

# A Holistic Approach to Public Health: Addressing Toxic Exposures, Environmental Justice and Intergenerational Trauma

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# Health is political

- Access to and distribution of power and resources
- Building a social and political movement for change

# Health systems as core social institutions

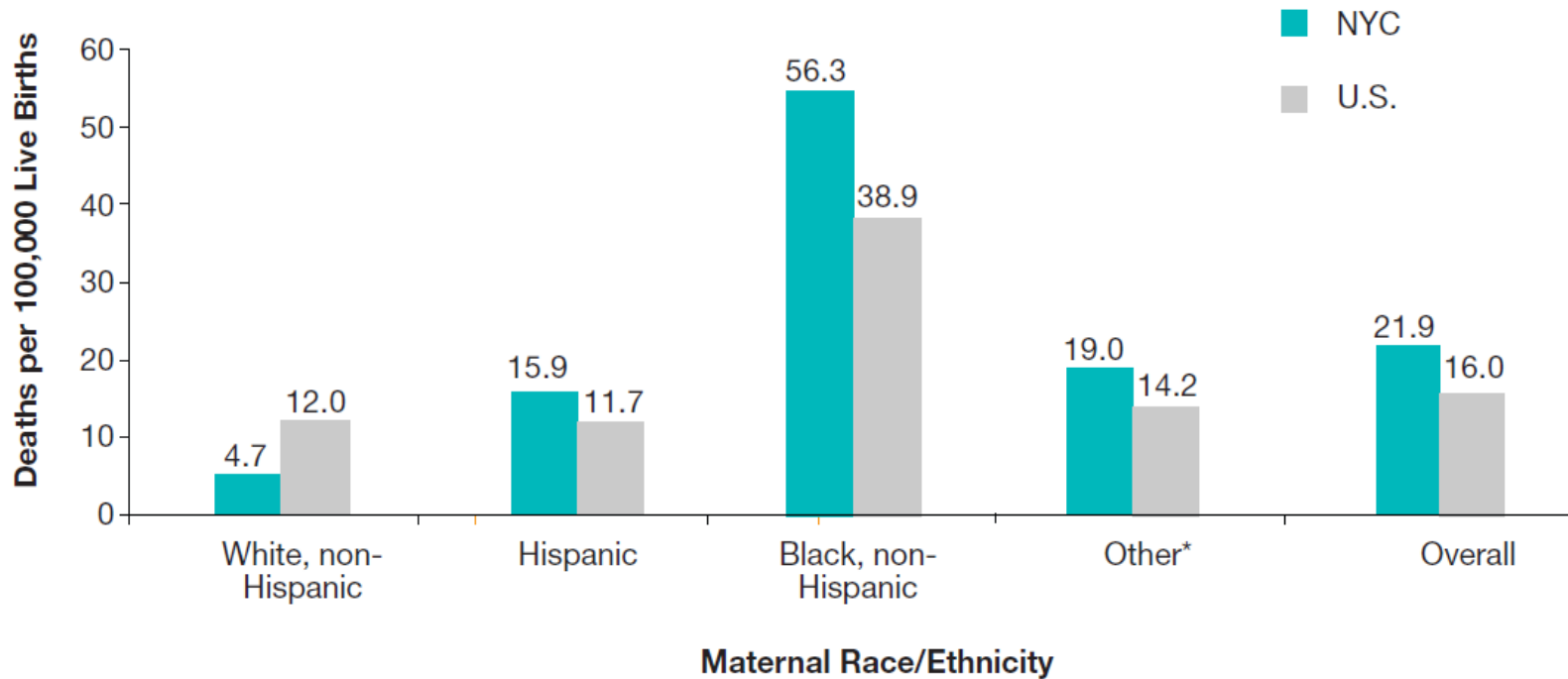
- Health systems are not just mechanical delivery systems for delivering clinical interventions.
- They are part of the very fabric of social and civic life.
- Like education system, justice system, police system . . . Health systems function as core social institution

# Health System as Core Social Institution

- Neglect, abuse and marginalization by the health system is part of the very experience of being poor
- Effective health claims are assets of citizens in a democratic society

# MMR in NYC and USA by race

**Figure 7. Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratios by Maternal Race/Ethnicity, New York City and U.S., 2006 to 2010**



\*Asian/Pacific Islander women are included in the Other category in national reports, and therefore, are grouped as such for New York City data above.



