THE EFFECTS OF BIAS AND RACIAL DISPARITIES ON MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION

BY: KADESHA BRYAN

JILL M. NOCELLA, PhD, APRN-BC
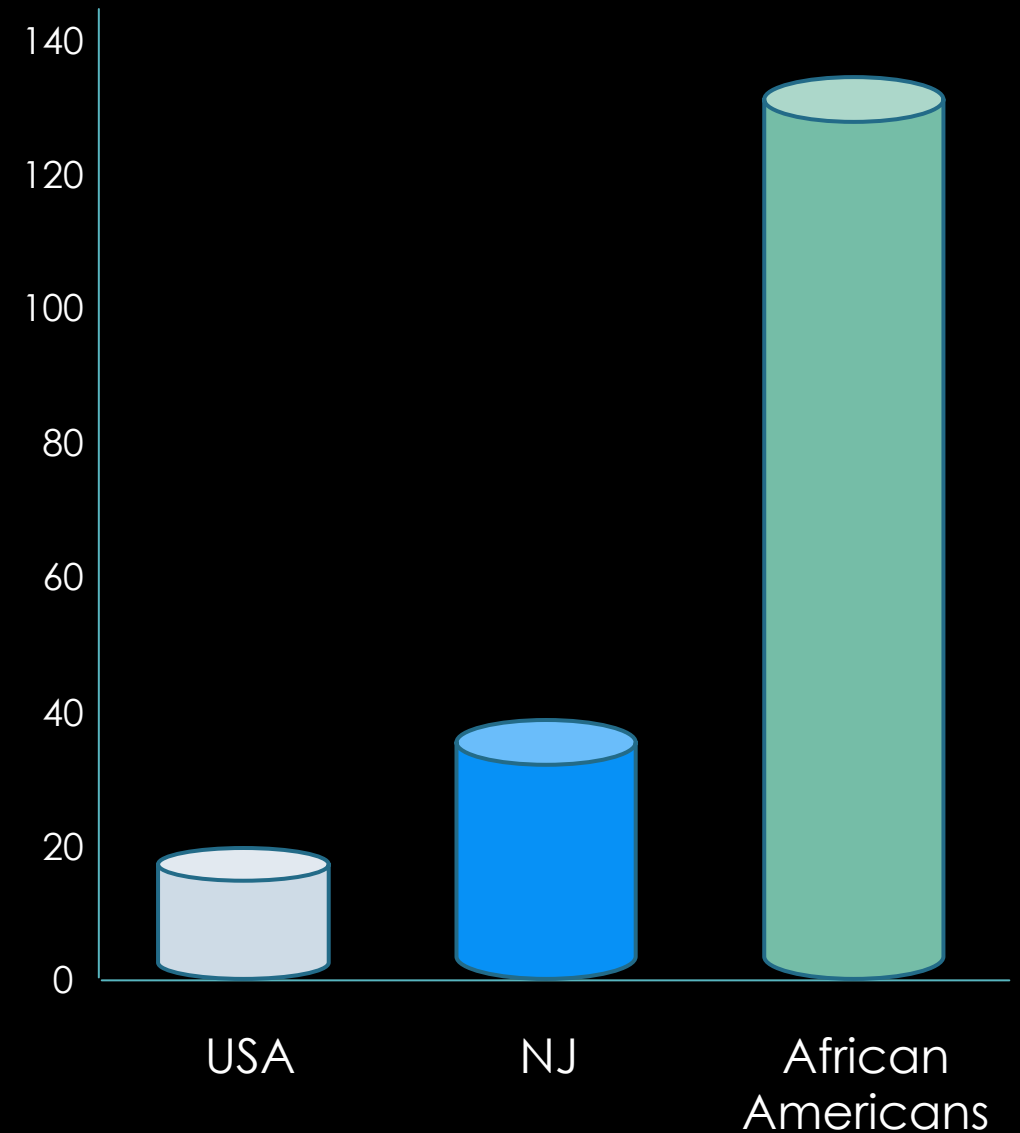
BACKGROUND
AND SIGNIFICANCE

Background & Significance

- African American women are three times more likely to die of pregnancy related complications than their white counterparts

- In New Jersey, Pregnancy related mortality rate (PRMR) is 37.5, (double the national average).

