

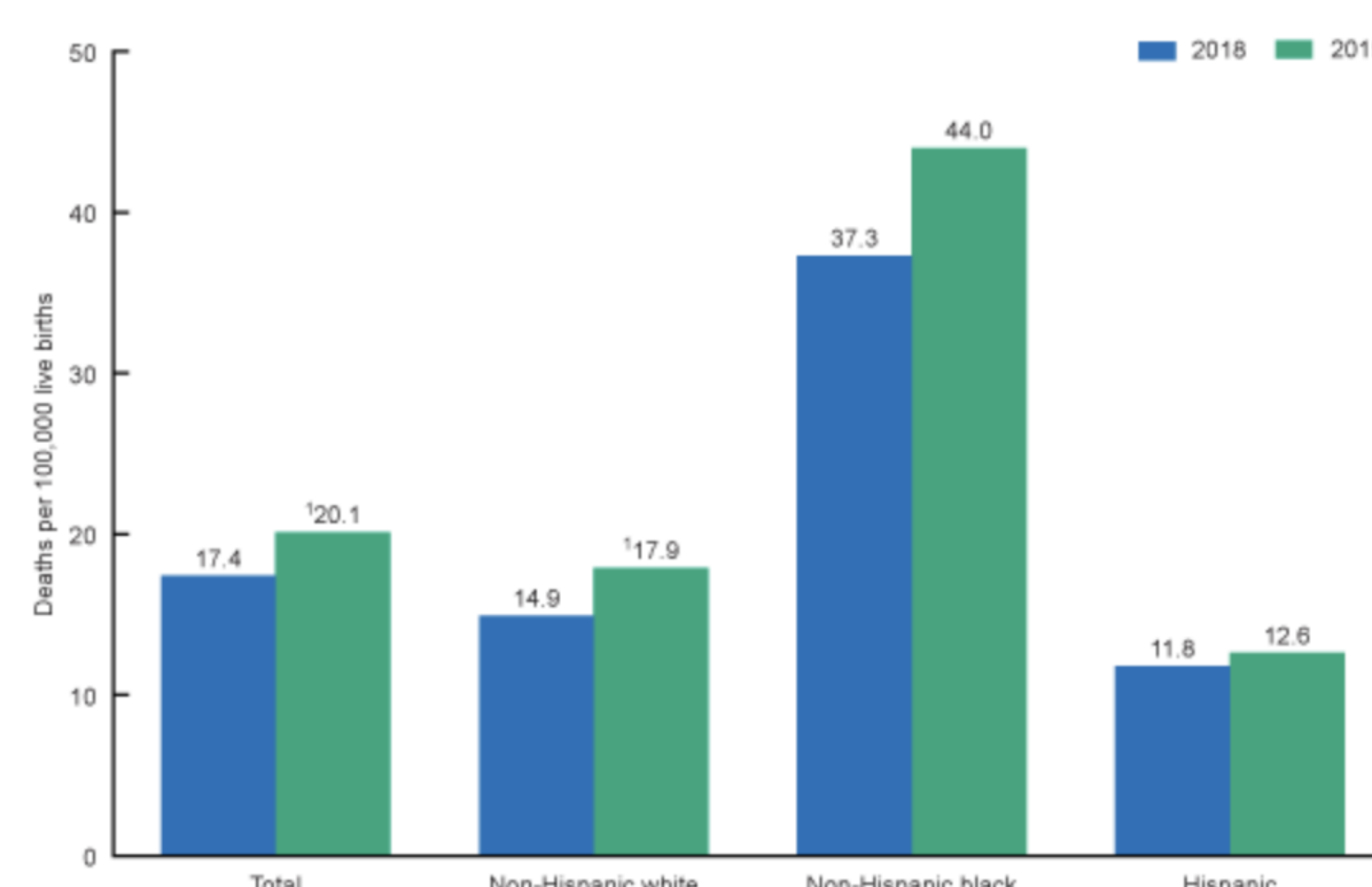
## Maternal Care: A Qualitative Study of the Role of the Pharmacist

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### BACKGROUND

Figure 1. Maternal mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2018–2019



- Maternal mortality continues to increase in the U.S.
- Pharmacists have minimal representation in obstetrics and maternal care.
- The inclusion of a clinical pharmacist in the hospital multidisciplinary team in the obstetrics setting could help reduce medication errors and improve medication safety.
- The objective of this study is to explore ways that pharmacists can contribute their expertise in treating pregnant and postpartum patients in the hospital setting.

### PROPOSED RECRUITMENT METHODS

- Obtain approval from the University of South Carolina Institutional Review Board.
- Recruit ~20 licensed healthcare professionals (e.g., OB-GYN, nurses, doulas) across the U.S. that work with pregnant and postpartum patients in the hospital setting.
- Forward a study invitation via email with key contacts, leaders and professional organizations focused on maternal care.

# Pharmacists are an under-utilized resource that can improve the state of maternal care.



From February 1st, 2018 through May 31st, 2018, a study was conducted where a pharmacist was hired to be a dedicated inpatient maternal-fetal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist.

During that time frame, the pharmacist provided more than

**1000**

direct clinical interventions to improve patient care.

Rosenbloom JI, Sabol BA, Chung C, et al. Improving medication error identification with an inpatient maternal-fetal medicine pharmacist. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2019;220(6):602-603. doi:10.1016/j.ajog.2019.03.007

### PROPOSED RECRUITMENT METHODS (cont.)

- Schedule eligible participants to participate in qualitative interview via phone/Zoom at their convenience.

### PROPOSED DATA COLLECTION

- We will conduct a 20-to-30-minute audio-taped interview using a structured interview guide.
- We will ask health care professionals to share how they work with pharmacists and their perspectives on pharmacists' involvement with pregnant or postpartum patients in the hospital setting.

### PROPOSED DATA ANALYSIS

- Each participant's audio file will be transcribed verbatim.
- We will develop a preliminary codebook and two team members will code all transcripts.
- Using the transcripts, we will identify patterns and relationships between codes and themes using the constant comparison method.<sup>3</sup>
- The entire team will discuss and reach consensus on the final themes.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### REFERENCES

1. Rosenbloom JI, Sabol BA, Chung C, et al. Improving medication error identification with an inpatient maternal-fetal medicine pharmacist. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2019;220(6):602-603. doi:10.1016/j.ajog.2019.03.007
2. D'Ambrosio A. U.S. Maternal Mortality Rate Climbs in 2019. *Medical News*. <https://www.medpagetoday.com/obgyn/pregnancy/91888>. Published April 1, 2021. Accessed July 23, 2021.
3. Glaser BG, Strauss AL. *The discovery of grounded theory: Strategies for qualitative research*. Transaction Publishers; 2009.