

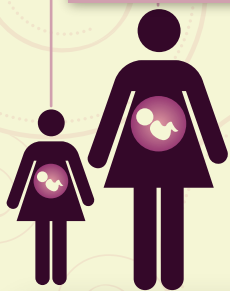
# The U.S. Maternity Care Crisis

## It's about life or death

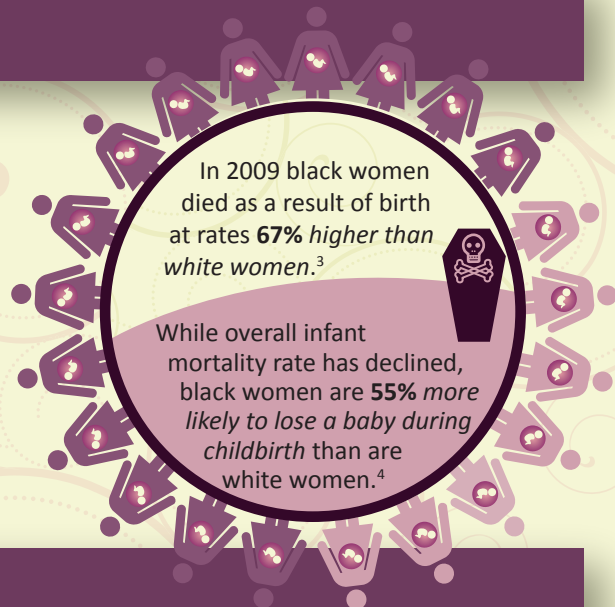
The U.S. ranks last for infant mortality among 17 industrialized peer nations.

Pregnancy-related deaths have increased **26%** since 2009...

...and **60%** since 1989!



But that's the tip of the iceberg: severe maternal morbidity during labor *increased* about **75%** between 1999 and 2009. That's a 75% increase in "near-misses."<sup>2</sup>



## The way women deliver

How women deliver babies in the U.S. has changed dramatically in the past two decades.



The 2012 U.S. cesarean delivery rate was **32.8%**.<sup>6</sup>

The World Health Organization reports that the best outcomes for women and babies occur with cesarean section rates of **5% to 10%**.

Rates above 15% seem to do more harm than good.<sup>7</sup>

## Cost of maternity care

A lot of money, mostly public dollars, is being spent on the U.S. maternity care system and its relatively poor outcomes.

Americans spent **\$51 billion** on hospital charges for maternity care in 2009, a **263 percent increase** since 1993.

In that same period, the total number of births increased just **3.3 percent**.

Medicaid pays for **43 percent** of all maternity care in America.

If the U.S. cesarean birth rate was reduced from **33% to 15%**, national spending on maternity care would **decline** by more than **\$5 billion** each year.



These foundations are focused on finding solutions:



For more information, contact HFWCNF Program Officer Kara Williams at [kwilliams@hfwcnv.org](mailto:kwilliams@hfwcnv.org).

### Notes

<sup>1</sup><http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MaternalInfantHealth/PMSS.html#5>

<sup>2</sup> "Severe Maternal Morbidity: Can We Account for It?" William M. Callahan, MD, MPH; CDC Severe Maternal Morbidity Webinar, January 2013.

<sup>3</sup><http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MaternalInfantHealth/PMSS.html#5>

<sup>4</sup>National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 62 Number 8, December 18, 2013 [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_08.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_08.pdf)

<sup>5</sup><http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/US-Health-in-International-Perspective-Shorter-Lives-Poorer-Health.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_09.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf) <sup>7</sup> <http://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/financing/healthreport/30C-sectioncosts.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_03.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_03.pdf) <sup>9</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_05.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_05.pdf)