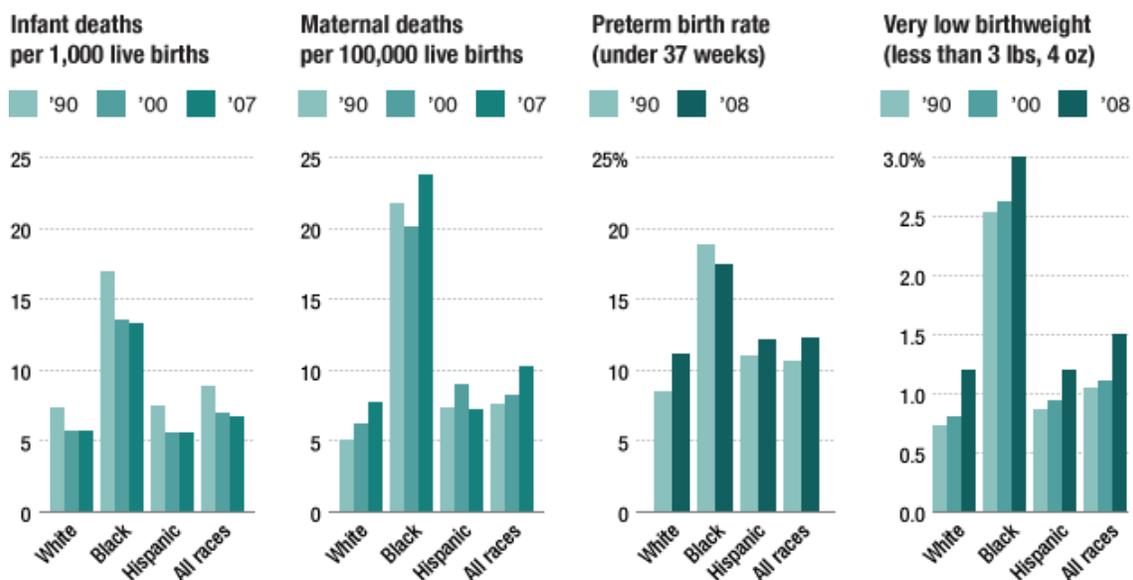


How CPMs Can Take Action to Address Inequities



In the United States, **black mothers are 4 times more likely to die** of pregnancy-related complications than their white counterparts, and their **babies are 2.5 times more likely to die in their first year of life.**

These statistics have not changed in over half a century. The United States has the most expensive maternity care system in the world and perinatal, infant and maternal mortality rates that are worse than almost all other wealthy nations, and even worse than many poorer nations who spend far less than we do.

While unequal access to quality care contributes to these health disparities, societal and institutional racism is a root cause. Previous webinars in our series, "Equity, Race and Access to Midwifery" addressed the deep and long-term impact of racism and the underlying physiologic effects of racism that profoundly impact the health of black women and babies. In the fourth webinar in the series, "Taking Action: Steps for CPMs to be Part of the Solution to Inequities in Maternity Care", Jennie Joseph will provide answers to the question we hear most frequently: **How can I help?**

Jennie Joseph, CPM, is a British-trained licensed midwife in Florida, and the founder of [Commonsense Childbirth](#) and [The JJ Way©](#), an evidence-based,

patient-centered model of care proven to reduce perinatal and maternal child health disparities in high-risk populations.

In a July 2016 interview for [Rewire News](#), Jennie speaks to the urgency of putting "action behind all the talk." She says, "My motivation is based on the fact that what we do [at my clinic] works so well it's almost unconscionable not to continue doing it. I feel driven and personally responsible because I've figured out that there are some very simple things that anyone can do to make an impact. It's such a win-win. Everybody wins: patients, staff, communities, health-care agencies."

Insisting that we do in fact know how to make a difference, Jennie expresses frustration that there are so few attacking the problem aggressively, with few resources and little support. She urgently makes the point that **even small interventions can make a tremendous difference** and move the needle toward a healthy baby for every childbearing person.

Jennie Joseph's message to the CPM community is that to make a real difference **we must understand our role as being broader than delivering babies in community settings**, and begin to see ourselves as part of the wider system of perinatal care delivery. In this webinar, Jennie will help CPMs understand the often-complicated systems that provide care for women and babies at especial risk for poor outcomes, and provide guidance for CPMs in how to navigate these systems to support better outcomes for those at risk. CPMs will learn specifics about The JJ Way®, and how to apply this knowledge in our own practices and in our own communities.

[NACPM is committed](#) to doing our part to eliminate unconscionable inequities and disparities in birth outcomes for women and infants of color in the U.S., and to working to dismantle systemic racism in maternity care. It is our intention with this webinar series to provide knowledge about birth inequities in our country, and also to share the growing body of information about how racism impacts epigenetics and the literal physiology of people of color having babies. The series is also intended to hold space for an essential conversation within the CPM community about what we can and must do to join leaders such as Jennie Joseph to achieve a healthy baby for every mother. We look forward to this webinar as a way to advance this conversation and to point to specific and practical steps that CPMs can be taking now to make a difference.

Upcoming Webinars:

Steps For CPMs To Be Part Of The Solution To Inequities In Maternity Care

Thursday, April 20, 2017 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern time.

Jennie Joseph, a British-trained midwife and women's health advocate, moved to the United States in 1989 and began a journey which has culminated in the formation of an innovative maternal child healthcare system, The JJWay®.



This training will help CPMs understand the ways to negotiate and navigate the often complicated systems that provide perinatal health care for women and babies who are at particular risk for poor outcomes. Topics covered will include each level of the perinatal hierarchy; from the grass roots right through to the specialist regional perinatology teams, as well as methods of access and approaches to increase linkages.

[Register here for this free webinar](#)

Are You A NACPM Member?

Midwifery Matters, a professional journal designed specifically for CPMs, is an excellent source of information that includes peer-reviewed articles, research updates and professional news published biannually by Birthwise Midwifery School. **We are pleased to announce that NACPM will now provide this journal free-of-charge to all CPM members!**



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*The future begins with
the way we are born*

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Jennie Joseph Now!](#)

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