

ANALYZING THE IMPACT ON MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ANNETTE HERRON

Abstract

In 2020 the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19 pandemic, shook the world upside down. The normalcy of life was interrupted and a new normal was implemented to protect people from each other. Coronavirus is highly contagious and can be life threatening. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021) define COVID-19 as a disease that is caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus. Covid-19 has affected healthcare in many different aspects. The delivery of care had to change to cater to social distancing. The disease highlighted a lot of disparities within the healthcare industry. Maternal and Infant mortality rates were among the disparities affected.

Objectives

To analyze the affects COVID-19 has had on maternal and Infant mortality rates, as well as understanding the significance of the racial disparities in regards to these mortality rates.

Methods

Extensive online research on Maternal and Infant Mortality was made. Centers of Disease Control & Prevention, World Health Organization and Tafficking in Presons 2020 Report were some the important sources that were used to gain understanding of the topics and get statistical backgrounds of racial disparities.

Table 1

Maternal Care Workforce: Supply of Midwives and Ob-Gyns, 2018 or Latest Year

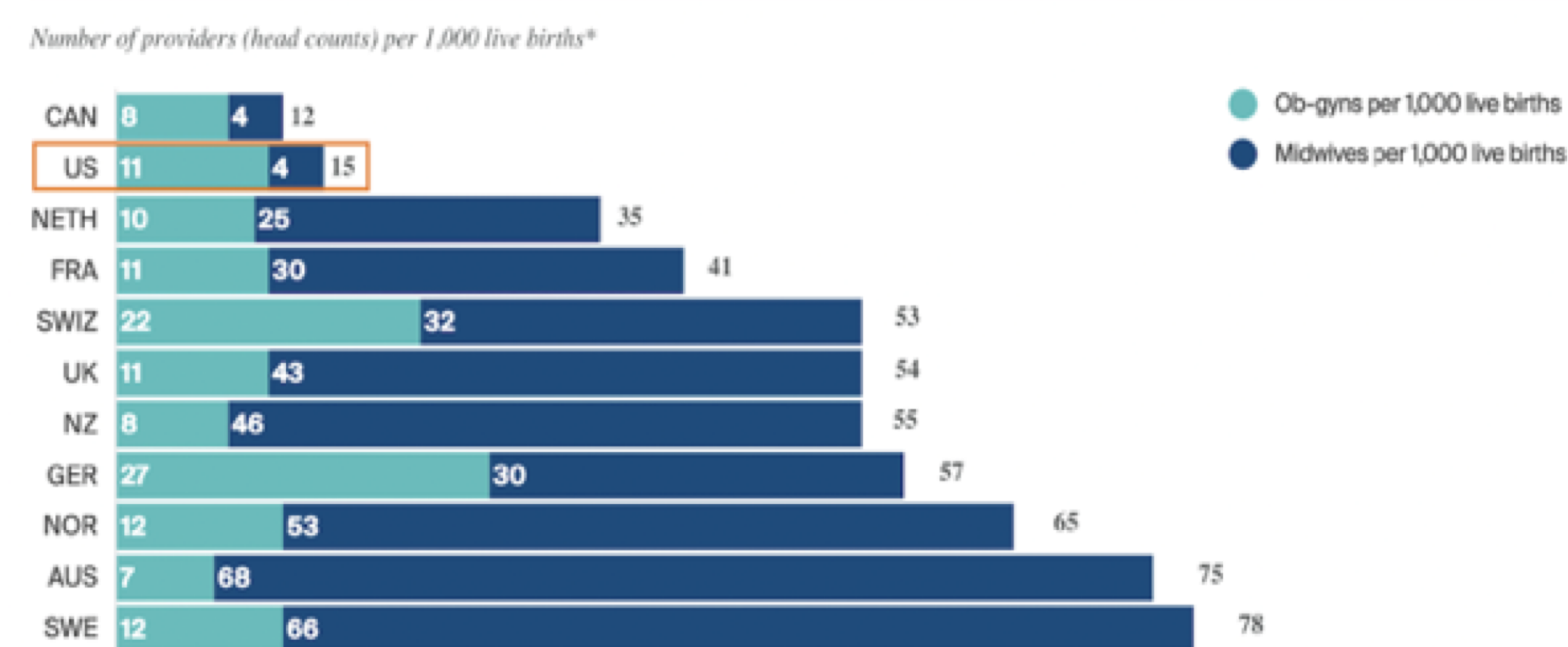
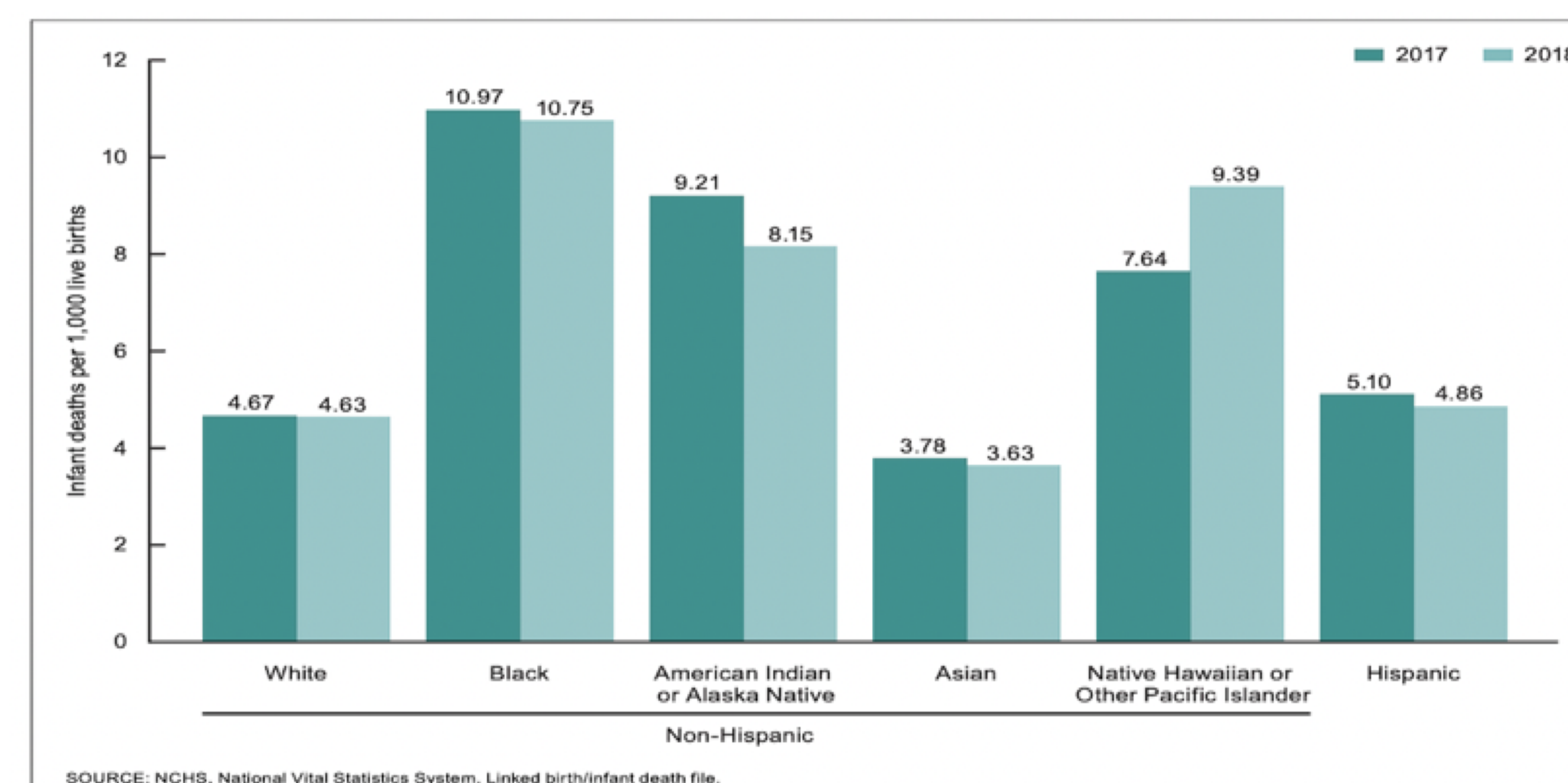


