



**HARRISHEALTH**  
SYSTEM

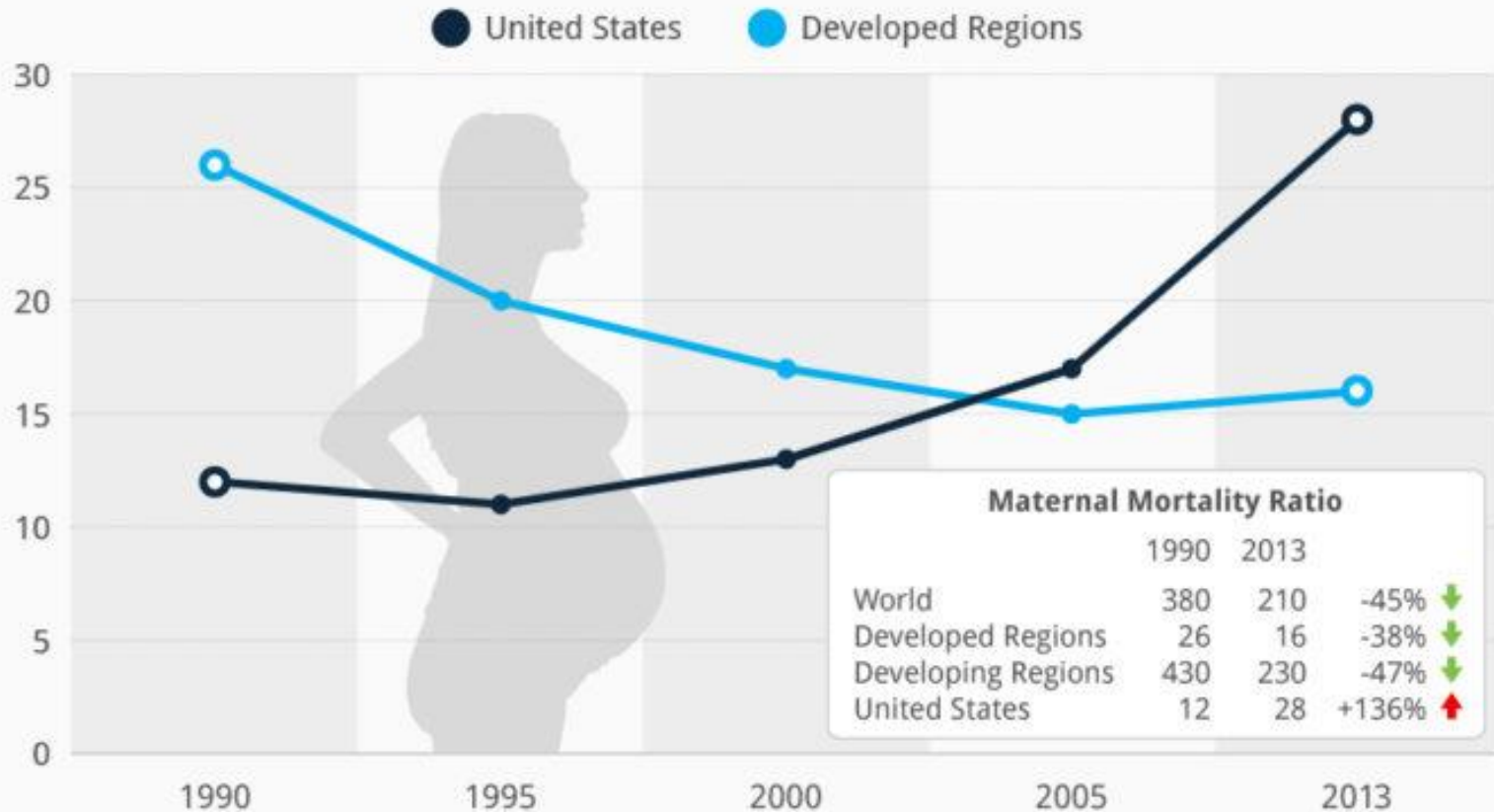
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# ANSWERING THE CALL FOR IMPROVED MATERNAL SAFETY

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- Employer
  - Harris Health System
- Objectives:
  - Discuss current focus on improving maternal outcomes
  - Describe patient safety initiative:
    - Maternal Early Warning System (MEWS)
- Conflict of Interest, Sponsorship/Commercial Support
  - Not Applicable

