



# Maternal-Child Health Disparities: Breaking Down the Barriers

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# Disclosures

- No disclosures or conflicts of interest

# Goals of Presentation

- Define disparities and how they relate to health outcomes
- Define factors that contribute to poor health equity
- Identify significant areas of health disparities in maternal and child health

# Goals of Presentation

- Discuss interventions that may reduce barriers to quality health care
- Clarify the role of family physicians in the improvement of maternal child health disparities

# Maternal-Child Disparities

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) issue brief (2012)
- Devoted to reduction of maternal and infant health disparities
  - Public Health Concern

# Health Equity

“Health equity means social justice in health. No one is denied the possibility to be healthy for belonging to a group that is historically economically and socially disadvantaged”

- Paula Braveman and Laura Gottlieb 2014

# Health Disparities

“Health Disparities are the metrics we use to measure progress toward achieving health equity”

- Paula Braveman and Laura Gottlieb

# Determinants of Health

- Patients health depends upon the context in which they live
- Socioeconomic factors affect health outcomes

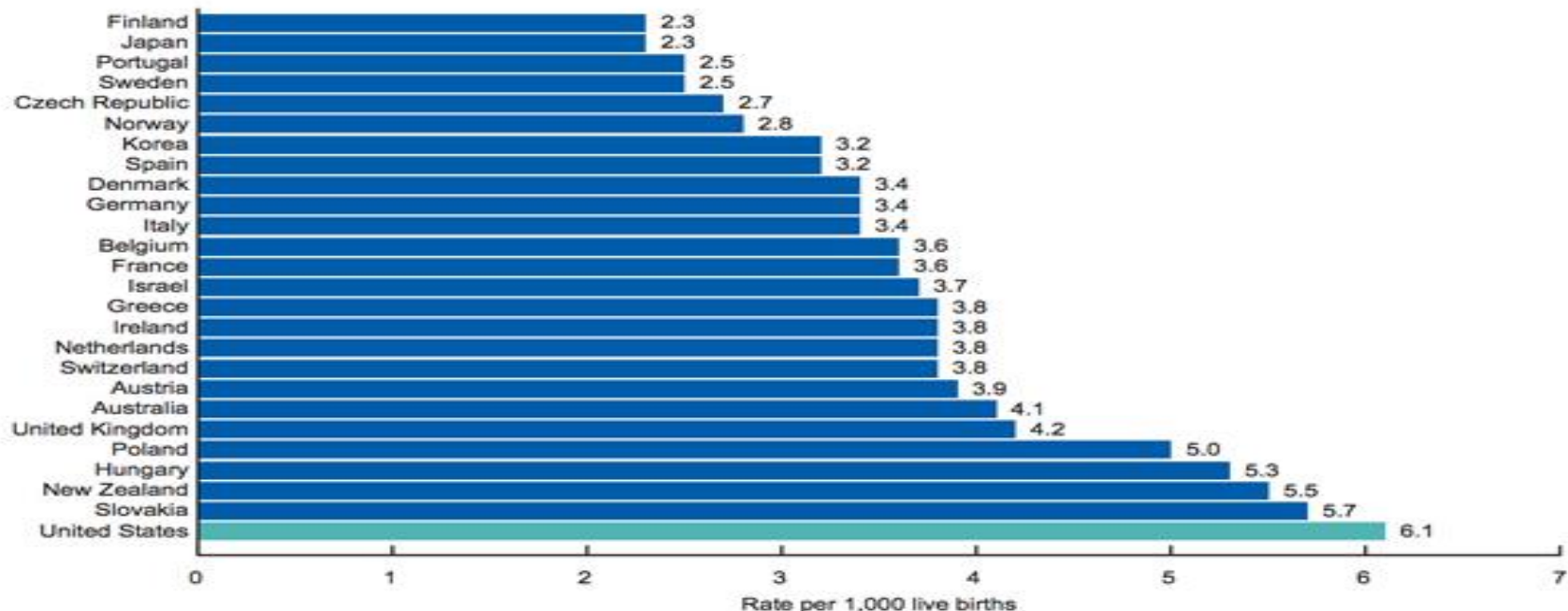




# Determinants of Health

- 2012: IOM report noted 83,000 preventive deaths yearly due to racial/ethnic disparities
- 2006 sentinel IOM report demonstrate ethnic disparities
  - Ex infant preventive services and primary language

# Infant Mortality



NOTES: Canada's 2010 data were not available from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the time of manuscript preparation. The 2009 infant mortality rate for Canada was 4.9. If the 2010 data for Canada had been available, the U.S. ranking may have changed. Deaths at all gestational ages are included, but countries may vary in completeness of reporting events at younger gestational ages.