Table 2



Results

- The first table shows the Ratio of Providers to 1,000 live births among the different developed Countries. Canada and the United States have the least amount of providers to live births. Mothers do not receive enough care after delivery, which can negatively impact the child and mother.
- The second table has the 2017 & 2018 Maternal Mortality Rate among the races. This table is to highlight the racial disparities faced by expectant minority women.

References: Ely, D. M., & Distol, A. K. (2020, July 16). Infant Mortality in the United States, 2018: Data From the Period Linked Birth/Infant Death File (Rep.). Retrieved <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr69-7-508.pdf>
Maternal Mortality and Maternity Care in the United States Compared to 10 Other Developed Countries. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2020/nov/maternal-mortality-maternity-care-us-compared-10-countries>

Discussion & Conclusion

COVID-19 indirectly affected maternal and infant mortality by causing stress, anxiety and barriers to receiving adequate care. Centers Health Institute (CHI) promotes maternal and infant health by catering to the mother before, during, and after delivery. CHI program brings mothers into group settings to focus on her mental and emotional health. Centering groups also promotes the relationship between provider and patient. This is important considering that the United States has such a low ratio of provider to live births. The program also decreases racial disparities. COVID-19 highlighted racial disparities that affected African Americans and other minorities. Despite Covid-19 hitting the African American community so hard, there is still a big reluctance in taking the vaccine among the African American Community. The government will have to build the trust of people and then mandate the vaccine to promote population immunity. Based on the research analyzed, COVID-19 effect on maternal and infant mortality is insufficient. More data needs to be collected, and research needs to be done to fully understand the full effects COVID 19 has on maternal and infant mortality as well as disparities.

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