# Maternal Deaths in the U.S. Are on the Rise

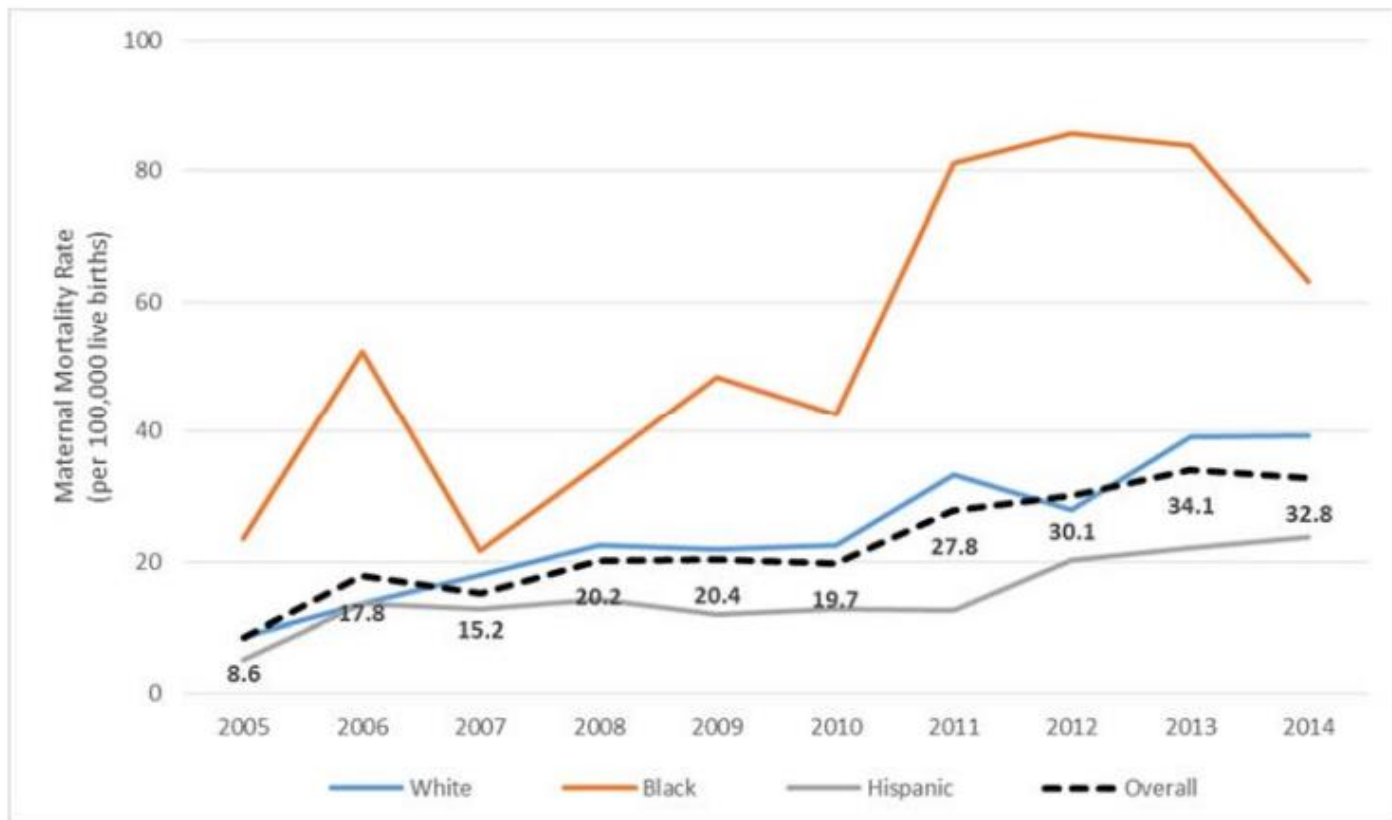
Maternal mortality ratio (number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)