- In NJ, the African American maternal mortality rate is 131.8, which is Three and a half times NJ's average.

- If this number where to be ranked against other countries, The U.S African American mortality would be ranked 119th

- Socioeconomic status isn't the only cause.
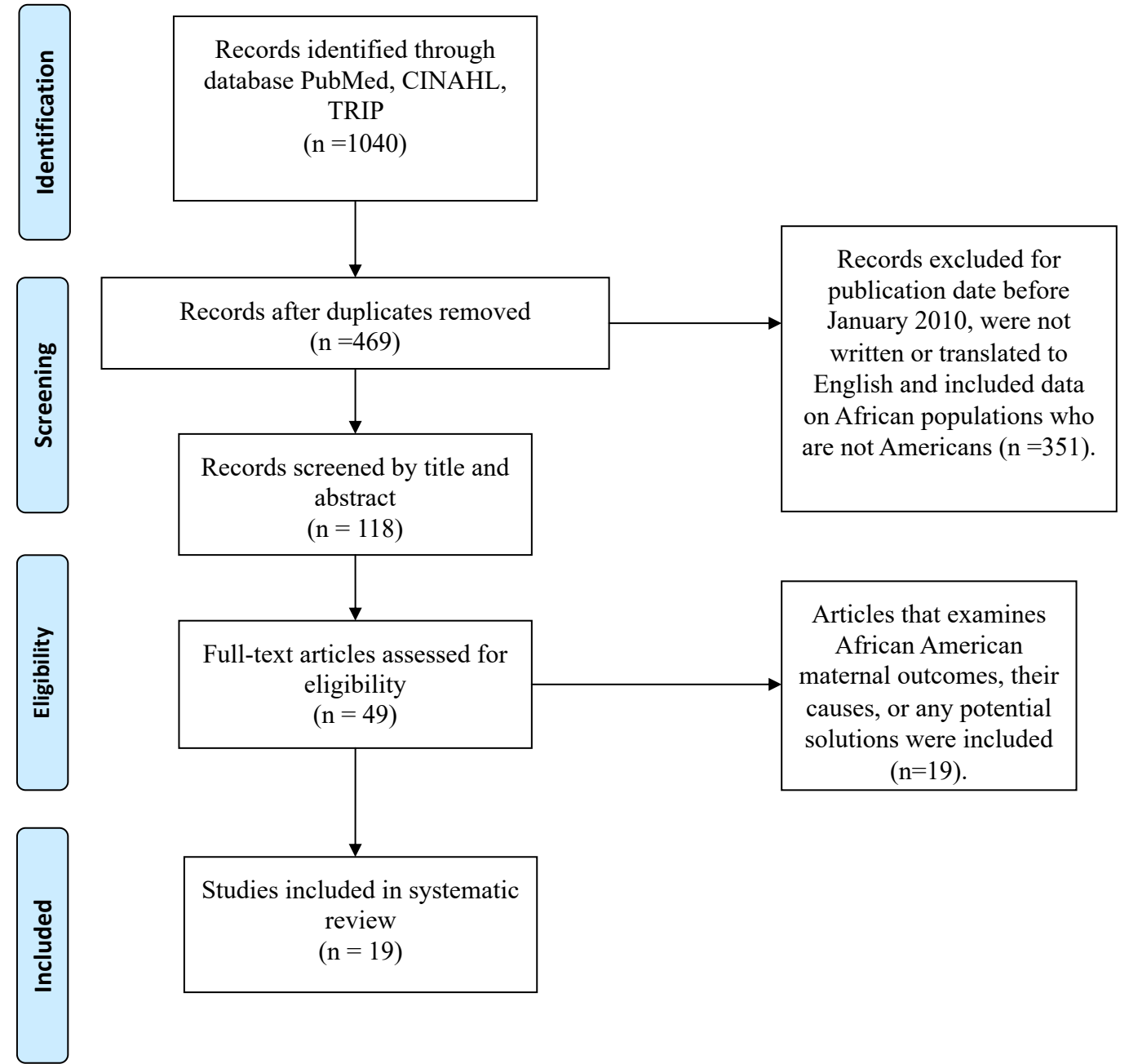
PRMR

