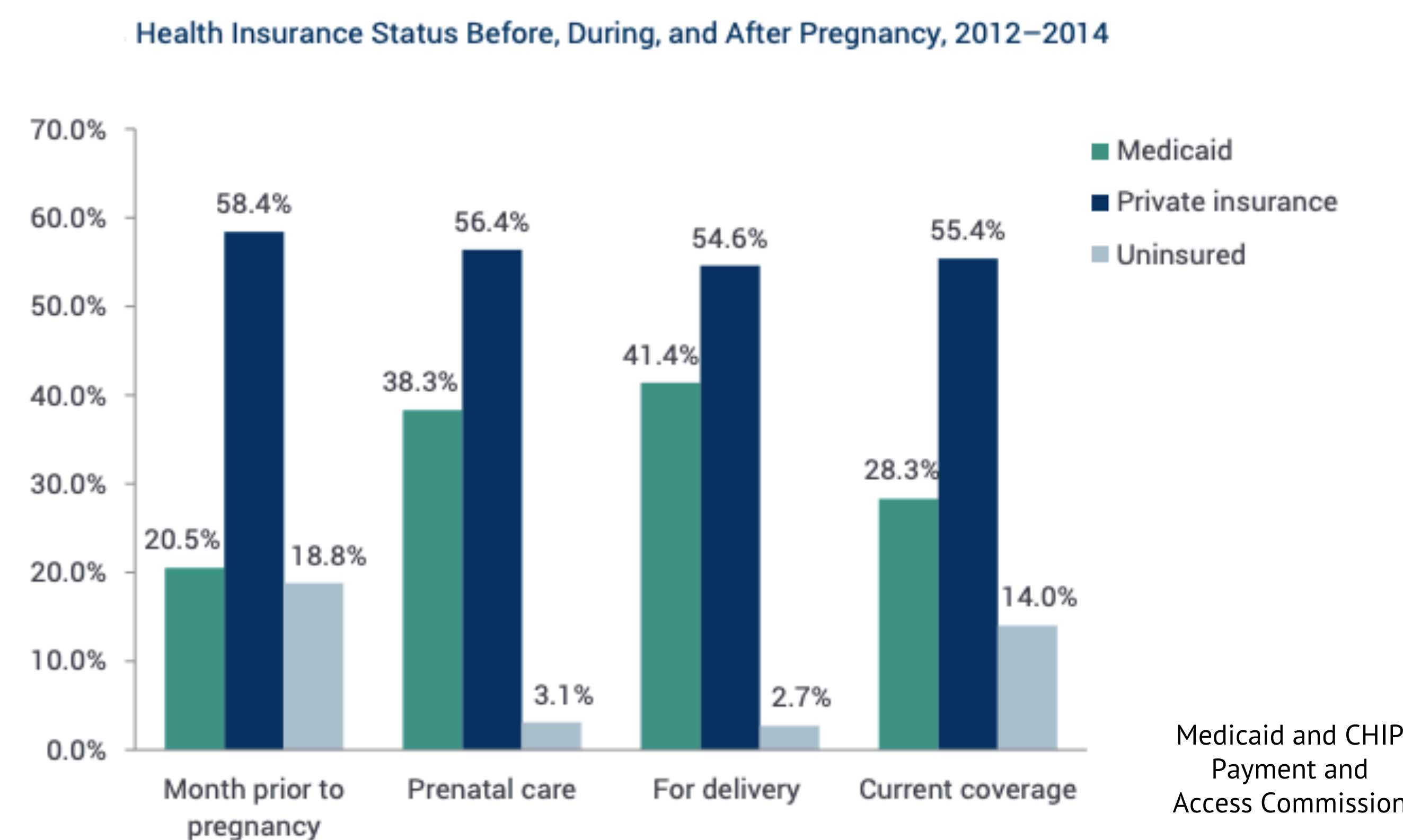


- Black women are 3x more likely to die of pregnancy-related cause than white women
- Individuals ages 35-44 are at higher risk of pregnancy-related deaths

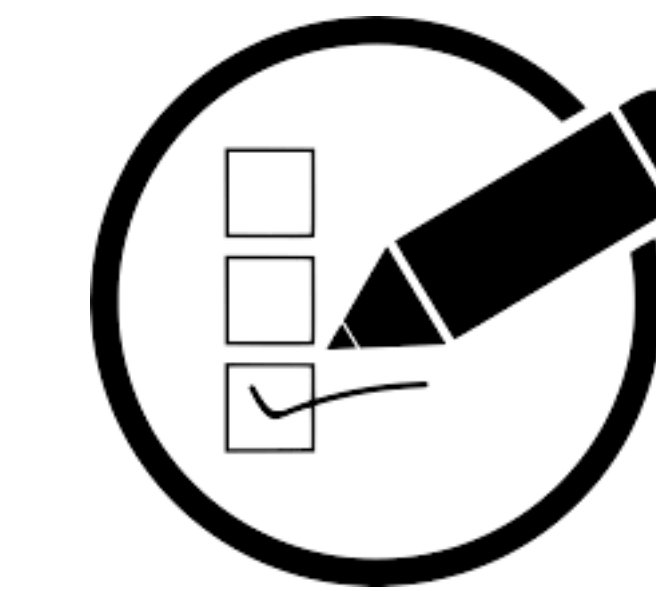
## TIMING OF MATERNAL DEATHS



## HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS IN CT



## PHASE 2 METHODOLOGY



Pre-group questionnaire



Focus Group

Identify participants:

- Through working with contacts at YWCA
- Members of Doula Coalition
- Women under Medicaid versus Private insurance coverage

Administer questionnaire investigating four areas:

1. health services before pregnancy
2. during pregnancy
3. during delivery
4. after delivery

Sample Question: *Did you experience any complications during delivery?*

Conduct focus group of 15-20 participants

## Discussion questions

1. Did you get prenatal care as early as you wanted?
2. After giving birth, did you have access to postpartum visits?
3. Has your doctor ever suggested a doula or midwife?

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## COMMUNITY LEARNING RESEARCH FELLOWS 2019