Source: World Health Organization

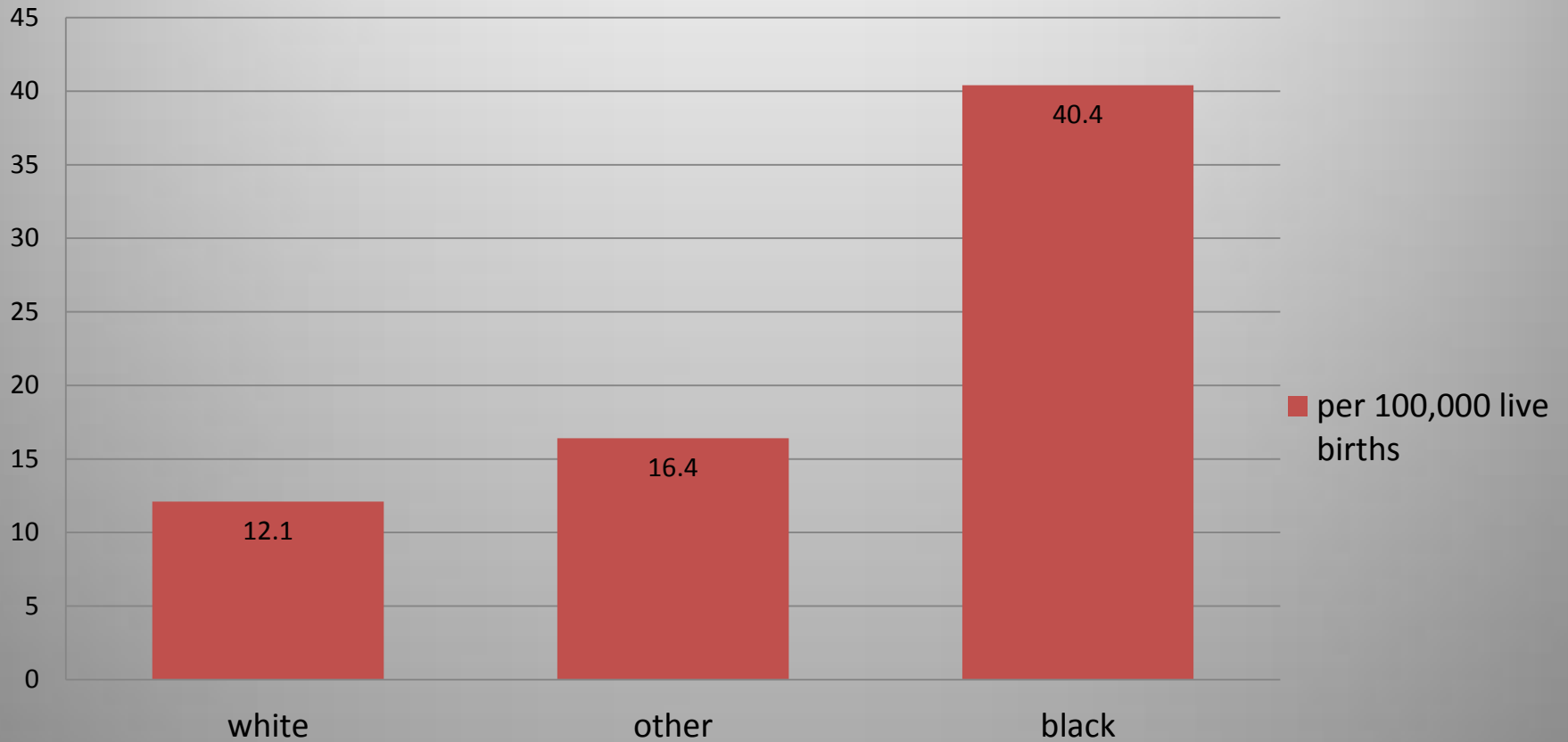
# Maternal Mortality Rate: Texas

**Figure 1. Maternal mortality rate by racial/ethnic group, 2005-2014.**



# Racial Disparity

U.S. Pregnancy Related Mortality Ratios