SOURCES: CDC/NCHS, linked birth/infant death data set (U.S. data); and OECD 2014 (all other data). Data are available from: <http://www.oecd.org>.

# Infant Mortality in US

- Non-Latino Blacks 2.4 higher mortality rate than white counterparts
- Leading cause of mortality is low birth weight (LBW)

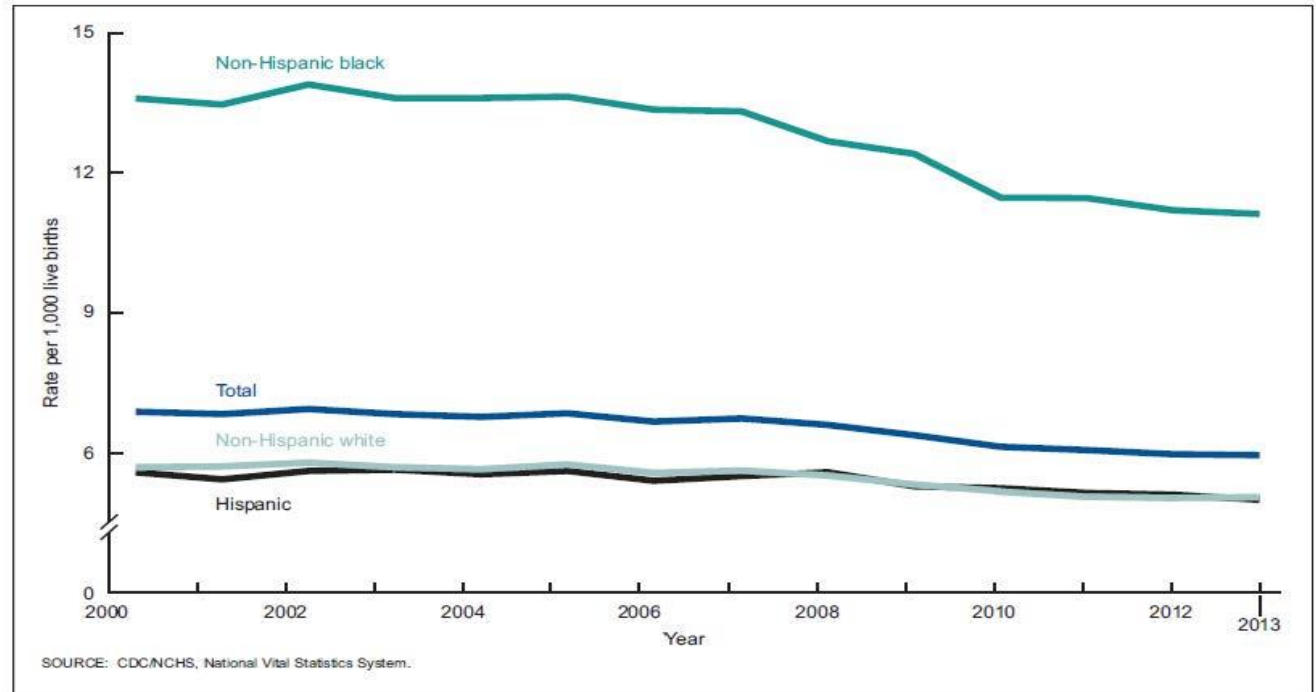
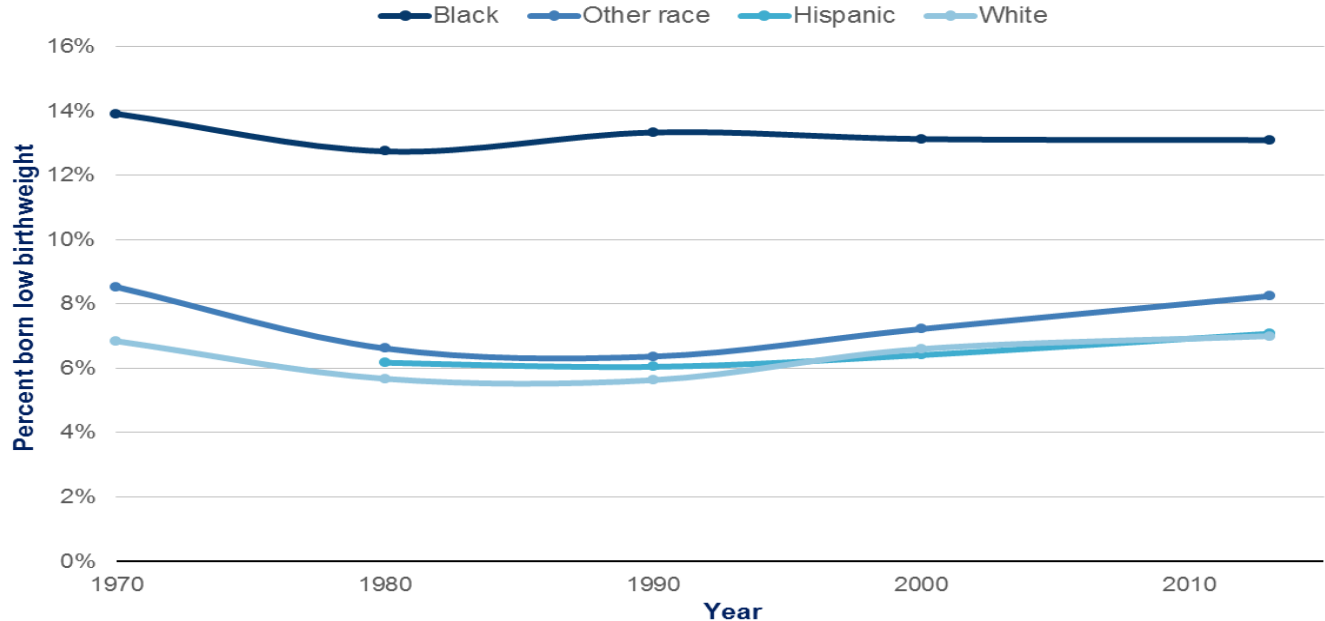