The New York Times Magazine

## Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-and-Death Crisis

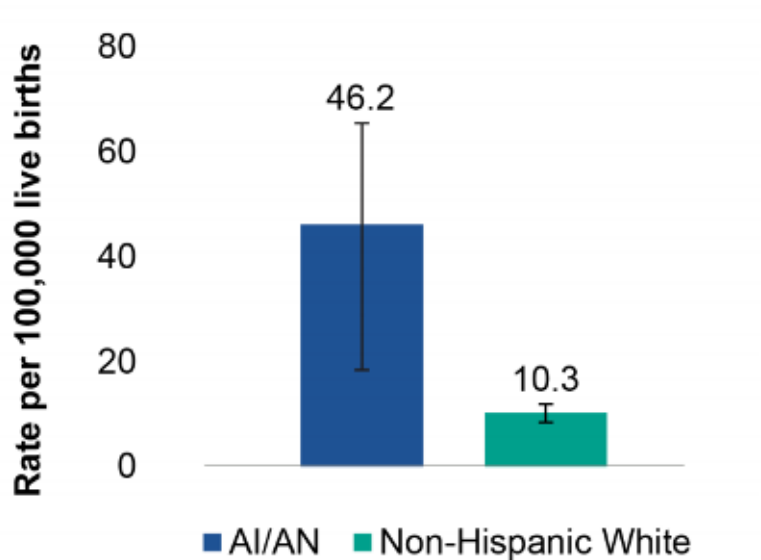
The answer to the disparity in death rates has everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.

By LINDA VILLAROSA APRIL 11, 2018



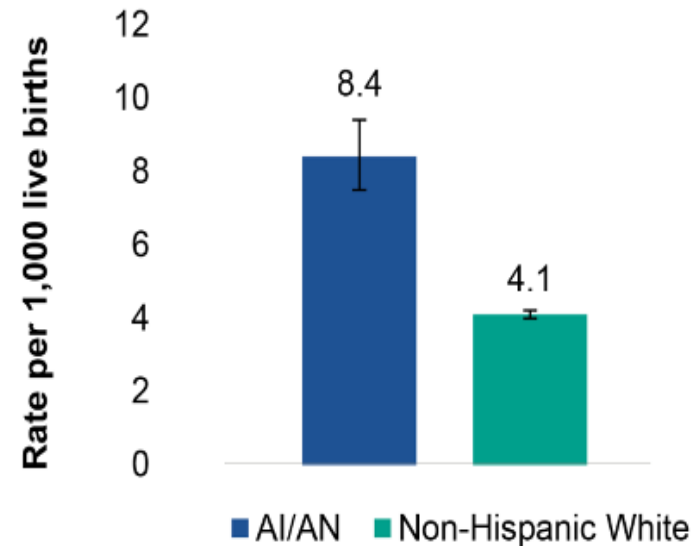
# AI/AN Maternal and infant mortality (UIHP service areas)