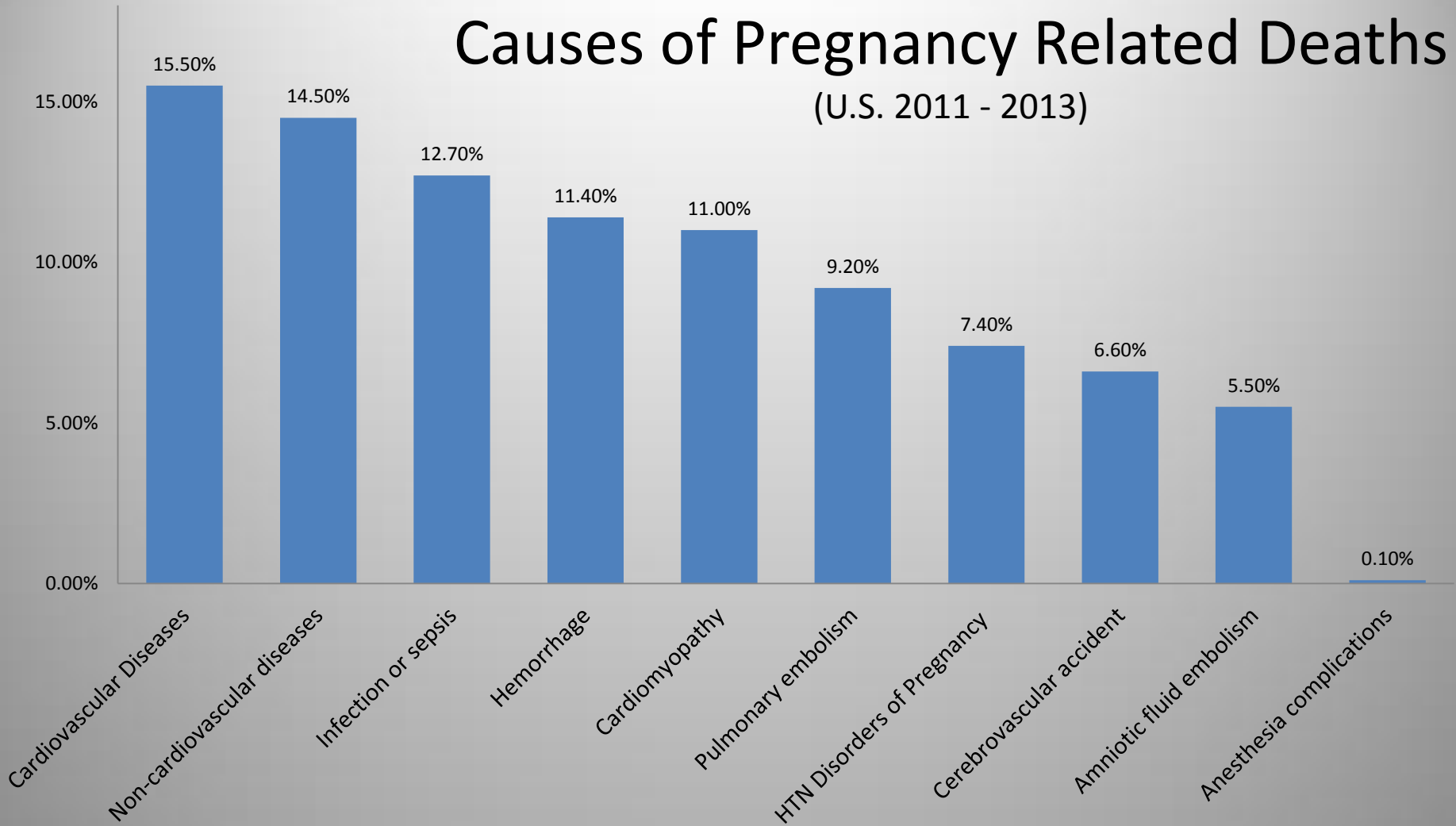


Black to White ratio – 3.4 - 4.0 : 1

CDC, 2016

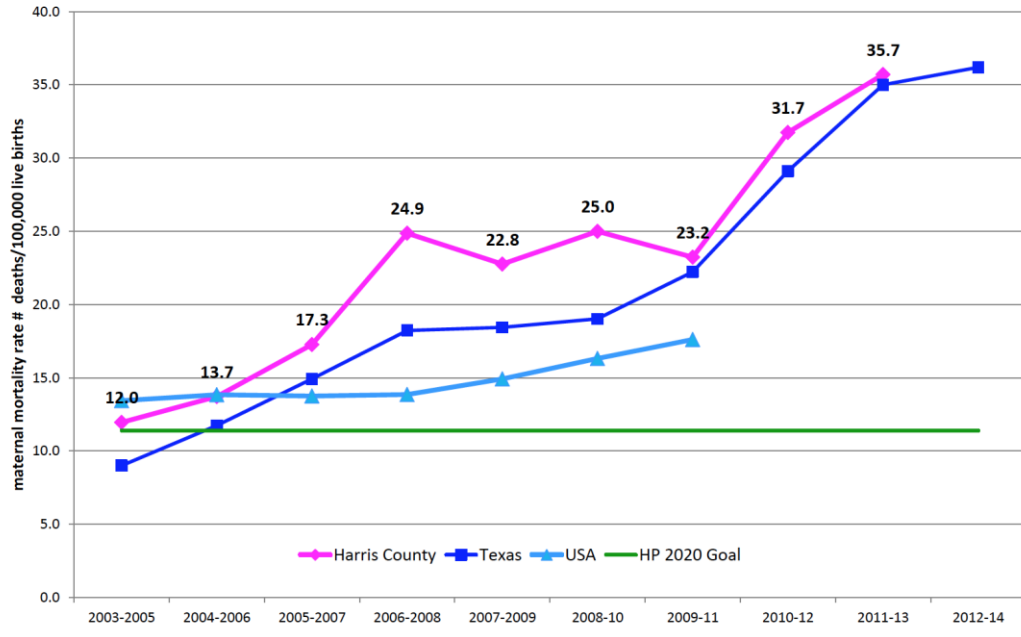
# Causes of Pregnancy Related Deaths

(U.S. 2011 - 2013)