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the Effects of Bias and Racial Disparities on Maternal Mortality in the African American Population. A Review of the literature.

METHODS

- **Systematic Review of the Literature**.

- **Criteria**: Published on or after January 2010, written or translated in English, conducted in the US & peer reviewed journal.

- **Study designs:** were not limited. Included cohort, RCT, non RCT, Systematic reviews, and case studies.

- **Databases:** Turning research into practice (TRIP), Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) and PubMed

- **Keyword search:** "African American health disparities" "maternal morbidity and racism" "racial and ethnic maternal outcomes" "Health Information technology and dispraities"

Prisma Flow Chart

Identification

Records identified through database PubMed, CINAHL, TRIP
(n =1040)

Screening

Records after duplicates removed
(n =469)

Records excluded for publication date before January 2010, were not written or translated to English and included data on African populations who are not Americans (n =351).

Records screened by title and abstract
(n = 118)

Eligibility

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility
(n = 49)

Articles that examines African American maternal outcomes, their causes, or any potential solutions were included (n=19).

Included

Studies included in systematic review
(n = 19)

FINDINGS

Bryant, Worjoloh, Caughey, Washington, (2010)

High PRMR for African American women

Curtin, Gregory, Korst & Uddin (2015)

African American women had a higher number of high-risk delivery (C-section) and severe maternal morbidities.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (2016)

Many studies stressed socio-economic status and chronic illnesses as the main causes.

Hardeman, Murphy & Kozhimannil (2018).

Most studies do not include institutional racism or bias as contributors of poor maternal health outcomes.

Stepanikova (2012).

Implicit bias shapes medical decisions and disadvantages minority groups.

Serbin & Donnelly (2016).

The health care work force does not reflect the diverse population it serves.

CONCLUSION

AIM: Awareness.

Nurses Use ADPIE + are advocates

HIT, Increased Health literacy and increase URM to combat these disparities.

More studies need to highlight the effects of bias and racism on African American maternal outcomes and address solutions accordingly.

References

Bryant, A. S., Worjoloh, A., Caughey, A. B., & Washington, A. E. (2010). Racial/ethnic disparities in obstetric outcomes and care: prevalence and determinants. *America Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 202(4), 335–343.

Curtin, S. C., Gregory K. D., Korst L. M., Uddin S. F. (2015) Maternal Morbidity for Vaginal and Cesarean Deliveries, According to Previous Cesarean History: New Data from the Birth Certificate. *Natl Vital Stat,* 64(4), 1–13.

Hardeman, R. R., Murphy, K. A., H J., & Kozhimannil, K. B. (2018). Naming Institutional Racism in the Public Health Literature: A Systematic Literature Review *Public Health Reports*, 133(3), 240–249.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (2016). Severe Maternal Morbidity in New York City, 2008–2012. New York, NY. Retrieved February 28, 2019 from https://tinyurl.com/yb5e2q43

Serbin, J.W., & Donnelly, E. (2016). The Impact of Racism and Midwifery's Lack of Racial Diversity: A Literature Review. *Journal of midwifery & women's health, 61 6*, 694-706

Stepanikova, I. (2012). *Racial-ethnic biases, time pressure, and medical decisions. - PubMed - NCBI*. National Center for Biotechnology Information. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22811465