Figure 1. Infant mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2000–2013

# Low Birthweight

## A Persistent Race Gap in Low Birth Weight (1970-2013)



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Online

BROOKINGS

- LBW = BW < 2,500g
- Increased risk for developmental disorders
- AA 3-4x higher risk for LBW than Whites

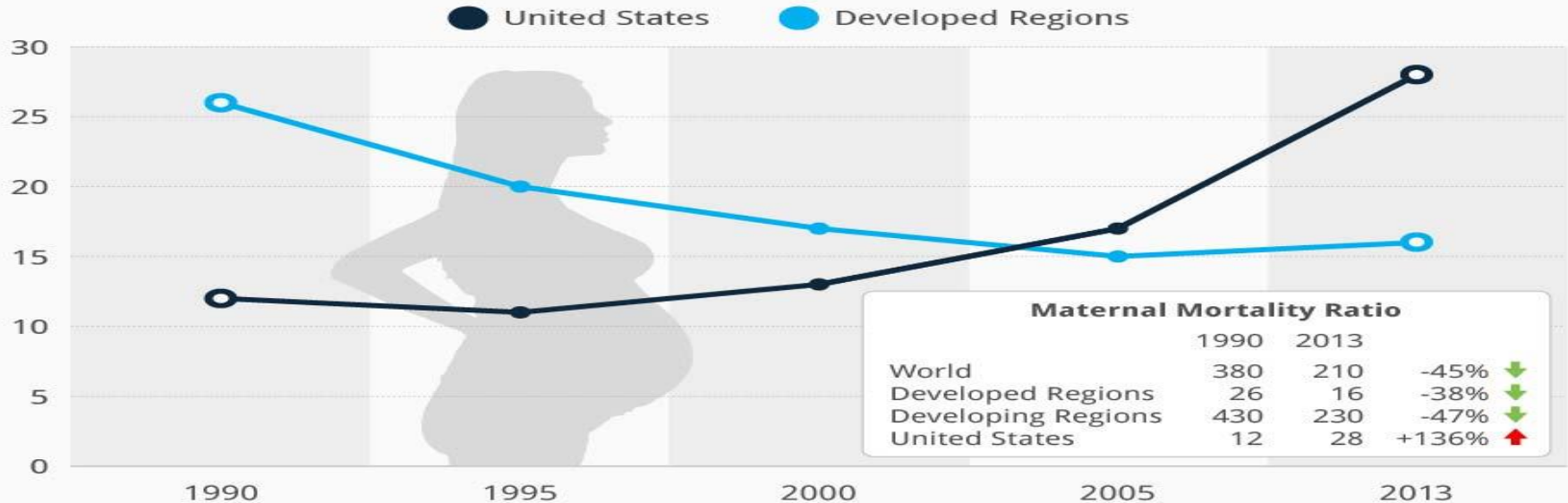
# Maternal Mortality

- WHO definition: death while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy
- In developed countries: death within 365 days of termination of pregnancy