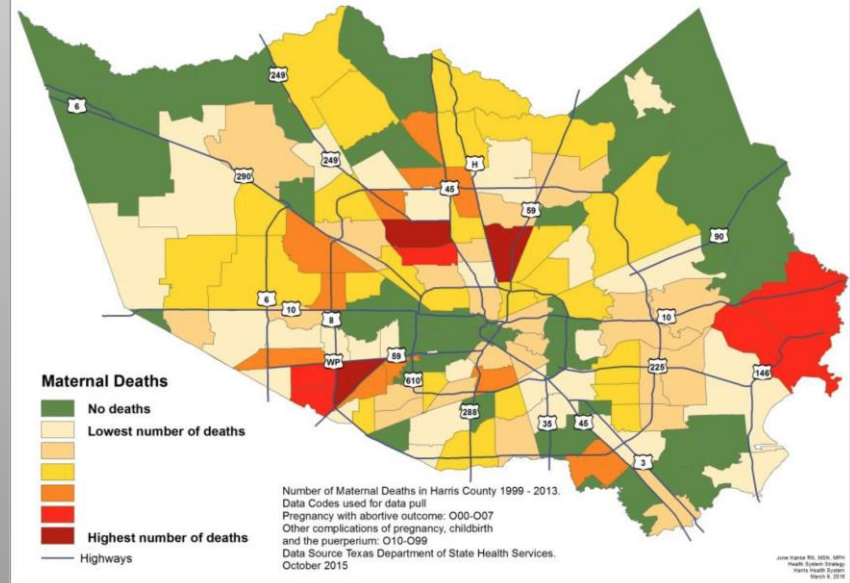


## Harris County- Maternal Mortality Rate

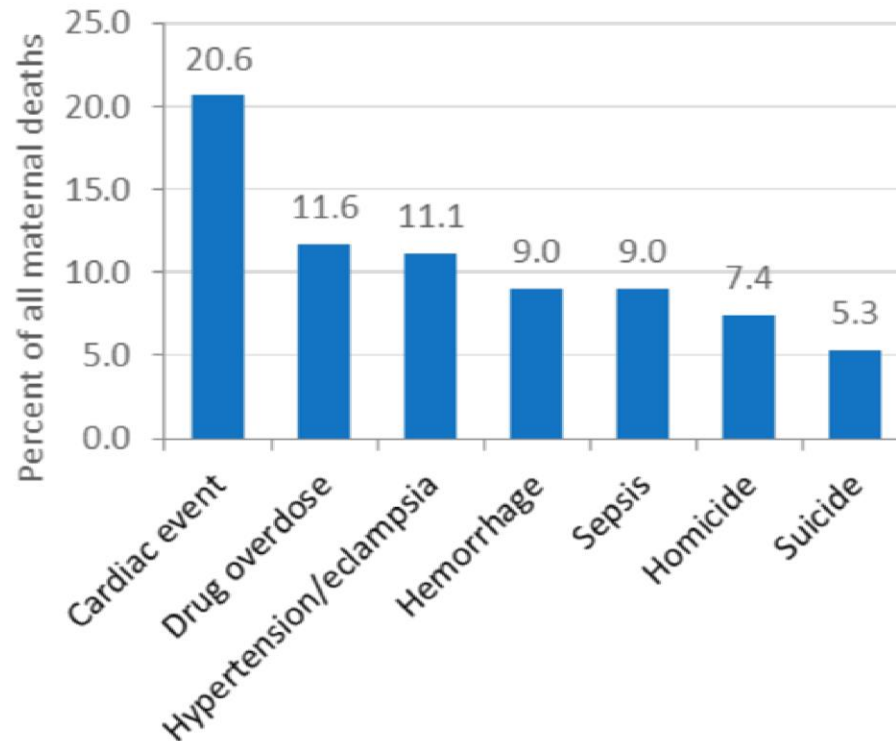
deaths/100,000 live births within 42 days of delivery



## Maternal Deaths in Harris County, 1999 - 2013



# Causes of Pregnancy Related Deaths: Texas 2011-2012



Source: CHS Death File, 2011-2012  
Prepared by: Office of Program Decision Support, FCHS, DSHS, 2016



Approximately **ONE HALF**  
of all Maternal Deaths are  
considered **preventable**

# Harris Health System

## Ben Taub Hospital

- Harris County: underserved, underinsured
- Deliveries 343/month; 3690 annually (2016)
- 5650 OB-Intake visits (2016)
- Baylor resident program (Obstetrics, Family Practice, Anesthesia)
- Certified Nurse Midwifery
- Level I, II and III Nurseries
- VBAC rate 77.4%