Figure 35. Maternal Mortality Rate, UIHP Service Areas, 2010-2012



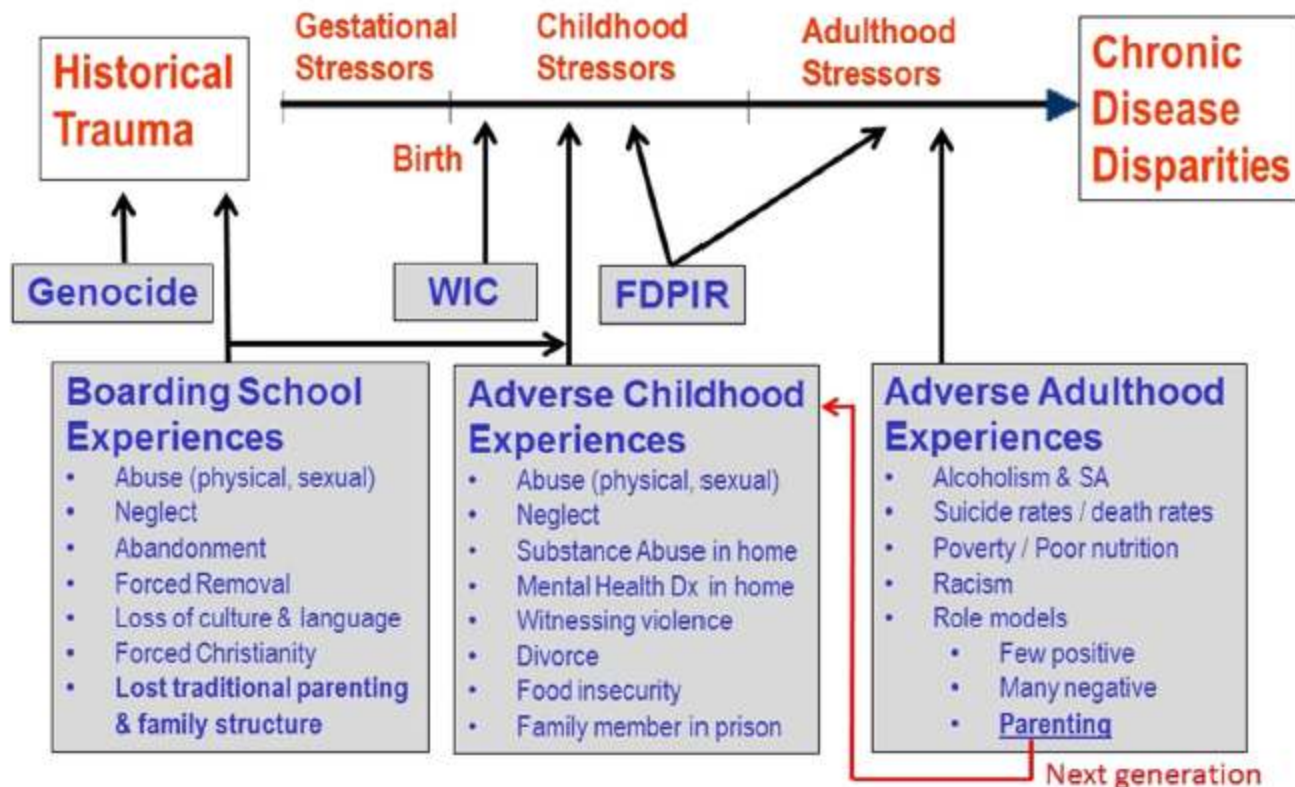
Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

Figure 41. Infant Mortality Rate, UIHP Service Areas, 2008-2012



th Source: National Vital Statistics, Death Certificates, 2008-2012

## Inter-Generational Basis for Chronic Disease Disparities Among American Indians and Alaska Natives



Warne and Lajimodiere (2015)



# Xakmok Kasek Indigenous Community v. Paraguay

- Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2010)
- Challenging Paraguay's failure to ensure the right of the Xakmok Kasek people to their ancestral property

“[T]he Court has established that the spiritual and physical foundations of the identity of indigenous peoples are based, above all, on their unique relationship to their lands.” (112)

The vulnerability created by the violations of right to property and cultural identity, were deemed by the court to be responsible for specific deaths, including that of Remigia Ruiz, who died in childbirth at age 38.

# Reproductive Justice

Beyond reproductive health (service delivery focus)

Beyond reproductive rights (legal focus – individual choice)

Broader analysis of structural conditions that affect reproductive lives including rights

- to have children
- not to have children
- to parent children

Reproductive oppression: the control and exploitation of women, girls and individuals through their bodies, sexuality, labor and reproduction

# Reproductive Health...Rights...Justice...

## How Do They Compare?

Framework	Reproductive Health	Reproductive Rights	Reproductive Justice
<b>Description</b>	Service Delivery Model	Legal/Advocacy-based Model	Organizing Model
<b>Analysis</b>	Focuses on addressing the reproductive health needs of women.	Protects an individual's right to access to reproductive health services.	Focuses on human rights and intersectionality as a way to organize communities to change structural inequalities.
<b>Constituents</b>	Patients in need of services and/or education.	Individuals who are encouraged to actively participate in the political process.	Community members who are organized to lead against reproductive oppression and other injustices.
<b>Key Players</b>	<b>Providers:</b> Those who work as, or are allied with, medical professionals, community and public health educators, health researchers, and health service providers.	<b>Advocates:</b> Those who work as, or are allied with, advocates, legal experts, policymakers, and elected officials.	<b>Organizers:</b> Those who work as, or are allied with reproductive rights, reproductive health, and social justice and other justice organizations.
<b>Strategy</b>	Improve and expand services; cultural competency; research and access.	Advocacy at the state and federal level; focus on protecting enacted policies and defending existing rights.	Support leadership and power in marginalized communities; build social, political, economic power; create societal change; connects with allied social justice movements.
<b>Limitations</b>	As services and education are offered on an individual level, the root causes of health disparities are not addressed.	Emphasizes individual choice without social context of choice. Assumes individuals have a level of knowledge about policy and access to elected officials.	Challenges the "status quo" of power relations, assumptions, and societal views. Campaign-based organizing tends to be lengthy and resource-intensive.

Adapted by NYC DOHMH from Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice 2005