# Maternal Mortality

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

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

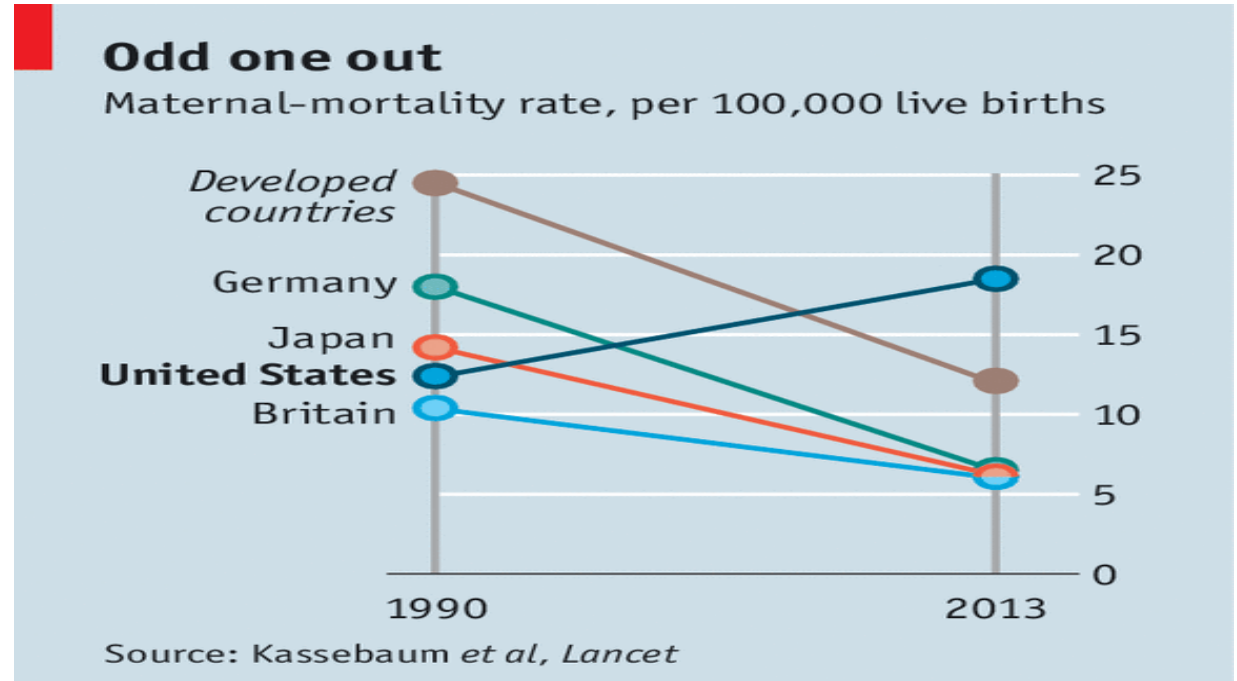


Source: World Health Organization

Mashable statista

# Maternal Mortality

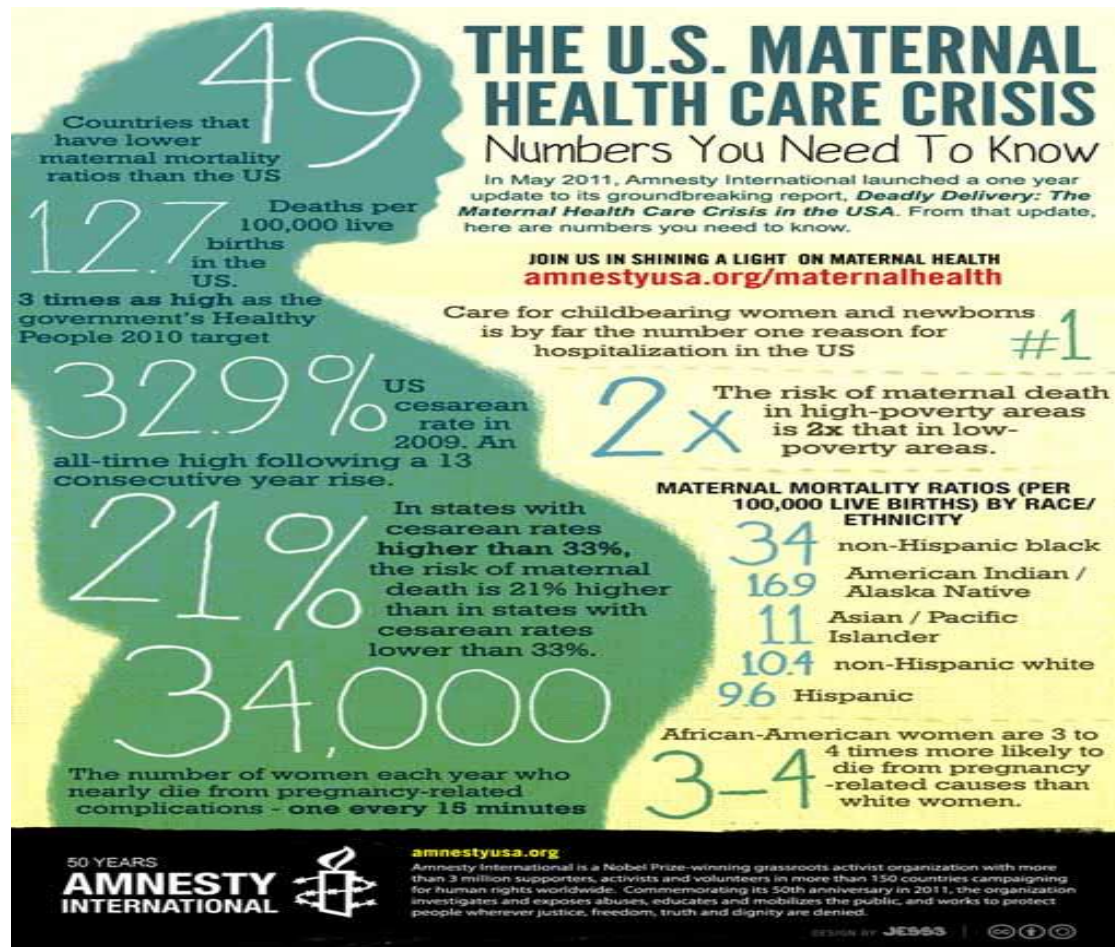
USA only  
developed  
country with  
rise in maternal  
mortality