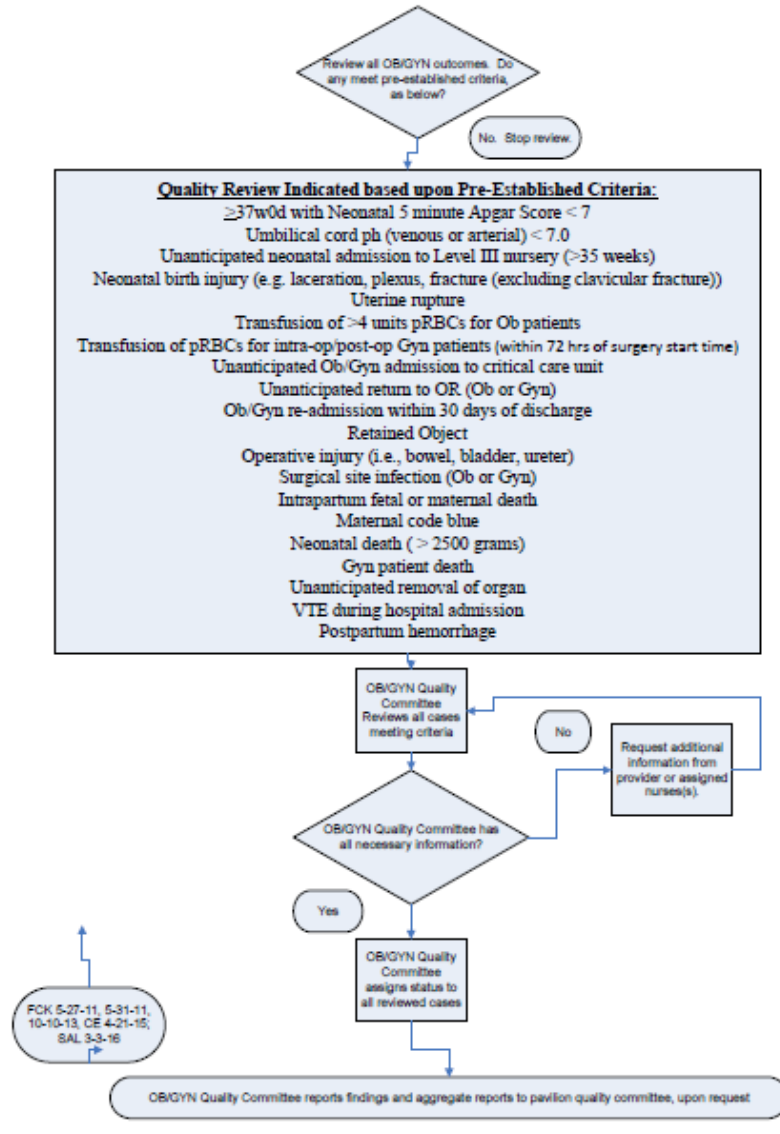


# Obstetrics Quality Review Process

## Adverse Events

- ERIS entered by RN
- All events reviewed by Nursing Leadership
  - Manager, Clinical Resource Nurse and DON
- All events reviewed by Physicians
  - Chief of Service, Director of Quality
    - Assigned for independent or full review
- Reviewed by Multi-disciplinary OB/GYN Quality Review Committee

## BTH OB/GYN Quality & Safety Committee Review Process Flow



# Heat Map

| A  | B | C       | D       | E       | F       | G       | H       | I       | J       | K       | L       | M       | N      | O          |
|--|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------------|
|  |   | Jan-15  | Feb-15  | Mar-15  | Apr-15  | May-15  | Jun-15  | Jul-15  | Aug-15  | Sep-15  | Oct-15  | Nov-15  | Dec-15 | 2015 Total |
| <b>Total eIRS cases</b>                                |   | 21      | 17,0741 | 24,0968 | 7       | 7       | 13,0769 | 15,0313 | 7,03226 | 18      | 17,0488 | 5       | 13     | 164,36006  |
| <b>Maternal Events</b>                                 |   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |        |            |
| <b>Death</b>   |   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |        |            |
| Uterine Ruture   |   | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0          |
| Unanticipated maternal admission to Critical Care unit |   | 1       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 2       | 1       | 2      | 9          |
| Unanticipated return                                   |   | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 1       | 1       | 1       | 2       | 0       | 0      | 8          |
| 3rd & 4th Degree Lacerations                           |   | 1       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 1       | 2       | 2       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0      | 10         |
| Transfusion of ≥ 4u PRBCs for ALL OB Patients          |   | 12      | 4       | 6       | 5       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 1       | 10      | 9       | 3       | 6      | 67         |
| VTE - OB   |   | 3       | 9       | 13      | 2       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0      | 41         |
| Unanticipated removal of organ                         |   | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0          |
| Fetal Events   |   | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 1       | 1       | 3       | 0       | 0       | 1      | 8          |
| Elective delivery <39 weeks                            |   | 0.0%    | 7.4%    | 9.7%    | 0.0%    | 0.0%    | 7.7%    | 3.1%    | 3.2%    | 0.0%    | 4.9%    | 0.0%    | 0.0%   | 3.4%       |
| Brachial plexus injury >37 weeks with 5 Min            |   | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 1          |
| Art/Vencord pH <7.15                                   |   | 2       | 2       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 3       | 3       | 0       | 2       | 3       | 0       | 4      | 20         |
|  |   | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0          |
| <b>Total Deliveries</b>                                |   | 353     | 334     | 348     | 288     | 302     | 315     | 351     | 354     | 385     | 356     | 337     | 336    | 4059       |
| <b>OB Adverse Event Rate</b>                           |   | 5.95%   | 5.11%   | 6.92%   | 2.43%   | 2.32%   | 4.15%   | 4.28%   | 1.99%   | 4.68%   | 4.79%   | 1.48%   | 3.87%  | 4.05%      |
| 95% confidence level standard deviation                |   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.16%   | 3.35%  | 3.23%      |
|  |   | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.01613 | 0.0171 | 0.0164905  |

# Maternal Early Warning System

## MEWS: 2014

- OB Adverse Events
  - Multi-disciplinary OB/GYN Quality Review Committee
  - Identified gap related to Maternal OB adverse Events
- Taskforce created



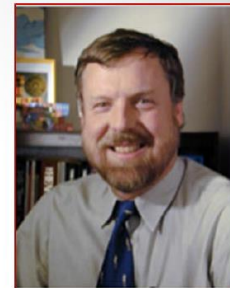
# Taskforce

- Nursing and Providers: L&D and MBU
- Reviewed literature: Maternal Morbidity
- Met with MEWS content expert
- Conducted a retrospective review of incidents

## National Partnership for Maternal Safety

“Committed to work together to establish, at every facility that provides maternity care in the US, protocols that address the leading causes of maternal harm or death, including hemorrhage, preeclampsia and thromboembolism prevention.”

*Obstet Gynecol* 2013;122:735-6



Elliott Main, MD





Our mission is to end preventable morbidity, mortality and racial disparities in California maternity care



Continually improve patient safety in women's health care through multidisciplinary collaboration that drives culture change



To improve and promote the health of women and newborns and to strengthen the nursing profession through the delivery of superior advocacy, research, education and other professional and clinical resources to nurses and other health care professionals



Dedicated to the advancement of women's health care and the professional and socioeconomic interests of its members through continuing medical education, practice, research, and advocacy



# California Maternal Mortality Review

2002-2005

## Delayed response to triggers

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Preeclampsia            | 92% |
| Postpartum hemorrhage   | 85% |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 63% |
| Venous thromboembolism  | 75% |
| Amniotic fluid embolism | 67% |

The Joint Commission  
**Sentinel Event  
Alert**

#44

## Preventing Maternal Death

Identify specific triggers for responding to changes in the mother's vital signs and clinical condition and develop and use protocols and drills for responding to changes.

January 26, 2010

## **MATERNAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**

**BEN TAUB HOSPITAL - WOMEN AND INFANT'S DEPARTMENT**

### **MEWS TRIGGERS**

#### **The Maternal Early Warning Criteria**

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Systolic BP</b>   | <b>&lt;90 or &gt;160</b> |
| <b>Diastolic BP</b>  | <b>&gt;110</b>           |
| <b>Heart Rate (beats per minute)</b>   | <b>&lt;50 or &gt;120</b> |
| <b>Respiratory Rate (breaths per minute)</b>   | <b>&lt;10 or &gt;30</b>  |
| <b>Oxygen saturation, on room air</b>  | <b>&lt;95%</b>           |
| <b>Oliguria, mL/hr for <math>\geq</math> 2 hours</b>   | <b>&lt;35</b>            |
| <b>Vaginal Bleeding/PPH <math>\leq</math> 2 hours</b>  | <b>500 mL (qBL)</b>      |
| <b>Maternal agitation, confusion, or unresponsiveness; patient with preeclampsia reporting a non-remitting headache or shortness of breath</b> |                          |

**These triggers cannot address every possible clinical scenario that could be faced by an obstetric clinician and must not replace clinical judgment. As a core safety principle, bedside nurses should always feel comfortable to escalate their concerns at any point.**

## MEWS workflow

Validate VS, inform primary RN, & document in MR

Notify resident w/in 5 min. of trigger

- senior resident: **281-262-0904**
- if 3C -antepartum resident: 3-9491

Notify Charge RN and Document

Escalate if no response w/in 5 min

- Attending – 3-9511

Escalate if not at bedside w/in 15 min:

- re-notify Attending; NCM/DON or ADON

Use “Check back” Communication and Document

NCM: Nurse Clinical Manager

DON: Director of Nursing

ADON: Administrative Director of Nursing

# MEWS OB Flowsheet

|  | 1/10/17              | 1/13/17              | 1/14/17              |                      | 1/18/17              | 1/21/17  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
|  | 1700                 | 0333                 | 0058                 | 2142                 | 2115                 | 1100   |
| <b>MEWS OB</b>   |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |  |
| Time of Trigger  | 1700                 | 0333                 | 0045                 | 2125                 | 2104                 | <input type="text"/>   |
| Vital Signs Validated?   | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  |  |
| Type of Trigger  | SBP>160              | SBP>160              | SBP>160              | SBP>160              | SBP>160              |  |
| Time Person/Provider Notified  | 1705                 | 0333                 | 0050                 | 0030                 | 2104                 |  |
| Name of Person/Provider Notified   | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |  |
| Time Person/Provider at Bedside  | 1705                 | 0342                 | 0053                 | 0042                 | 2115                 |  |
| Name of Person/Provider at Bedside   | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |  |
|  Response | Orders ...           | Orders ...           | Orders ...           | Orders ...           | Orders ...           |  |
| Orders Received  |                      | Antihyp...           | Other                | Other                | Antihyp...           |  |