Economist.com



# Maternal-Child Disparities At A Glance





# Prenatal Care and Breastfeeding

## Prenatal Care

- ACOG Committee Opinion 2014
- Rural vs urban
- Less access



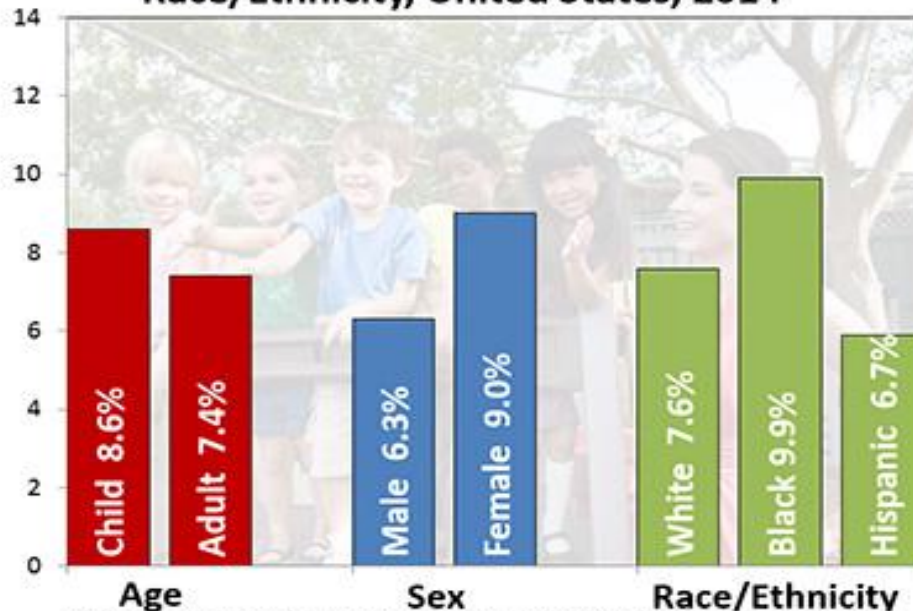
## Breastfeeding

- AA with lowest breastfeeding rate (54%) vs 74% for white Americans

# Pediatric Disparities: Asthma

Blacks 2x  
more likely to  
have asthma  
than whites

Current Asthma Prevalence Percents by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, United States, 2014