# MEWS Outcomes

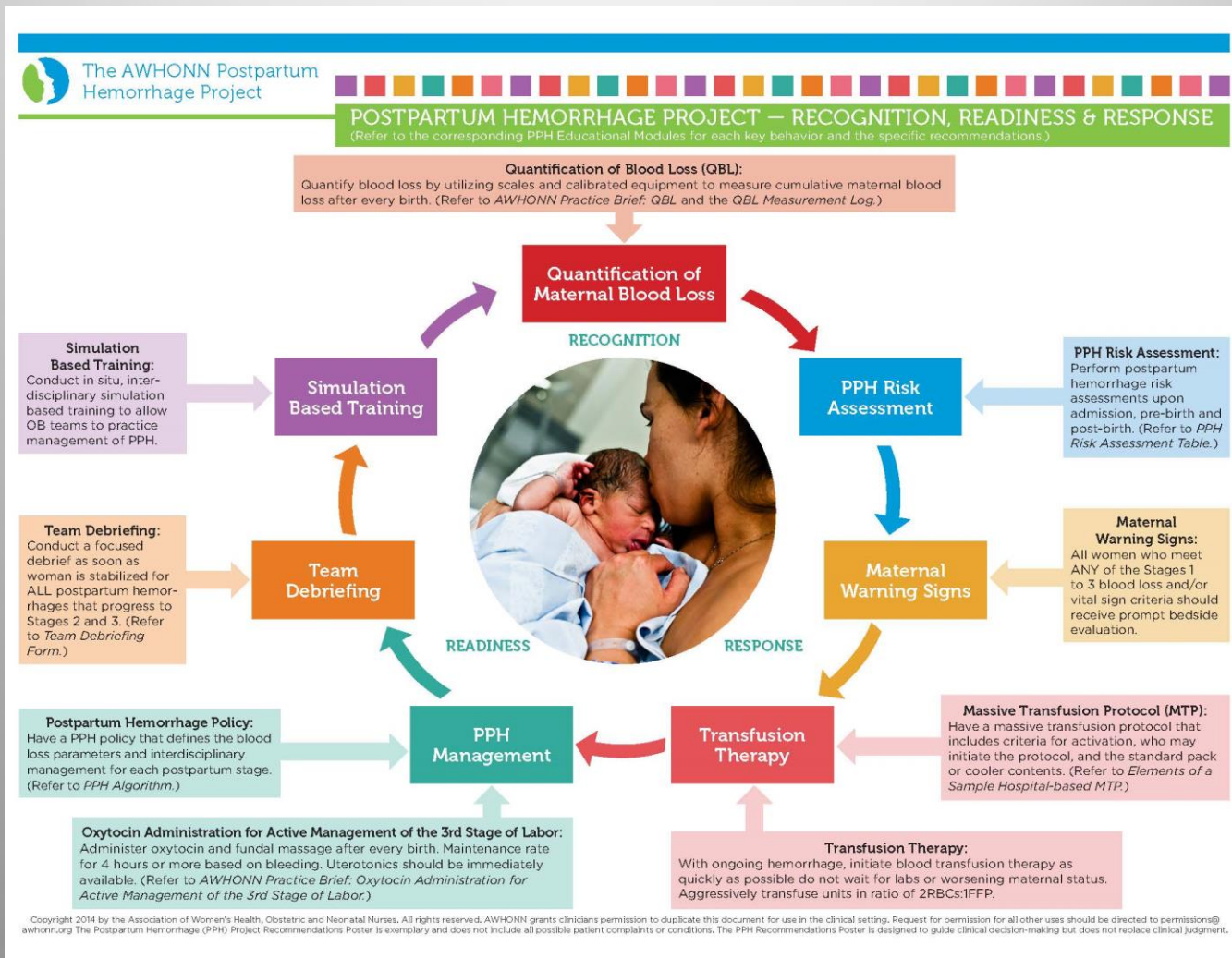
| OB Adverse Event Rate |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| PRE-MEWS              | 4.45% |
| POST-MEWS             | 2.35% |
| P = 0.017             |       |

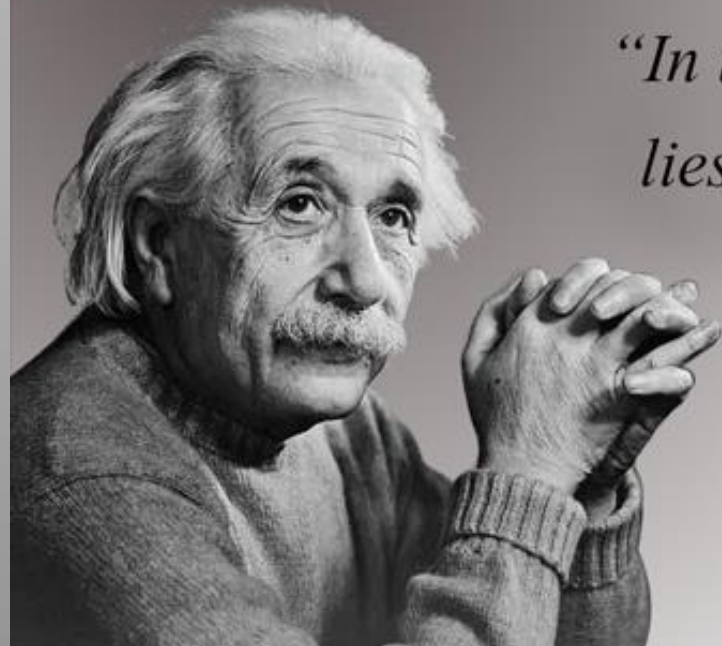


- Associated Clinical Significance
  - Anecdotal perceptions : change in culture – nursing and providers

# Hemorrhage Project: 2016

## Readiness, Recognition, Response





*“In the middle of every difficulty  
lies opportunity”*

- Albert Einstein