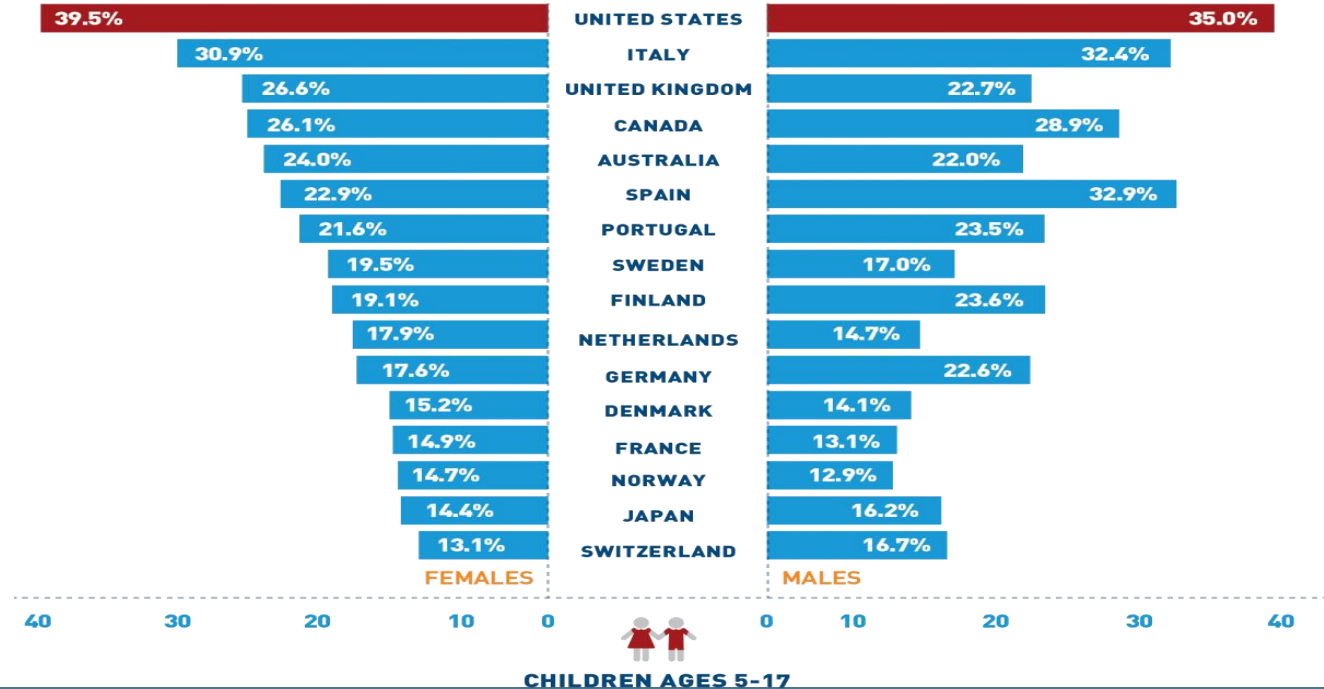


Source: National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

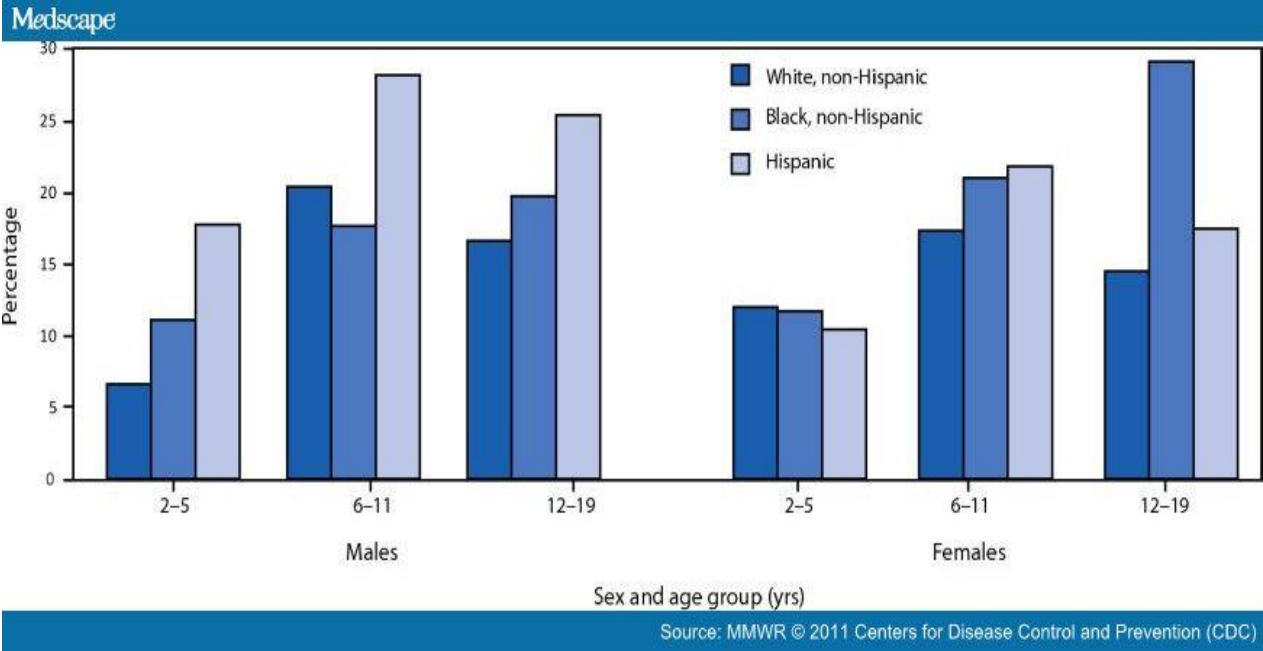
# Pediatric Disparities: Obesity

THE RACE WE DON'T WANT TO WIN  
PREVALENCE OF OVERWEIGHT/OBESE CHILDREN IN 16 PEER COUNTRIES

US leads developed nations in Childhood obesity



# Pediatric Disparities: Obesity



# Interventions That Reduce Barriers

- Affordable Care Act
- State Child vaccination programs
- Increasing affordability of healthy foods
- Interpreter services in clinics



# Interventions To Improve Outcomes

- Increase family medicine workforce
- Interpreter services
- Mandatory vaccination laws
- Increase diversity in physician pool
- Increasing cultural competency



# SB 277:California Vaccine Law

- Signed into law 30 June 2015 and went into effect 1 July 2016
- Protect public health by allowing only physician-ordered medical exemption as a route to circumvent the childhood vaccine requirement for admittance into any public or private day care, elementary or secondary school.



# The Role of Primary Care in Reducing Disparities

- Treat disadvantaged communities
- Trained to treat patients within their context
- Improve quality of care and comprehensive delivery of care
- Policy and advocacy



# Questions?





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